



## **Severe Weather Information**

In preparedness for severe weather, the OLD Okarche Elementary School Basement (220 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street) will be used as a Community Safe Shelter. The EAST Entrance doors will be open during severe weather

**SMALL BAGS ALLOWED**

**SMALL ANIMALS ONLY**

Officers and Emergency Management Personnel have the capability to remotely sound the Tornado Siren. Alerts will correspond with the National Weather Service in Norman.

**PLEASE NOTE ~ PLAN ACCORDINGLY:** Being in a vehicle is one of the most dangerous places to be in a tornado, and risking a drive to a shelter during severe weather could be deadly. Many deaths attributable to tornadoes are attributed to being in a vehicle.

### **Tornado Watches and Warnings**

The National Weather Service (NWS) monitors thunderstorms for tornadoes. The NWS issues a tornado watch when weather conditions are favorable for tornadoes, and you should pay close attention to the weather. The NWS issues a tornado warning for confirmed or radar-indicated tornadoes. Immediately take shelter and seek more information. Stay aware of the weather, including for NWS tornado watches and warnings, by paying attention to weather sources like local television stations, radio, online news sources and smartphone apps. You should always have a battery-powered or hand-cranked NOAA Weather radio in your disaster kit as a backup, and don't forget extra batteries.

### **Tornado Safety**

Get inside a well-constructed building and seek shelter if a tornado is nearby. Flying debris is the greatest danger. The safest place to be is a storm shelter built to FEMA or ICC 500 standards, or a basement. If there's no storm shelter, get to the inner-most room, hallway or closet on the lowest level of the building. Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible, and stay away from windows and doors. Most houses provide life-saving protection from 98 percent of tornadoes in Oklahoma.

Wear a helmet and/or use pillows, cushions and thick blankets for additional protection. Wear sturdy shoes that will protect your feet if you have to walk through debris.

Vehicles are unsafe in tornadoes. Many deaths are attributable to being inside a vehicle when a tornado strikes. If you're driving when a tornado threat is nearby, get to the closest well-constructed building to take shelter. Never attempt to outrun a tornado by driving. Mobile homes are unsafe in tornadoes. Have a plan to get to the nearest well-constructed building to take shelter.