

Tornado Myth Checks for 2013 Interviews Conducted by UAHuntsville's Everyday Technologies Lab
Principal Investigator: Marita A. O'Brien

Statement	Correct Response	Explanation	Reference (if other than FAQ)
You should open the windows when you hear a tornado warning for your area?	False.	This used to be advised, but has not been advised for several decades. Normally, closed windows keep debris out of the house. Staying away from windows protects from flying glass if the windows break.	http://www.tornadoproject.com/safety/myths.htm http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tornado_myths#Safest_location_in_a_building
If your home has a basement, you should go to the northeast corner when you hear a tornado warning for your area?	TRUE:	Because most tornadoes come from the southwest and travel northeast, the northeast section of a building is not likely to be the first part of a building hit by a tornado. Even on the first floor of a building, this corner can be safer (presuming, of course, that other safe precautions like being in an interior space also apply). Other precautions like being under heavy furniture like a worktable should also be taken.	http://www.tornadoproject.com/safety/myths.htm EAGLEMAN, JOE R., 1967: TORNADO DAMAGE PATTERNS IN TOPEKA, KANSAS, JUNE 8, 1966. <i>Mon. Wea. Rev.</i> , 95 , 370–374.
Tornadoes never strike the same place twice?	False	Tornadoes can occur anywhere given the right atmospheric conditions.	<i>Example:</i> Anderson Hills neighborhood in Madison County (1995 & 2011)
Tornadoes can cross water?	True	Tornadoes can occur anywhere given the right atmospheric conditions.	<i>Example:</i> Topeka, KS 1966
Being on the back side of a mountain is safe?	False:	Generally, they are stronger on the back side of a mountain.	<i>Example:</i> 1989 Airport Rd./ Jones Valley and Jones Valley Elementary in Madison County
Tornadoes can survive in mountainous areas?	True	Tornadoes can occur anywhere given the right atmospheric conditions.	<i>Example:</i> Mt. Evans, CO, July 2012
If you're not at home, but out driving, you can take shelter under a highway overpass to stay safe from a tornado	False:	An overpass may protect you from rain & hail. However, winds increase and expand dramatically as they are funneled underneath an overpass.	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/?n=safety-overpass-slide01 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tornado_myths#Safest_location_in_a_building

Primary Reference for this data: National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center FAQ:
<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/#segments>

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If you're not at home, but out driving, you should get out of your car and go lie in a ditch, or some other low-lying place?	True.	If no other shelter is imminent or nearby, this is a true statement.	<i>Example:</i> Wichita Falls, TX, April 1979
Tornadoes don't enter highly populated places like cities?	False	Tornadoes can occur anywhere given the right atmospheric conditions.	http://www.tornadoproject.com/safety/myths.htm <i>Example:</i> downtown Atlanta, GA, March 14, 2008; Fort Worth, TX 2000
Tornadoes don't enter mobile home parks?	False	Tornadoes can occur anywhere, but mobile homes are significantly less likely to be able to withstand even smaller tornadoes. Thus, they are more likely to experience property damage. In addition, people in mobile homes when they are struck by tornadoes are 35 times more likely to die and 12 times more likely to suffer serious injury than people in frame houses.	Scmidlin, TW, Hammer, BO, Ono, Y, & King, PS (2009). Tornado shelter-seeking behavior and tornado shelter options among mobile home residents in the United States. <i>Natural Hazards</i> , 48, 191-201. Daley WR, Brown S, Archer P et al (2005) Risk of tornado-related death and injury in Oklahoma, May 3, 1999. <i>Am J Epidemiol</i> 161:1144–1150

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