

Tornado Awareness Disaster Preparedness and Response Task Force

With the pandemic most of us are wanting just to have the ability to get out and see our friends and family without the worry of COVID. I am sure no one wants to be thinking about a possible tornado as we all feel like we have huddled away long enough, but tornado season is coming.

Ben and I have installed the Red Cross Emergency App on each of our phones. As dutiful parents of adult children we have set up for alerts both for our home and for my daughter's town of Florence, Oregon. I know every time she is going to experience heavy rain, snow, and possible wildfire. We also set it up for Edisto Beach, South Carolina where we are caretakers of my mother's home at present time. You might consider installing this app so you too are aware of weather alerts!

The following information is good to review at this time of the year:

- **Tornado Watch** means due to weather conditions a tornado is possible (be prepared)
- **Tornado Warning** means a tornado is occurring or extreme winds seen (take action)
- Identify a safe place to gather your family
 - In home, basement, center hallway, storm cellar, center hallway, bathtub
 - In high rise building, center hallway (may not have time to get to lowest level)
 - Mobile home is never safe, find a sturdy structure to huddle in
- Have emergency supplies that will support you for two weeks
 - This includes one month worth of medications
 - Have multiple clean face covers/masks since you will be close to others (COVID)
- Have an evacuation bag that can last three days
 - Include all needed medications since local pharmacies can also be compromised
- Install the Red Cross Emergency App or other emergency warning system such as a radio

Written by Catherine Neal