



Temple Fire & Rescue Media Release

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Preparing for Severe Weather

The tornadoes which struck Robertson County last Saturday are a vivid reminder that severe weather can occur anytime. Spring weather can be unpredictable in Central Texas.

Temple Fire & Rescue reminds you to plan and be prepared for Mother Nature by reviewing some basic information:

- Monitor weather conditions on your television, internet-equipped computer or mobile device at <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/> or NOAA Weather (All Hazards) radio. The National Weather Service issues weather watches and warnings via this system. Severe weather apps for mobile devices are available as a free download or for a nominal fee.
- Register with CodeRED to receive severe weather notifications. CodeRED is an emergency notification service that allows emergency officials to notify residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message, email and social media regarding time-sensitive general and emergency notifications. Only authorized officials have access to the CodeRED system. To register, go to the home page of the Central Texas Council of Governments, CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment page <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BFF2144C1EE5>
- A **Tornado Watch** means to watch the sky for severe weather.
- A **Tornado Warning** indicates the condition has been confirmed by a trained weather spotter or Doppler radar.

- Have a safe place to seek shelter.
 - The safest location for an approaching tornado is below ground in a basement.
 - If you don't have a basement, go to an interior area on the lowest level such as a bathroom, closet or hallway. The greatest risk of injury and death is from flying debris penetrating through exterior walls, so stay away from outside walls and windows.
 - Take a helmet and shoes when you seek shelter. Wearing a bicycle helmet or other protective head gear during a tornado can reduce the risk of a head injury from [falling debris](#) in case the roof and ceiling fail. Closed toe shoes will protect your feet from broken glass and other debris following the tornado.
 - A mobile home is not structurally sound and does not provide protection during a tornado. Seek shelter at another location.
 - If you're in an office building, go to the lowest floor. Stay away from windows and don't use the elevator.
 - Avoid any area with a wide, unsupported roof such as auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums, theaters or central courts at malls. Go to interior areas for shelter.
 - Do not seek shelter beneath an underpass. High winds and debris are likely to cause injuries. Take shelter in a low-lying area such as a ditch or ravine.

- Make an emergency kit with food and water, personal hygiene items, flashlight and radio with extra batteries. Remember to include baby items and pet needs. Make a list and slowly build your kit adding an item or two each week until complete.

To learn more about planning or weather information check out the following:

National Weather Service, www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd

Federal Emergency Management Agency, www.fema.gov/

Texas Division of Emergency Management, www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/

Texas Department of State Health Services, www.texasprepares.org

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