



**Many people don't prepare for tornadoes in advance. By the time they get an alert on their TV or phone, it may be too late.**

Research conducted by the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) indicates that Americans could be better informed about tornado safety and better prepared when a tornado strikes. A survey of residents in tornado-prone states in the U.S. reveals how much we really know about these storms and whether **we're #TornadoStrong.**

**88%** of U.S. counties were under a tornado watch at some point over the last five years



But the majority of people think it's only

**26-75%** of counties

## WAIT, TORNADO WATCH OR WARNING?

**1/2** of people mistake a tornado watch as a tornado warning



Tornadoes are possible in and near your area.  
↓  
Be ready to act if a warning is issued or you think a tornado is approaching.



A tornado has been spotted in the area or picked up on radar.  
↓  
Move to a safe room or interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows.

# SEEKING SHELTER WHEN A TORNADO STRIKES






## INSIDE HOME




- Get inside a certified shelter, FEMA safe room, basement, or storm cellar.
- Go to a small, interior room on the lowest level.
- Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.

## OUTSIDE HOME

### DO:

-  Get inside a sturdy building if possible.
-  Take cover in a low, flat area like a ditch or ravine.
-  In a car, get down and cover your head.

### DON'T:

-  Go in a shed or storage facility.
-  Try to outrun a tornado in a car.
-  Get under an overpass or bridge.

## NOT ALL SAFE PLACES ARE CREATED EQUAL

People may confuse a “safe room” with a “safe space” in their home like an interior room or closet.

### SAFE SPACE

an interior room with no windows or a basement

VS

### SAFE ROOM

a room built to withstand storms

Less than half of people have a tornado safe room\* even though they provide near-absolute protection in winds up to 250 mph

\*consistent with FEMA guidance or meeting International Code Council/National Storm Shelter Association 500 standard