



SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

IN

NEW MEXICO

APRIL 5- APRIL 9

Below are some interesting tornado facts:

The longest track of a tornado was 219 miles.

Tornados range in diameter from 3 feet to two miles wide. The last 2 mile wide tornado was near the town of Gruver, TX on June 9, 1971.

Florida gets more tornados than another state, but very few big tornados, which is why they are not considered in "Tornado Alley."

Tornados turn counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere.

The tornado in Pampa, TX moved machinery that weighted more than 30,000 lbs.

Tornados have been known to dig (actually blow) a trench as much as 3 feet deep across open fields.

A check from Great Bend, KS was found in Palmyra, NE, 305 miles away. Most tornados occur from 5-9 pm. The odds do down after dark but they don't go to zero. A few of the deadliest tornados in history occurred in total darkness.

The best place to be in the event of a tornado is an underground tornado shelter: The worst place to be is in a car or mobile home. Most tornado deaths occur in cars and mobile homes.

In the USA, tornados have occurred in every month.

Most tornados move from southwest to northeast, but have been know to move in any direction.

One of the most important things you can do to prevent being injured in a tornado is to be ALERT to the onset of severe weather. Most deaths or injuries happen to people who are unaware and uninformd.

STAY AWARE AND YOU WILL STAY ALIVE!

These are some of the things that people talk about when they talk of a tornado experience:

A sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky.

If there is a watch or warning posted, then the fall of hail should be considered a real danger sign.

A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after a thunderstorm.

Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.

A sound of a waterfall or rushing air at first, but turning into a roar as it comes closer.

Debris dropping from the sky.

“Tornado Watch” means the potential for tornados exists.

“Tornado Warning” means that the event is approaching or is here.

Neither the City of Portales nor the County provides any type of tornado shelters prior to the event. Individuals calling in should be told to seek shelter in a secure building. Leave cars and mobile homes in time to secure that shelter. Do not tell people where to go other than to seek shelter in a secure building.

The Emergency Warning sirens are tested on Wednesdays at noon if weather is good. They will sound for 1 minute and then go off. These sirens are not for people in their homes but for people outside as a warning to seek shelter in a secure building.

During an actual emergency the sirens will sound and continue to sound until the event is over. Listen to radio and television for additional information.