

SEVERE WEATHER PLAN

City of Tyler / Smith County



This information can be accessed at the following links:

<https://www.cityoftyler.org/government/departments/fire-department/emergency-management/emergency-management>

[TylerFire.org/Emergency-Management](https://www.tylerfire.org/emergency-management) 04/2026

www.smith-county.com/212/Emergency-Management

PURPOSE

This plan is designed to serve as a guide and to provide helpful information to the public. Users of this plan are encouraged to direct all questions to the appropriate designated agencies.

AS ALWAYS, IN AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 911

SCIENCE

Tornadoes are destructive forces that occur an average of 1,300 times annually in the United States, resulting in an average of 80 deaths yearly. In Texas alone, tornadoes occur an average of 137 times each year, resulting in 8 deaths. A tornado or an outbreak of tornadoes can kill dozens at once and cause widespread damage.

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground. The most violent tornadoes can cause tremendous destruction, with wind speeds exceeding 300 mph. Damage paths can be more than one mile wide and 50 miles long.

Likely conditions indicating a tornado include a dark, greenish sky, large hail, a wall cloud, and a roar like a freight train. Tornadoes may appear as a visible funnel extending partially or fully to the ground and may be accompanied by debris. While some tornadoes are visible, they can be nearly transparent until they have picked up dust and debris, or they may be hidden or obscured by rain or low-hanging clouds.

Tornadoes can occur at any time of year and at any time of day. They may strike quickly and without warning. In East Texas, peak tornado season is from mid-March through mid-June. A second peak time for tornado outbreaks occurs from September through October. Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Other hazardous conditions often associated with tornadoes include flash floods, lightning, damaging straight-line winds, and large hail. Hurricanes increase the threat of tornadoes to our region. Most people who are injured or who die in a tornado are struck by flying debris or are crushed under falling objects or collapsing buildings. Therefore, proper precautions must be taken before, during, and after a tornado.

TORNADO OR THUNDERSTORM WATCH – This means the National Weather Service has forecast that tornadoes or thunderstorms are likely in the watch area. Check supply kits. Be ready to act quickly and to take shelter. Monitor radio and television stations for more information.

TORNADO OR SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING – *Take Action!* This warning means a tornado *has been sighted in the area or indicated by radar, or that a severe thunderstorm (large hail or damaging winds) is occurring or imminent. (Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property).*

**IF A TORNADO OR SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR YOUR
AREA**

“TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!”

PREPAREDNESS

SEVERE WEATHER and TORNADOES

- Sign up for **RAVE** alerts. Tyler and Smith County switched from Code Red to Smart 911 and the RAVE Alert system through their partnership with the ETCOG.
 - City of Tyler residents: <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/registration/registrationLanding.action?cdnExternalPath=> or click on the link at <http://fire.cityoftyler.org> and scroll to the bottom of the page
 - Smith County residents: <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=smithcounty> or visit <https://www.smith-county.com/government/departments/emergency-management>
- Download the Red Cross “Emergency and First Aid” app from your smart device's app store
- Listen to warning sirens, where available
- Monitor local TV and radio weather stations for the latest updates
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio
- Build an emergency kit (www.ready.gov/build-a-kit) and have a family communications plan (www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)
- Encourage your friends and family to be trained in CPR and first aid, including bleeding control.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions and look for approaching storms
- Be prepared to take shelter immediately if you see any of the warning signs or if a tornado warning is issued for your area
 - Dark, greenish sky
 - Large, dark, low-flying clouds, especially one that is rotating
 - Large hail
 - Roar, like a train

Extra Measures for People with Special Needs

- Write down your specific needs, limitations, capabilities, and medications. Keep this list near you always--perhaps in your purse or wallet
- Find someone nearby (a spouse, roommate, friend, neighbor, relative, or co-worker) who will agree to assist you in an emergency. Give this person a copy of your list. You may also want to provide a spare key to your home or directions to find a key
- Keep aware of weather conditions through whatever means are accessible to you, such as closed captioning or scrolled warnings on TV
- People with disabilities, such as access and functional needs, limited mobility, communication barriers, transportation assistance, personal care, and special medical assistance, should register with the **State of Texas Emergency Assistance Register (STEAR)-Public**. <https://www.tdem.texas.gov/response/state-of-texas-emergency-assistance-registry>
- STEAR Direct Signup. <https://stear.tdem.texas.gov/Login.aspx>
- If you do not have access to the internet, you can register for **STEAR** over the phone by dialing **211**.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISOLATED/ELDERLY AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS

7-10% may not have a telephone. Action individuals or agencies include:

- Local Fire Departments
- Neighborhood Crime Watch
- Local Law Enforcement Agencies (especially Beat Officers)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Meals on Wheels
- Senior Citizen Center
- Hospital Social Workers
- Home Health Nursing
- Animal Control Officers
- Church Volunteers
- Citizen Volunteers
- Friends and Family
- Public Health Case Managers/Outreach Workers
- Emergency Care Centers/Emergency Rooms/other Medical Facilities
- East Texas Council for Independent Living, for disabled residents

WELFARE CONCERNS

Should concern arise and a visit be necessary, please get in touch with the Tyler Police Department at (903) 531-1000, the Smith County Sheriff's Department at (903) 566-6600, or call 911.

DURING A TORNADO OR SEVERE WEATHER

- **Activation of outdoor warning sirens**
 - When outdoor warning sirens are activated for a tornado or severe weather, it is crucial to take immediate action to ensure safety.
- **If you are in a sturdy shelter**
 - Go to a pre-designated area such as a safe room, a basement, a storm cellar, or the lowest level in the building. If there is no basement, go to the center of a small interior room on the lowest level, away from doors, windows, and outside walls.
 - Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- **If you are in a manufactured home or office**
 - Get out immediately. Go to a pre-identified location, such as the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection.
- **If you are outside with no shelter**, there is no research-based recommendation for the best last-resort action you should take; many factors affect your decision. However, possible actions include
 - Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt, and drive to the closest sturdy shelter. Pull over and park if your vehicle is hit by flying debris while driving. Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
 - If unable to reach a sturdy shelter, take cover in a stationary vehicle. Put on your seat belt and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat, or other cushion, if possible.
 - Lie in an area noticeably lower than the roadway level and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat, or other cushion if possible.

- **In all situations:**
 - Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
 - Watch out for flying debris. Most fatalities and injuries are caused by flying debris.

POST ACTIONS: SEVERE WEATHER INCIDENT

Many injuries occur after a tornado while walking through debris or entering or exiting damaged buildings. Proper care must be taken to avoid further injury or death.

- **General precautions**
 - Continue to monitor battery-powered radio for news and weather
 - Use battery-powered flashlights. Do not use open flames, such as a candle
 - Cooperate fully with public safety officials
 - Do not enter damaged structures
 - Be aware of hazards from broken glass, nails, and debris
 - Report downed power lines to 911. Do not touch downed power lines or objects that are in contact with downed power lines
 - Respond to requests for volunteer assistance by public safety officials and relief organizations, but do not go into damaged areas unless assistance has been requested. Your presence could hamper relief efforts, and you could endanger yourself and others
 - If your home is damaged, shut off utilities to avoid fire, electrocution, and explosion
- **Injuries**
 - Check for injuries
 - Call 911
 - Do not attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury
 - If someone has stopped breathing, begin CPR. If you are not trained in CPR, 911 can guide you through the proper procedure.
 - If you are trapped or discover someone trapped, try to attract attention to your location and notify 911. Only attempt to rescue if the victim's life is in imminent danger and use extreme caution. If possible, wait for First Responders to arrive.
- **Other unsafe conditions**
 - Immediately report all unsafe conditions to 911

POWER LINE / TREE LIMB ISSUES

To report electrical / power line issues or tree limb concerns, call Oncor at (888) 313-6862 or visit the website at <http://www.askoncor.com/>.

HAZARDOUS STREETS

To report hazardous street conditions in the City of Tyler, call (903) 535-1000. In Smith County, call (903) 566-6600

Health Care Facilities

- Christus Trinity Mother Frances - Telecare Plus (903) 531-5678 or (800) 535-9799
- UT Health Tyler 903-597-0351
- UT Health Center at Tyler Emergency Room (903) 877-7777

SHELTERS

Overnight Locations:

- Salvation Army 24-hour shelter for people experiencing homelessness or near-homeless with a capacity of 200.
Additional space for 250 will be available in the Disaster Shelter. (903) 592-4361.
- Red Cross is open on demand, dependent upon declared emergency.
Matt Brown, Disaster Program Manager, (903) 581-7981 or (903) 216-6786

Daytime Locations:

- Medical facilities include local hospitals, clinics, and stand-alone emergency rooms.
- Salvation Army 633 N. Broadway, Open 24 hours, seven days a week, (903) 592-4361
- Local Fire Stations: Check individual facilities regarding activities and accommodations
- Broadway Square Mall and other retail outlets on the city bus route
- Hiway 80 Rescue Mission 601 E. Valentine (903) 617-6097 or (903) 216-9183 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Movie Theatres: Check individual facilities regarding activities and accommodations
- Churches: Check individual facilities regarding activities and accommodations
- Schools: On hold currently. It depends on a declared emergency and whether a school is in session

City of Tyler Facilities:

- Tyler Fire Department: Various locations. Call 903-535-0005 or 911
- Glass Recreation Center: 501 W. 32nd St., Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., closed Sunday. Open to the public during posted hours with an estimated capacity of 500 individuals. Activities can be scheduled by calling (903) 595-7271
- Tyler Public Library: 201 S. College. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Open to the public during posted hours, with an estimated capacity of 120 individuals. Activities can be scheduled through the library for Taylor Auditorium (capacity 100) by calling (903) 593-7323
- Senior Citizen Activity Center: 1915 Garden Valley Road, (903) 597-0781 for additional information about services, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, estimated capacity 125

- Rose Garden: 420 Rose Park Drive, (903) 531-1349, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with an estimated capacity of 200

Smith County Day Time Locations

- Smith County Office of Emergency Management (903) 590-2655
- Smith County ESD #1 (903) 882-3443
- Smith County ESD #2 (903) 617-6578
- Smith County Sheriff's Office non-emergency (903)566-6600
- 911

WATER

Bottled water **might be** available from:

- Salvation Army (903) 592-4361 www.salvationarmytexas.org/tyler
- PATH (903) 597-4044 www.pathhelps.org

DONATIONS OF MATERIALS

The following agencies working in close partnership will accept donations of food, water, and other supplies and appropriately distribute them. This includes donated transportation services:

- Tyler Fire Department (903) 535-0005
- People Attempting to Help (PATH) (903) 597-4044
- Salvation Army (903) 592-4361
- Meals on Wheels (903) 593-7385
- KLTV Channel 7 (903) 510-7777
- KETK NBC56 (903) 581-5656
- KYTX CBS19 (903) 581-2211
- Smith County ESD #2 and Volunteer Fire Departments (903) 617-6578
- Smith County Office of Emergency Management (903) 590-2655

National Weather Service Reporting

Dial #1-800-551-8338 Sky Warn Spotter reporting line to report severe weather events.

For additional information regarding severe weather information and safety tips, go to:

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/thunderstorm-ww>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Go to Ready.gov | FEMA.gov for additional information and guides to build your emergency disaster kit and create a disaster or emergency plan.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

The entities listed below will provide public information before and during severe weather events.

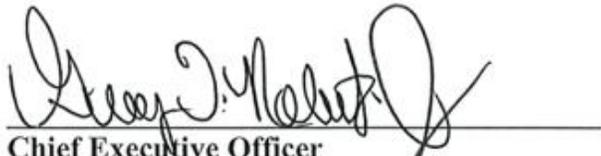
Regional Media Outlets		
Agency Name	Website / POC	Phone Number
2-1-1 Texas (United Way)	www.211texas.org	2 – 1 – 1
KLTV Channel 7	news@kltv.com	903 – 510 – 7777
KETK NBC56	newsroom@ketk.com	903 – 581 – 5656
KYTX CBS19	sjackson@cbs19.tv	903 – 581 – 2211
Tyler Paper	news@tylerpaper.com	903 – 596 – 6265
KTBB 600 AM 92.1 FM	RogerGray@ktbb.com	903 – 593 – 2519
TownSquare Media 93.1 / 96.1 / 101.5 / 107.3		903 – 581 – 0606
Connoisseur Media (Alpha Media) 96.7 / 104.1 / 105.7 / 106.5		903 – 581 – 9966 903 – 534 – 5300
Reynolds Radio 102.7 The BLAZE Mega 99.3		903 – 581 – 5259
Community Resources and Social Services		
Agency Name	Website / POC	Phone Number
City of Tyler	www.cityoftyler.org	903 – 533 – 7444
Smith County	www.smith-county.com	903 – 590 – 4607
NET Health	www.mynethealth.org	903 – 535 – 0030
American Red Cross	www.redcross.org/tx/easttexas	903 – 581 – 7981
Salvation Army	www.salvationarmytexas.org/tyler	903 – 592 – 4361
ETCOG	https://www.etcog.org/	903 – 218 – 6400

REVIEWED:

David Coble

Digitally signed by David Coble
DN: DC=met, DC=cityoftyler, OU=User_Accounts,
OU=Fire, OU=Fire Staff, CN=David Coble,
E=dcoble@tylertexas.com
Reason: I am the author of this document
Location: your signing location here
Date: 2022.11.28 12:50:39-06'00'
Foxit PDF Reader Version: 11.0.0

David L. Coble
Fire Chief, EMC
City of Tyler, Texas



Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Texas Public Health District



Smith County FMO
Smith County, Texas