

TORNADO FACTS

- A TORNADO IS A VIOLENT STORM WITH WHIRLING WINDS OF UP TO 300 MILES PER HOUR.
- THESE SHORT-LIVED STORMS ARE THE MOST VIOLENT OF ALL ATMOSPHERIC PHENOMENA, AND OVER A SMALL AREA ARE THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE.
- TORNADOS ARE FAST SPINNING FUNNEL-SHAPED WIND THAT STRETCHES FROM A THUNDERSTORM TO THE GROUND.



Causes

Scientists aren't exactly sure how or why tornadoes form, but do know that they come from supercell storms that have strong updrafts (rising warm air).



Location

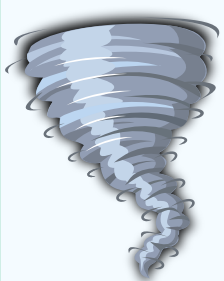
The majority of the world's tornadoes occur in the United States of America, during spring time.



TORNADO SAFETY

- **If a Tornado "Watch" is issued**, it means that a tornado is "possible."
- **If a Tornado "Warning" is issued**, it means that a tornado has actually **been spotted, or is strongly indicated on radar**, and it is time to go to a safe shelter immediately.
- A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm.
- Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.
- A sound a little like a waterfall or rushing air at first, but turning into a roar as it comes closer. The sound of a tornado has been likened to that of both railroad trains and jets.
- Debris dropping from the sky.
- An obvious "funnel-shaped" cloud that is rotating, or debris such as branches or leaves being pulled upwards, even if no funnel cloud is visible.
- If you see a tornado and it is not moving to the right or to the left relative to trees or power poles in the distance, it may be moving towards you!
- Remember that although tornadoes usually move from southwest to northeast, they also move towards the east, the southeast, the north, and even northwest. **SAFETY FIRST!**

In the Event of a **Tornado Warning**, a Tomcat Alert will be sent out with directions where to shelter in place.



Safety Tips
brought to you from the
Thiel College Safety Committee

