**Watches & Warnings**

The National Weather Service issues tornado watches and warnings.

**TORNADO WATCH** – Conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop, and can include many counties or areas. If you are in or near the tornado watch area stay informed via radio or television and keep an eye on the sky. Be prepared to take cover at short notice, as a tornado can develop with little or no warning.

**TORNADO WARNING** – A tornado has been sighted or a developing tornado has been spotted or is indicated on radar. A tornado warning is usually issued for smaller more specific areas than a tornado watch. If you are in the tornado warning area, take cover or shelter immediately.

**Facts**

Tornados have been reported in Colorado nine months of the year. The peak season for tornados runs from mid May through mid August. In Colorado, the primary threat of a tornado is east of the Continental Divide, along the Front Range and foothill areas. Tornados occur every year along the eastern plains.

* The severity of a tornado is based on wind speed and the amount of property damage incurred.
* Colorado is ranked 9th in the country for the number of tornados. Residents can expect an average of 40 tornados per year.
* A tornado is the most violent phenomenon found in nature. Winds can exceed 200 mph.
* Most tornados occur between May and July.
* The major threat of a tornado is in the afternoon and evening hours. More than 75% of tornados occur between Noon and 7pm.
* Tornados usually move from the southwest to the northeast.
* Weld County has the highest number of tornadoes in the state.

**Safety Tips**

**At Home:**

* Go to the basement or lowest level of the house. If you do not have a basement, go to an interior hallway or small interior room on the lowest level.
* Avoid windows.
* Do not remain in a trailer or mobile home if a tornado is approaching! Take cover elsewhere.

**At Work:**

* Go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor, an interior room without windows or a designated shelter area.

**At School:**

* Follow instructions of teachers/instructors.
* Try to stay out of structures with wide, free-span roofs like auditoriums or gums.
* Go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor, an interior room without windows or a designated shelter area.

**Outside or in a Vehicle:**

* Seek cover in a nearby building or lie flat in a ditch or ravine, or the lowest area available.
* Avoid road or bridge over/underpasses.
* DO NOT try to out run a tornado!

For more information on tornado safety, please visit http://www.weather.gov/safety