



Know the alert. Stop work. Get to safety.

Recent severe weather serves as an important reminder that **no job is more important than your safety**. Whether you're restoring service, working in the field, or supporting operations, know what to do before severe weather arrives.

Tornado Watch vs. Tornado Warning

Tornado Watch – Be Prepared

- Conditions are favorable for tornadoes.
- Monitor weather alerts and keep communications on.
- Identify the nearest substantial shelter.
- Be ready to stop work immediately if conditions worsen.

Tornado Warning – Take Action

- A tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar.
- **Stop work immediately and seek shelter. Do not wait to see a tornado.**

If a Tornado Warning Includes Your Location

- **Stop work and move to safety immediately.** Leave poles, bucket trucks, ladders, roofs, scaffolds, and other elevated work areas. Secure equipment only if it can be done without delaying shelter. **People always come before equipment.**
- **Use the best available shelter.** A designated storm shelter, basement, or an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building is best. Stay away from windows, exterior walls, and large open spaces. Protect your head and neck.

- **Field crews:** Go to the closest safe building. Do not drive long distances to return to the shop. Bucket trucks, vehicles, and highway overpasses are **not** safe tornado shelters.
- **Stay accounted for.** Crew leaders should verify the status and location of all employees and report anyone who is missing, injured, or unreachable. Do not leave shelter while the warning remains in effect.
- **Wait for the all-clear.** Do not resume work until directed by your supervisor and conditions have been evaluated for hazards such as downed power lines, lightning, flooding, gas leaks, unstable structures, and blocked roads.

Thunderstorms, Lightning, and High Winds

- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** Stop exposed or elevated work and move into a sturdy building.
- **If you hear thunder, you're close enough to be struck by lightning.** Go indoors immediately or, if necessary, into an enclosed hard-topped vehicle with the windows up. Remain sheltered for at least **30 minutes after the last thunder**.

Supervisors and crew leaders

Ensure crews receive weather alerts promptly, stop hazardous work when conditions warrant, direct employees to shelter, and maintain accountability for everyone on your crew.

Remember: **Safety always takes priority over equipment, restoration schedules, and finishing the job.** Every employee should return home safely at the end of the day.