



## Be Prepared

# Tornadoes

Tornadoes have been tracked in Colorado since 1950. Since then, only 12 tornadoes have been spotted in the Parker area. Although Douglas County averages only one to two tornadoes each year, they can be frightening. The Town does not have a tornado warning siren system in place at this time. The installation and maintenance costs of these systems are extremely high. The geography of Parker is so spread out that a very large number of sirens would need to be installed to reach all areas of Town.

In addition, tornadoes that occur this close to the mountains tend to take shape very rapidly and there is typically no radar warning prior to the actual tornado. By the time we receive the tornado radar signature, often the tornado is already on the ground. Tornadoes in this area also move quickly and don't stay on the ground long. Because of these reasons, the expense of purchasing and installing sirens outweighs their usefulness.

It is recommended that all households in Parker purchase an emergency weather radio. These can alert households of impending weather situations, including tornadoes, floods and other types of severe weather. The radios receive the Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcasts as well as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio broadcasts. Prices vary from \$20 to \$200, depending on the model and you can find them at local electronic stores or online. Search for "weather alert radio."

We also recommend that residents keep tuned to their radio or TV for weather updates. Several local media outlets allow you to sign up and have severe weather alerts sent to your email, cell phone or pager.

The Town of Parker relies on the National Weather Service and the media to disseminate weather warnings to our community. The Town can also use reverse 911 to contact Parker residents in the event of an emergency.

### **Tornado Safety Tips**

- When a Tornado Watch is announced, it means conditions are present for a tornado. Keep a radio/TV tuned for further information, and gather emergency supplies.
- When a Tornado Warning is issued, it means a tornado has been sighted or is imminent. Take shelter immediately.
- If you are at home: Go to your basement. If you have no basement, go to an interior hallway or small interior room on the lowest floor. Avoid windows. Do not remain in a trailer or mobile home if a tornado is approaching. Take cover elsewhere.
- If you are at work: Go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor, or a designated shelter. Avoid windows.
- If you are in a car or outside: Seek cover in a nearby building, or lie flat in a ditch or ravine.

For more information on weather warnings in our community, go to our Web site at [www.parkeronline.org](http://www.parkeronline.org) or call Parker Town Hall at 303.841.0353.