Tornado Checklist



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This checklist is intended to be used in conjunction with the All Hazards Checklist in Appendix 1.

PHASE 1 – PREPARATION	Not Started	In Progress	Complete
Designate an area of each church building as a			
safe room. This area should provide the highest			
degree of protection from winds and flying debris			
(on the first floor, interior room with no windows).			
Periodically conduct tornado drills during times			
when the church buildings are occupied to ensure			
members are familiar with emergency procedures.			
Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed, removing			
diseased and damaged limbs.			
Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or			
cause damage or injury.			
Use a NOAA Weather Radio with a tone-alert			
feature to keep you informed of watches and			
warnings issued in your area.			
PHASE 2 – IMPACT	Not Started	In Progress	Complete
When a Tornado Warning has been issued, go to			
the designated safe room and take cover			
immediately and remain there until the "All-Clear"			
is given.			
Listen continuously to a NOAA Weather Radio, or			
a portable, battery-powered radio (or television)			
for updated emergency information.			
Take no actions to protect property while the			
tornado is impacting the area.			
PHASE 3 – IMMEDIATE RESPONSE	Not Started	In Progress	Complete
Continue listening to local radio or television			
stations or a NOAA Weather Radio for information			
and instructions.			
Help injured or trapped persons within your			
immediate vicinity. Give first aid where			
appropriate. Do not move seriously injured			
persons unless they are in immediate danger of			
further injury. Call for help.			
If individuals have sheltered in church buildings,			
encourage them to remain there until local officials			
say it is safe. Access may be limited to some			
parts of the community, or roads may be blocked			
Immediately report loose or dangling power lines			
to the power company, police, or fire department.			
Use the telephone only for emergency calls.			
Telephone lines are frequently overwhelmed in			
disaster situations. They need to be clear for			
emergency calls to get through.			

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Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service.			
Replant all salvageable plants, shrubs & trees.			
Cover all roofing damage until it can be repaired to			
prevent further damage to the interior of the			
building.			
Clean and disinfect anything in the interior of the			
building that is wet.			
Remove storm debris from the grounds to the			
county appointed pick-up point on the church			
property.			
Consult the Flooding and Thunderstorm and			
Lightning Action Checklists, Appendix 3 & 4 for			
additional actions to be accomplished during this			
phase that may apply.			
Consult the All Hazards Checklist in Appendix 1			
for additional actions to be accomplished during			
this phase.			
PHASE 4 – RELIEF	Not Started	In Progress	Complete
Remind anyone conducting relief efforts to wear			
sturdy shoes.			
Use battery-powered lanterns or flashlights when			
examining buildings.			
Examine walls, floors, doors, staircases, and			
windows of all church buildings to make sure that			
the buildings are not in danger of collapsing.			
Inspect foundations for cracks or other damage.			
Examine church buildings for fire hazards, gas			
leaks, electrical system damage, sewage and			
waterline damage, loose plaster, drywall or			
ceilings.			
Take pictures of all damage for insurance claims.			
If water is of questionable purity, boil or add			
bleach, and distill drinking water before using.			
Contact the church's insurance agent concerning			
filing a claim for damages.			
Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits,			
and leaching systems as soon as possible.			
Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry out			
any church buildings with water damage. Call a			
contractor for assistance with large amounts of			
water damage.			
Consult the All Hazards Checklist in Appendix 1			
for additional actions to be accomplished during			
this phase.	i	l	

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PHASE 5 – RECOVERY	Not Started	In Progress	Complete
Consult the All Hazards Checklist in Appendix 1			
for actions to be accomplished during this phase.			