

# TARRANT COUNTY

## NEWS & INFORMATION



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www.tarrantcounty.com

## Severe weather awareness begins at KnoWhat2Do

Springtime ushers in the best and the worst of weather conditions in Texas. Along with the days of idyllic temperatures, North Texas also gets brief periods of hair-raising storm systems that can bring flooding, hail, lightning, tornadoes or all the above at the same time. When treacherous weather hits, it's critical that citizens KnoWhat2Do!

The [www.KnoWhat2Do.com](http://www.KnoWhat2Do.com) website is a one-stop on-line shop that outlines hazardous weather safety tips and storm spotter training information so that people can be an active participant in their own safety and of those around them.

The KnoWhat2Do disaster preparedness program helps people put together a personal severe weather response plan. Through three simple steps, Think, Prepare and Act, the program details the strategy for avoiding flooded roads and outlines steps for home evacuation drills. Emergency shelter information is also provided, as well as cleanup resources and checklists for emergency kits.

Each North Central Texas community has its own severe weather warning system. Local emergency management offices can provide details on the types of warnings available in their area and how each system may be used. The KnoWhat2Do website provides lifesaving measures that can be followed in a severe weather crisis. For example, it recommends the purchase of weather radios, which are credited with saving thousands of lives by providing alerts and information on severe weather occurring in specific areas.

By checking out [www.KnoWhat2Do.com](http://www.KnoWhat2Do.com), North Central Texans can review all the scenarios Mother Nature is likely to unleash, and find the solutions that work best for their own circumstances and locations. Protect yourself and your family during severe weather season. Your safety and survival depend on whether you KnoWhat2Do. Learn more at [www.KnoWhat2Do.com](http://www.KnoWhat2Do.com). Think. Prepare. Act.

## Tornado safety for Tarrant County residents

Tornadoes can occur at any time of year in Texas, but they happen most often in spring and summer. Storms are most likely to strike in the late afternoon and early evening hours. Tarrant County residents should monitor local TV and radio stations for storm information, as well as broadcasts on weather radios.

A tornado watch is issued when severe weather is expected along with large or multiple tornadoes. It means WATCH the sky. A tornado warning means TAKE ACTION because a tornado is on the ground. Seek shelter immediately. A tornado warning usually covers one county or a portion of a county and generally lasts for an hour or less.

- When a tornado is sighted, the most important rule is to get low and stay low.
- Seek shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor of the home, such as a bathroom, closet or room without windows.
  - In an office building, go to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.
  - Leave your mobile home and take shelter in a nearby building. If no building is nearby, lie flat in a ditch or ravine.
  - Never stay inside a car. Leave the car and lie flat in a ditch or a ravine. If a building is nearby, take shelter inside. Never try to outrun a tornado in your car.
  - At school, follow plans and go to a designated shelter area, usually interior hallways on the lowest floor. Avoid auditoriums, gyms and areas with wide, free span roofs.
  - Go to the interior rooms and halls on the lowest floor of a shopping center. Do not leave the shopping center to get in your car.
  - If you are in open country, take cover on low, protected ground.
  - Avoid areas near exterior glass or doors, areas along exterior walls, or rooms with wide expanse roofs – such as auditoriums, cafeterias and gyms.

## Take Control, Stop West Nile Virus



Most of us spend time outside working in our garden, relaxing or playing. The more time spent outdoors, the more there is an opportunity to be bitten by an infected mosquito.

Taking control and doing these simple things can reduce your risk of being bitten:

- When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient like DEET. Follow the directions on the package.
- Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Wear long sleeve shirts, long pants and socks sprayed with repellent if you plan to be outdoors when mosquitoes are active, or consider staying indoors when the mosquitoes are biting.
- Make sure the screens on your windows and doors are in good shape. This helps keep mosquitoes from getting indoors.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flowerpots, buckets and other things that hold water. Change the water in pet dishes, and replace the water in birdbaths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

So far in Tarrant County, the results of all of the mosquito pools tested have been negative for West Nile and no human cases have been reported. Residents are encouraged to refer to our web site, <http://health.tarrantcounty.com>, for more information and to use our 24/7 interactive mapping tool to track WNV-related information in their ZIP code.

## Tax Office to close for training

The Tarrant County Tax Office will be closed on Wednesday, June 12, to allow for a Staff Development/Training day. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. You may renew your vehicle registration or pay your property tax on line at [www.tarrantcounty.com](http://www.tarrantcounty.com).