

Tornadoes strike with little or no warning; however, when a warning is issued it is advisable to be prepared.

- Keep a disaster supply kit and refresh it from time to time. Some of the items it should contain:
  - Bottled water, as many disasters create pollution in the water supply afterwards;
  - Copies of important documents, batteries, battery operated radio, flashlight, scissors, tweezers, assorted gauze pads, band aids, soap, latex gloves, moistened towelettes, prescription and non-prescription drugs, paper/pencil, cash, matches in a waterproof container, non-electric can opener, disinfectant, plastic garbage bags, one change of clothing, formula and diapers and pet food.
- Take pictures of your home and store in a safe location (preferable with someone or at a place not in the vicinity of your home) for insurance purposes.
- All utility services should be shut down in the building particularly gas appliances. Take steps in advance to learn how to shut them down properly. Never attempt to turn gas back on yourself; call Con Edison.
- Water valves should be turned off.
- Electricity should be shut off.

It is a good idea to tag these items by color so family members know where they are located.

**During the Storm:**

- Stay away from exterior walls and windows
- Seek shelter in the lowest level of the building, the basement
- Bring blankets to cover your head and eyes and protect them from debris and glass
- Keep your pet on a leash or in a carrier
- Follow emergency instructions

**After the storm**

- Multiple tornadoes can come from the same storm; do not go out until the storm has passed
- Do not leave the building in an attempt to escape the tornado
- Wait for an “all clear”
- Check for damage to your apartment
- Contact your insurance carrier
- Clean up spills – medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids, immediately.

**If you have pets**

- Confine the pet during the clean-up period
- If your pet is missing, locate animal control offices
- Check on your neighbors
- Repair or block access to anything in your home that is damaged and could cause injury
- Stay away from downed power lines

Listen to emergency announcements!