



# Tornado Alley

Tornado Alley in the United States is a region where warm, moist air flows north from the Gulf of Mexico and crashes into cold air pushing south from Canada. When they meet, violent thunderstorms occur and these are known as super cells. As warm, moist air flows into the storm it is pushed up and then twisted by upper level winds. As this rotating column of air gathers force, a tornado is born that can last between 20 seconds and an hour.

What should you do if you are caught in a tornado?

- Get underground!
- If you can't get underground, find a room without windows.
- Stay out of mobile homes.
- Do not hide in your bathroom.
- Go to the nearest sturdy building if you are driving.
- Take action before you see the tornado.
- If outdoors, find a building or basement.



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If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter, get into your vehicle and fasten your seatbelt. Drive to the nearest shelter. If debris affects your ability to drive, pull over and park. Stay in the car and keep your seatbelt on. Keep your head down below the windows and cover yourself with a blanket.



1. *'If debris affects your ability to drive...'*

Which word or phrase most closely matches the meaning of the word 'debris'?

vision  dust fragments  vibration  the storm's strength

2. **Tick true or false** in the following table:

	True	False
Warm, moist air flows from Canada towards Tornado Alley.		
Tornados can last up to one hour.		
You should never drive during a tornado.		
Super cells are a type of violent thunderstorm.		



3. Why does the text advise you to find a room without windows during a tornado?

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4. What is the main message of the second and third paragraphs. **Tick one.**

People should evacuate to a different town when a tornado is approaching.

Tornadoes are rotating columns of air.

People can take several precautions to keep themselves safe during a tornado.

Tornadoes are extremely dangerous natural hazards.