

Tornados and Hurricanes

It may not appeal to you to use your bathtub as your only hope to surviving. But it does to some people, because of tornados. These monster storms have damaged millions of families with winds up to 250mph and more!!

What causes tornados? A tornado usually comes from thunderstorms. Before thunderstorms develop, a change in wind direction and the increase in wind speed with amazing height makes an invisible horizontal spinning effect. Thunderstorms often produce strong winds, large hail, and tornados. But the thunderstorms here aren't usually strong enough to produce tornados.

A lot of tornados happen in the middle west, like Kansas and Iowa. "I don't think we're in Kansas anymore!" Dorothy said, from *The Wizard of Oz*. Don't worry, if you ever get caught in a tornado your house won't spin around and land in a different world!

Hard as I try, my descriptions of tornados probably won't seem exciting and dangerous to you, unless you hear it from the people who experienced one! Meet Cissy Carville, a tornado survivor, also a grandmother living on Louisiana. Louisiana is near the Gulf of Mexico, so it is known for its tornados.

About 20 years ago, Cissy, her husband Jack, and her son Beau were settling down for the night when the air pressure suddenly dropped. "My ears were popping like crazy! I knew right away it was a stray tornado from Hurricane Andrew. Hurricanes spawn tornados. Beau, Jack and I rushed into the bathroom, since the bathroom is the only room in the house that doesn't have a window."

Cissy remembered being in the bathroom and the water in the toilet being suddenly sucked up just like that! The tornado passed over their house really quickly, and the air pressure was back to normal. Of course the electricity was out! They felt their way through the house and got out a flashlight. Their house had no damage except