In the United States, most tornados occur in the spring and summer in an area called Tornado Alley.

Here, warm air from the Gulf of Mexico meets cold air from the Rocky Mountains and Canada.

Watch or Warning?

Tornado watches and warnings are issued by the National Weather Service or the National Severe Storms Laboratory, which constantly monitor atmospheric conditions over the United States.

A tornado watch means the weather conditions are right for a tornado, but that a tornado has not yet formed. Stay alert and listen to the radio!

A tornado warning means a tornado has been spotted in your area. Go immediately to the basement. If you’re outside, lie down in a ditch.