



THE MARYLAND WING TORNADO PREPAREDNESS



REVISION ORIGINAL

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A RESPECTFUL REMINDER

29 April 2024

Greetings Maryland Wing Members.

In light of recent events, please take note of this respectful reminder:

Not only are we responsible for Civil Air Patrol people and assets, but also our families, homes, and business. Consequently, being in the habit of both maintaining a careful weather watch and being prepared for violent weather events are essential to meeting these responsibilities.

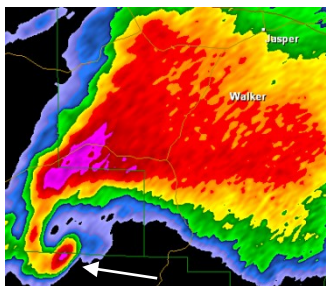
The availability and accuracy of weather reporting is literally at our fingertips and should be accessed regularly. Plus, having a plan in place is not difficult but must be made and briefed to all involved ahead of time. Adding to that some simple emergency supplies and perhaps an escape route puts you in the best position to deal with that violent weather. Act now—the season has only begun.

Stay safe.

Lt Col Ray Phillips



THE NATURE OF THE BEAST



A **tornado** is a column of air rotating at immense speed that extends from a thunderstorm cell (look for the hook on the radar image). The tornado moves along the ground leaving a trail of destruction. Their most intense winds can reach 250 MPH, destroying everything in a path a mile wide and up to 50 miles long. Even the least intense tornados can damage structures and take lives. *Please remember: you cannot win a fight with a tornado.*

PILOT'S CORNER



History has shown us that the best way to secure an aircraft when hurricanes and/or tornados are immanent, is to fly it to a safe area and wait for the violent weather to pass.

Case in point: this was a hanger a few days before this writing...



The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers the following guidelines. If there is a tornado warning take shelter immediately. To stay safe during a tornado, follow these steps:

Go to a safe location such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar or a small interior room on the lowest level of a sturdy building.

Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.

Protect yourself by covering your head or neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around or on top of you.

If you're in your car, do not try to outrun a tornado. Additionally:

Do not go under an overpass or bridge. You're safer in a low, flat location.

Watch out for flying debris that can cause injury or death.

Even after a tornado passes, it's important to stay alert and use caution when clearing debris.

Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.

Wear appropriate gear during clean-up, such as thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves, and use appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning mold or other debris.

Do not enter damaged buildings until you are told they are safe.

For more information on how to prepare for tornadoes, build a safe room or clean up after a disaster, visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

