

Prepare with Pedro!


TORNADO 



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American
Red Cross



Hi! I'm Pedro!
I'm learning how
to prepare for
emergencies.



Prepare means “get ready.”

You get ready for things all the time — like when you put on a jacket and grab an umbrella to get ready for a rainy day.

I want to be ready for any emergency, so I'm learning how to help stay safe when emergencies happen.



You can prepare
for emergencies, too!
Just follow me!

Important words to know: **TORNADO, TORNADO WATCH, TORNADO WARNING, SAFE PLACE, SAFE POSITION**



Pedro was playing hide-and-seek with his friends, Amelia and Elijah. When he saw Amelia, she was on the ground, curled up in a ball with her arms covering her head and neck.

“I found you Amelia! What are you doing?” Pedro asked.

“I’m practicing for a tornado. We learned this during our tornado drill at school yesterday!” Amelia said.

“What’s a tornado?” Pedro asked.

“A **TORNADO** has strong winds that can cause a lot of damage to things in it’s path. This is what a tornado can look like. They can be dangerous, but we learned how to **BE PREPARED**,” Amelia answered.





“We stay prepared by listening for a tornado watch,” said Elijah. “A **TORNADO WATCH** means a tornado may happen in your area. You’ll hear about one by listening to the radio, watching TV, through a cell phone alert or from a grown-up!”



“Most importantly, you can watch for signs of a tornado,” added Amelia, “like a cone-shaped cloud coming down to the ground, a loud roar that sounds like a train or even a change in the color of the sky to dark green.”

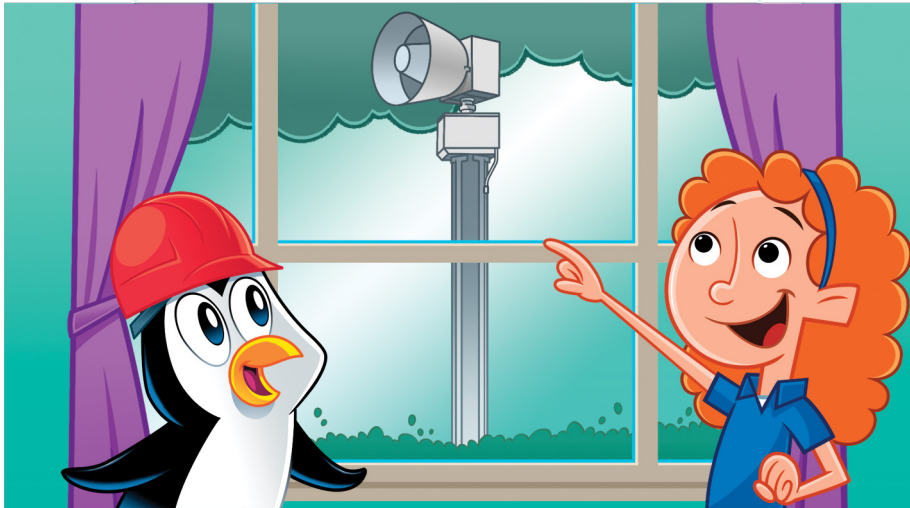
“What should I do if there is a tornado watch?” asked Pedro.



“We remember our safe place,” answered Elijah. “A **SAFE PLACE** for a tornado is a room inside, on the lowest level or basement away from windows. If you’re in a mobile home or outside at the park, find a sturdy building nearby to go to instead. We continue to listen for updates in case there is a tornado warning.”

“What’s a tornado warning?” asked Pedro.





“A **TORNADO WARNING** means a tornado is in your area,” answered Amelia. “In our town, we have a loud siren that goes off. We hear it being tested once a month. Remember, even if you don’t hear the siren or a warning, you still might see signs of a tornado!”



“When there is a tornado warning, it’s time to **TAKE ACTION!** First, you need to go to the safe place!” said Elijah.

“Once you’re in your safe place, get into your safe position,” said Amelia. “In your **SAFE POSITION**, kneel down on the ground and cover your head and neck with your arms.”

“We do this to protect ourselves from anything that could blow around from the tornado,” said Elijah.



Pedro curled up in a ball with his flippers over his head and neck.

“We stay in this safe position until a grown-up says the tornado is over and it’s okay to leave our safe place,” said Amelia.

“Wow, you both learned so much about tornadoes at school. Thank you for sharing with me,” said Pedro.

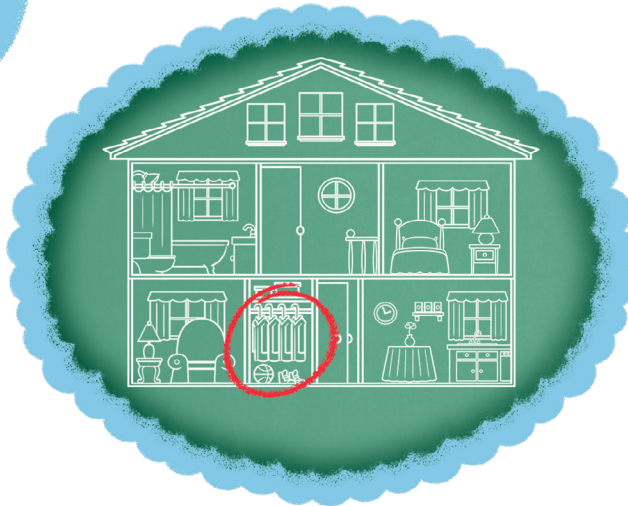


A FEW WEEKS LATER...

Pedro saw a weather report on his TV announcing a tornado watch in his area.



"I know what to do!" said Pedro. "I'm so glad I'm already prepared."



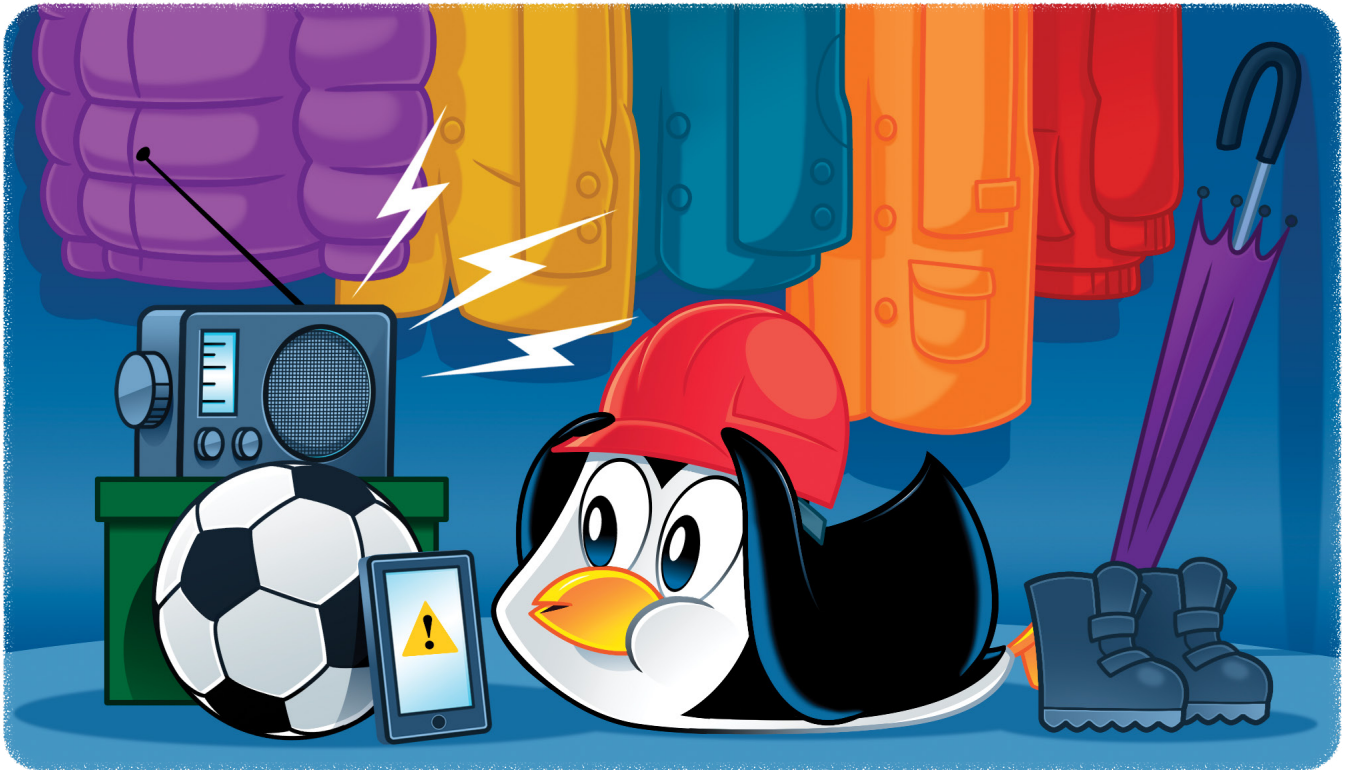
Pedro was in his home, which doesn't have a basement.

He remembered the safest room for him is the coat closet on the ground floor. He brought his radio downstairs, so he could keep listening for weather alerts and was ready to go into his safe place if there was a tornado warning.



Suddenly, the phone beeped with an alert! The notice said there was a tornado warning in the area.

Pedro remembered what he practiced with Elijah and Amelia. He went into the ground floor closet and got into his safe position. He stayed calm by taking a few slow, deep breaths.



After 15 minutes had passed, Pedro heard on the radio that the tornado warning was over.

“Phew! I’m so glad I know how to help stay safe during a tornado!” said Pedro.



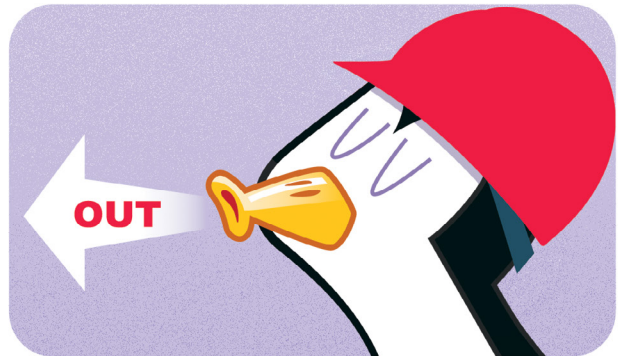
Chill Out with Pedro!



Wow!
Practicing for emergencies is exciting. But it makes me feel nervous, too. So I take big, slow breaths to calm down.



Breathe in slowly through your nose, like me.



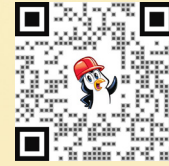
Then breathe out slowly through your mouth.

After just five or six breaths, I feel better and start to relax. Try it yourself and see!



Dear Grown-ups,

We hope that your child has enjoyed learning how to prepare for an emergency! To learn more, please visit: [redcross.org/youthprep](https://www.redcross.org/youthprep) and [ready.gov/kids](https://www.ready.gov/kids).



Pedro's Safety Checklist

- Make a household emergency plan that everyone understands.
- Make a household emergency supplies kit and keep it updated.
- Start saving for an emergency fund.

Did you know that there are nearly 350,000 home fires each year in the United States? That's nearly 1,000 each and every day!

- Practice your home fire escape drill — be sure you can get outside in 2 minutes or less!
- Test all smoke alarms once a month.



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