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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

SAFETY IN TORNADOES

S. D. Flora, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, who has made a special study of tornadoes, offers the following suggestions concerning safety in these storms:

The southwest corner of the basement of a frame house is almost as safe as a regular "tornado cellar", especially if a person crouches close against the wall. Tornadoes nearly always approach from a direction between south and west, and flying wreckage or the entire house is likely to be carried away from the southwest corner. The basement of a brick or stone house, however, is liable to be a death trap, as the walls may collapse and fall anywhere.

A person in the open has the choice between lying down in a depression and flight. Tornadoes travel about as fast as a railway train. If the storm is seen coming in the distance one should run toward the northwest; i.e., across the path of the storm and toward the side where the winds are least violent (since the vortex revolves "counter-clockwise"). If you are motoring and there is a road available running in that general direction, escape should be easy.

"For a person caught in the business district of a city when a tornado is approaching," says Mr. Flora, "perhaps the best chance would be to stand close to an inside partition of a modern steel and reinforced concrete building. Architects believe such buildings will resist the side winds of a tornado and possibly to a considerable extent the full force of such a storm, though this has not been definitely established. In any case outside walls are more likely to be blown out than inside partitions, and the latter might serve to protect against debris that falls from upper stories."

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