

# News Release

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## What to do if you are caught driving during a tornado: CAA

With several severe weather warnings active in Manitoba right now, CAA is urging motorists to educate themselves about what to do if they come across the path of a tornado.

Strong winds from a tornado are capable of picking up debris and depositing it miles away from where it was lifted. If winds are strong enough, cars can be blown over and picked up by the tornado.

"Never try to outrun a tornado in your car," said Public and Government Affairs Manager, Liz Peters. "It's the number one thing not to do."

CAA advises that if you see a funnel developing near your car, the best thing to do is pull over and exit your vehicle

"Look for cover in the nearest sturdy building or storm shelter, if possible," Peters said. "If there is no available shelter, find the nearest ditch or low-lying area and crouch low to the ground covering your head with your arms. Never hide under your car because the wind could potentially roll it over."

Other important safety tips include:

- Carry a fully stocked emergency kit, suitable for the number of people travelling in your car,
- Drive with a fully charged cell phone,
- Always listen to the local radio station if you suspect severe weather is in the area, and;
- Do not take cover in an underpass. While it may seem safe, they are above ground and winds from a tornado can accelerate through the small places of an underpass causing the potential for the underpass to collapse or your vehicle to be blown away.

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