Community Risk Reduction Unit 1

A tornado is a “violently rotating column of air, pendant from a cumuliform cloud or underneath a cumuliform cloud, and often visible as a funnel cloud” according to the Glossary of Meteorology (AMS 2000) (Glickman, 2000). In simple terms, a tornado is a rotating mass of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground, which is most of the time visible as a funnel cloud. Tornados are mostly characterized by lightning and hail, which can cause very serious damages to structures and can affect transportation, power, water, gas, communication and other important community services. This is one of the dangerous types of disasters that hit the United States every year.

I chose to describe the tornados because I live in Kentucky, one of the most prone areas in the U.S and I have witnessed its magnitude of destruction. They can practically occur at any time of the year in any terrain, which renders them unpredictable. This has made people to always stay prepared and give necessary training on what to do in case it happens to those who live in these areas.

Tornados have been haunting the United States for a long time and it is a has caused a lot of deaths and causalities over the years. A report from the Tornado history Project shows that 5,587 fatalities related to tornados occurred in the U.S between 1950 and 2012. It also records 64,054 injuries over the same period (Herbaton, 2014). Notably, there are areas in the U.S that are more vulnerable from the statistics always referred to the Tornado Alley.

In conclusion, tornados have devastating destruction records both to humans and physical structures. This is a disaster we cannot prevent them from happening. The best way we can protect ourselves is to prepare ourselves to face them.

References

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