



9/11 Drill Down for Safety

Drill Scenario #2

Scenario Focus: Incident Pre-Planning, Facility Evacuation, Safety of Employees, Continuity of Operations

Scenario Event: Natural Hazard- Tornado Touchdown

Temperatures in the area have been extremely hot over the past few days, but television weather forecasters have been predicting a break is on the way. Cooler temperatures will move into the area later today a part of a storm system moving eastward across the United States. At 10:00 am the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Norman Oklahoma issues a Severe Thunderstorm Watch for the area. This watch is based on a developing storm system that may affect much of the area over the next six hours.

The sky outside is still blue, with almost no clouds on the horizon. Employees continue their day-to-day activities almost unaware that the potential for severe weather exists. Over the next few hours the weather system approaches and increasing clouds towers begin to appear.

At 2:30 pm the National Weather Service Forecast Office issues a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for the area. Storm clouds and heavy lightning are now visible on the horizon. Winds have begun to pick up and it is clear that a significant storm is rapidly approaching. Within minutes of the warning being issued, tornado sirens begin to sound. The National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning for the immediate area for the next thirty-minutes.

At 2:45 pm a tornado slams directly into the facility, causing major damage which includes a portion of the roof torn off and the south and west walls collapsed. Several employees are missing or trapped, and many are injured.

Epilogue ...

The facility has sustained severe damage and city inspectors have determined that it is unsafe for occupancy. The insurance company has indicated that demolition of the facility may be the best course of action as the structure is currently unstable and additional hidden damage may lie beneath the ruins. Five employees have been killed in the tornado, with many others injured.