Consider the following when planning for your shelter location…

Wind speed increases with height, causing maximum damage potential on the top floor of a building. Lowest floor is usually the safest.

WINDWARD WALLS usually face south and west. Glass, bricks, and block that make up these walls will be blown into the INTERIOR of the building. These walls usually receive the full strength of the winds.

LEEWARD WALLS usually face north and east. Winds tend to pull these sides outward. The pressures here are much smaller than on the windward side. The net result is therefore less damage to the leeward walls. The windows on these walls usually blow out.

ROOFS, especially flat roofs and those with a slight slope, tend to be lifted up and carried away. Overhangs and eaves on the windward side are the most vulnerable. Roofs with steep slopes are somewhat less vulnerable to uplift, but can be blown sideways.

Lightweight roofing materials, such as gravel, wood, insulation, shingles, and steel deck, often are lifted and thrown hundreds of feet in all directions by tornadoes. Weight of concrete roofs tends to resist uplift.

Windows at the ENDS OF CORRIDORS, particularly those facing south and west are very dangerous.

AVOID – Long span roof areas and portions of the building with load bearing wall supports.

THE MOST DANGEROUS LOCATIONS OF A BUILDING ARE USUALLY ALONG THE SOUTH AND WEST SIDES, AND AT ALL CORNERS.