

# Natural Disaster Myths Busted

## Myth 1: Standing in a Doorway Is the Safest Spot During an Earthquake

While doorways in old, adobe-style homes once provided structural support, modern buildings are built differently. Standing in a doorway offers little protection from falling debris. Drop, cover, and hold on under a sturdy table or desk. Stay away from windows, mirrors, and heavy objects.



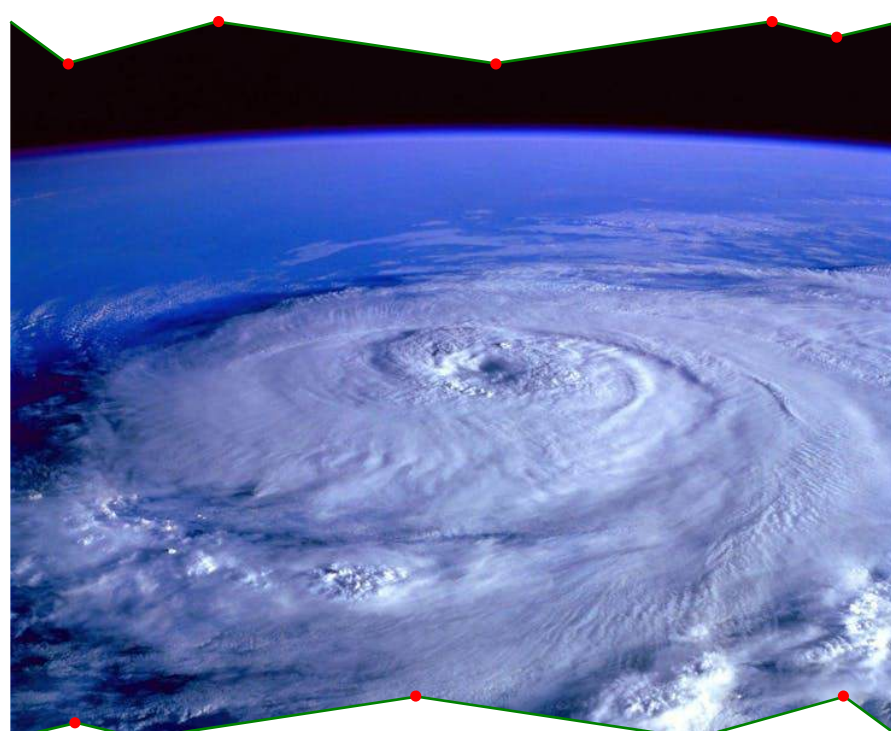
## Myth 2: Open Windows During a Tornado to Equalize Pressure

Opening windows does nothing to reduce tornado damage—in fact, it can increase pressure, allowing high winds and debris to enter your home. Take shelter in a small, windowless interior room on the lowest floor. Tornado winds can exceed 200 mph, turning ordinary objects into dangerous projectiles, so get as far from the storm as possible.



## Myth 3: Hurricanes Only Impact Coastal Areas

Hurricanes can cause severe flooding, high winds, and tornadoes hundreds of miles inland. Prepare for possible hurricane effects regardless of your distance from the coast. Secure outdoor items, prepare for power outages, and stay informed.



## Myth 4: Taping Windows Prevents Them from Shattering

Tape does not reinforce glass. Instead, it creates larger, more dangerous shards when the window breaks. Install storm shutters or use impact-resistant glass. You could even board your windows up for better protection because when it comes to windows, it's better to secure them the right way than to hope for a miracle.



## Myth 5: Lightning Never Strikes the Same Place Twice

Lightning often strikes tall or isolated objects multiple times. If you're in a lightning hotspot, the odds are higher that it could hit again, so stay indoors during a storm and keep away from electrical devices, plumbing, and windows.



## Myth 6: A Car Is a Safe Shelter During a Flood

While your car might feel like a safe haven, it's more like a raft in a flood. Your best bet is to drive to higher ground and get out. Don't let the water turn your car into a boat—it's not a Transformer. Avoid flooded areas and turn around if necessary.



## Myth 7: Emergency Services Will Always Arrive Quickly

We'd love to think that emergency services will always be right there when you need them. But during widespread disasters, first responders are often overwhelmed, dealing with much more than just your call. Be prepared to handle things independently, at least for a while. Prepare your family to handle basic first aid and self-rescue tasks.

