Having dealt with over 1200 tornadoes, what do I think I know? I believe those in the public that respect the power of a tornado, will in most cases, survive a major event.

It is imperative that everyone learns to respect the true violence of a tornado.

Only then will most residents pre-plan and execute the plan like their lives depend upon it.
Moore–OKC–Choctaw
F4 May 8, 2003

Carney May 19, 2013
EF3

May 9, 2003
F3 News9

Moore, OK May 20, 2013
EF5

Piedmont
EF5 May 24, 2011

El Reno May 31, 2013
EF5
First Responders

Kings and Queens of the hill!
Well done, to say the least!
Terrific pre-planning and execution!

Why the panic on May 31, 2013?

- Two prior days with tornadoes and death. That's a big part of it.
- On May 19, the public was frightened by chaotic broadcasts from the field.
- On May 31, improper and unethical information was broadcast by some in the media.
- But I must add that over the past 2 days, overall the television stations were very good with their tornado coverage.

1999    50% Fatalities in Homes
2013    40% Fatalities in Homes

1999   Injured: 42% Brain Injuries
2013   Injured: 27% Spine
10% used Eye Protection
2013  11% used Helmets
1999    16% in Safe Rooms
2013    61% in Safe Rooms

Not comparing apples to apples here. Data base is shallow so take these numbers as very approximate.

- 1999    4% Unaware of Tornado
- 2013    2% Unaware of Tornado
- 1999    50% Fatalities in Homes
- 2013    40% Fatalities in Homes
- 1999    Injured: 42% Brain Injuries
- 2013    Injured: 27% Spine
- 1999    16% in Safe Rooms
- 2013    61% in Safe Rooms
- 2013  11% used Helmets
- 2013    60% used Eye Protection
EVEN IN A MAJOR TORNADO, WE STILL TELL RESIDENTS TO SHELTER IN THEIR HOMES AS THEY MUST IN MANY CASES

BUT, WITH A MAJOR TORNADO, NO BATHROOM, NO BATH TUB, NO CLOSETS NOR HALLS REMAIN

What should we do?  What can we do?  What will we do?

First, all residents must develop a tornado safety plan for their family with rehearsed included.

In other words, the public is going to have to take more responsibility for their own safety.

The NWS, SPC, Television and Radio have an excellent job of providing pre-storm threat information and storm warning.

All the information the public needs is there for them.

Chaotic field broadcasts when lives are in the balance must stop.