

Surviving the Storm: Readyng a Home for Disaster

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Monson, Massachusetts author & tornado survivor, Danielle Koziol will be discussing safety measures taken following the June 1, 2011 tornado, which carved a thirty-nine mile path across western & central Massachusetts. Koziol's home took a direct hit during the tornado and shortly after, a second tornado warning was issued for her area on July 26th, 2011. This storm, which caused extensive damage throughout several neighborhoods that were hit by the June tornado, was later classified as a microburst, with wind speeds reaching 100 mph. The severity of weather in 2011 prompted Koziol to take action and create a 'Safety Room' in her home with essential items for survival in lieu of threatening weather, *in particular*, another tornado. Naturally, the only room in Koziol's house that did not sustain damage during the tornado was an ideal location when creating the 'Safety Room' and preparing for potentially severe storms. Koziol purchased a back-up NOAA weather radio, flashlights, a portable mattress and pet crates to ensure her cats would remain in the safest room in her house. Storing several essential items, including medication, cat food and water, as well as blankets and pillows, were a few of the necessary steps needed to prepare for the future.

PRESENTER'S BIO

Author **Danielle Koziol** majored in Psychology at Becker College, Leicester, MA and began working on her first novel at the age of twenty-three. Following the release of her first novel, "Dragonflies In July," she began operating a cat rescue from her home – which was unfortunately destroyed during the tornado. Using photos from her rescue work, she is now working on a picture book entitled, "Life's Tough!," her second novel entitled, "The Black Bay" and documenting her experiences following the tornado in a work of narrative non-fiction entitled, "The Chosen Path." "The Chosen Path" also includes the numerous, weather-related events that occurred in 2011, such as the July 26th microburst, Hurricane Irene and the October Nor'easter, more commonly known as Snowtober.