

memories

Tommy's Story:

Tommy Crabill, 11, woke up to see the window on the opposite side of his room shoot in and hit the wall. He quickly climbed off the top bunk of his bed and crawled to the door.

"I do not remember sounds. I do not remember seeing anything else. The only thing I heard was my mom's voice on the other side of the door," Crabill reminisced.

'It is a tornado Tommy we have to go downstairs!'

"We pulled on the door but the wind was too strong. All of a sudden, I could feel the floor under me begin to tilt. The same feeling you get when you are at the top of the roller coaster, getting ready to plummet to the ground. I do not remember hitting the ground, I was knocked unconscious."



Crabill woke up on a bed of sharp bricks. His legs were wet with blood. As he felt around him, he could not figure out where he was. He said he thought that he was in his room but then he realized that he was buried under the destroyed parts of his house. Crabill, his mom, and his older sister were all buried under the crushed house laying in the front yard.

"Emily, my younger sister, was nowhere to be seen, until hours later. I rummaged around to try and figure a way out, but I was trapped under a 10' by 10' wall of my house," said Crabill.

He dug himself around to grab a hold of something above him, just as he did his mom yelled for him. It was her ankle he had grabbed.

"If I had not found her leg it might have taken maybe an hour longer to find me."

Crabill was pulled out by Dr. Dye, a Blue Ash fireman, who is now ironically Crabill's dentist. Thankfully all of Crabill's family survived with a few cuts and scrapes. Although Crabill had the most damage, 30 stitches.

"It is of course a life altering experience. Not many people have lived through an F4 tornado."

Rebuilding the future >



Doesn't that house look familiar? This house on Cornell Road,

across from the high school, was destroyed by the tornado, and is pictured after it was rebuilt. Many houses on Cornell were rebuilt due to complete destruction.

At the school a tornado memorial garden was made and new sports fields were added after all of the trees were torn down. The memorial garden has several new trees planted and a few benches.



With all of the destruction, there was still some good that came out of it. We were left with great athletic fields due to the loss of trees, so students no longer had to commute to elementary schools and the junior high. Also, we have corrected our weather sirens so now everyone can hear them when they go off. This was a major problem when the tornado occurred with the malfunctioning of the sirens. People slept in while the storm raged outside.

So many people have been killed by a tornado, when you live through one, you realize how little control you have.

> **Tommy Crabill, 11**



The Facts:

Type	Wind Speed	Effects
F0	40-72 mph	Chimney damage, tree branches
F1	73-112 mph	Mobile homes pushed off foundation
F2	113-157 mph	Mobile homes destroyed
F3	158-205 mph	Roofs and walls torn down, cars
F4	206-226 mph	well constructed walls and homes
F5	261-318 mph	Homes lifted off foundation and thrown

