

## Tornadoes

The IRC does not specifically address tornadoes, whose winds may exceed 250 mph, far in excess of design wind speeds. The intent of the code is to provide minimum standards of construction, including those to resist the effects of natural hazards. Buildings constructed in conformance with the code have demonstrated effectiveness in limiting damage due to high winds. The forces and effects of tornadoes are variable and unpredictable. It is not anticipated that a building of wood frame construction in the direct path of a high-intensity tornado will escape without significant damage (Figure 4-10).



**FIGURE 4-10** Tornado damage