



American Red Cross
National Weather Service
Ohio Department of Aging
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Insurance

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Emergency Management Association of Ohio
Ohio Insurance Institute
Ohio News Network
Division of the State Fire Marshal

Bob Taft, Governor of Ohio

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: C.J. Couch, Ohio EMA – (614) 799-3695

PRACTICE DISASTER PLANS DURING STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL, MARCH 16 *Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 13-19*

(COLUMBUS, OH) – As Ohio prepares for the arrival of spring and the inclement weather associated with warmer temperatures, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages everyone to review their disaster preparedness plans and practice them.

A statewide tornado drill will be conducted at 9:50 a.m., Wednesday, March 16. Counties across the state may test their warning sirens. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages all homes, businesses and schools to practice their tornado drills during this time. The committee's objective is to ensure Ohioans know what precautions to take to protect themselves from potentially dangerous weather events.

Whether practicing a tornado drill or sheltering during a severe storm, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages all to **DUCK**:

- D** – Go **DOWN** to the lowest level
- U** – Get **UNDER** something sturdy
- C** – **COVER** your head
- K** – **KEEP** in shelter until the storm has passed

Other important tornado safety tips include:

- Knowing the difference between a *tornado watch* and a *tornado warning*. A tornado watch means weather conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop. Stay aware of changing weather patterns; prepare to take shelter. A tornado warning means that a funnel cloud or tornado has occurred or been sighted. A warning indicates the need to take immediate action to protect life and property.
- Tune in to one of the following for up-to-date weather information: NOAA Weather Radio, local television station or cable television (Ohio News Network or The Weather Channel), local radio station.
- Seek shelter in the lowest area of a building or home. The safest place to be during a tornado is a basement or under a basement's stairs. If a basement or cellar is not available, seek shelter in a small, central room such as a bathroom or closet.
- If you are in a mobile home or vehicle, seek shelter immediately to the lowest level of a nearby building. If there is no building nearby, lie down in a low spot. Use your arms and hands to protect your head.

To view the spring preparedness guide go to: www.ema.ohio.gov and click on the Severe Weather Awareness Tab.

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