



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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STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL WEDNESDAY MORNING

Columbus, OH – Sirens throughout Ohio will be sounding off on Wednesday, March 29 at 9:50 a.m. Head to an interior room on the lowest level or basement, away from windows and take cover. It is important to know that this will not be a real weather event, it's just a drill. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness suggests while the sirens are sounding to practice as if it were a real event.

“Being prepared and knowing how to react in a real situation is the key to safety,” said Ohio Emergency Management Agency Executive Director Nancy J. Dragani. “By setting the groundwork now, you and your family have a better chance of survival in the event a tornado strikes.”

The statewide tornado drill is in conjunction with Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week, which is March 26 through April 1. During the statewide drill, the committee encourages Ohioans to practice the following tornado safety tips:

- Remember to **DUCK**: go **DOWN** to the lowest level; get **UNDER** something sturdy; **COVER** your head; and **KEEP** sheltered until the storm has passed.
- Know 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 and prepare to take shelter. A tornado warning means a funnel cloud or tornado has been spotted. Seek shelter immediately to protect life.
- Keep informed of weather conditions by one of the following: 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 during a tornado is a basement or under the basement's stairs. If a basement or cellar is not available, seek shelter in a small, central room that has no windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
- Do not seek shelter in a mobile home. Leave the mobile home during a tornado watch and find shelter in a nearby building. Do not stay in your vehicle if a tornado is spotted. You cannot out-drive a tornado. It is best to leave your vehicle, seek shelter in a low-lying area, such as a ditch, crouch down and cover your head, and use your arms and hands to protect your head.

For additional information on severe weather preparedness, go to: www.ema.ohio.gov, www.ocswa.ohio.gov, www.fema.gov, or www.ready.gov.

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