

Tornado Preparedness: Staying Safe in Extreme Weather

What is a Tornado?

A tornado is a rotating funnel-shaped column of air that extends to the ground, often as a part of a thunderstorm.



71 tornadoes have touched down in Ohio between January 1st, 2024 and June 18th, 2024.

This breaks Ohio's record from 1992 of 62 tornadoes in one calendar year.

Today: **PREPARE**

- Make an emergency kit with food, water, medication, and important documents.
- Create a tornado safety plan.

During a Tornado: **TAKE SHELTER**

- Take shelter in your tornado safe space. This may be in your apartment, away from windows and outside walls.
- Protect your head and neck.
- Avoid being close to windows and doors.



After a Tornado: **PROCEED WITH CAUTION**

- Do not enter damaged buildings.
- Avoid fallen power lines.
- Check in with family members and neighbors.



Always: **STAY CONNECTED**



Create a communication plan and check in on family, friends, and neighbors before and after extreme weather events. Staying connected can help you and members of your community stay safe.





What is the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning?



Tornado Watch

Tornadoes are possible in your area. Pay attention to changes in the weather and prepare to take quick action and know where you will take shelter.



Tornado Warning

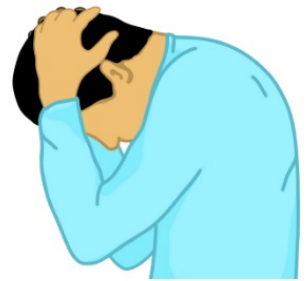
A tornado has been seen or detected in the area. There is imminent danger to life and property- move to an interior room or the lowest floor.



Tornado Emergency: The highest level of alert. A violent tornado has touched down with severe threat to life and property; take shelter in safe location immediately. Call friends and family in area to ensure they are aware.

How can I protect my head and neck while sheltering from a tornado?

- Sit as low to the ground as possible, protecting the back of your head and neck with your hands.
- Consider using pillows or a helmet for more protection.



Where should I go during a tornado if I do not have a basement or lower level?

- Take shelter in a small, interior room near the center of your living space.
- Avoid windows and doors when possible.



Where should I go during a tornado if I am driving or in a vehicle?

- If driving, don't stop under an overpass or tree.
- If you can't leave the vehicle, stay buckled, low, and in the brace position.



How can I keep my pet or service animal safe in a tornado?

- Keep animals indoors and bring them with you to your tornado safe space.
- Include food and supplies for animals in your emergency kit.
- Make sure your animals have proper identification like a collar with your contact information.