

Are You Ready for Tornadoes or High Winds?



Would you know how to protect your family from destructive high winds or even a tornado? The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to learn what to do to prepare for and recover from natural and home disasters. Everyone should know that a **tornado watch** means conditions are right for a tornado to develop. Everyone should know that a **tornado warning** means a tornado is occurring or is imminent; seek immediate shelter. Ohioans should take the proper steps to protect their families and homes before disasters strike.

- ✓ **Prepare a home tornado plan.** Pick an uncluttered place in your home that is on the lowest floor with no windows. The safest place is in the basement under the staircase. In the event of a tornado warning in your area, your household should know where to go in order to stay safe. Practice tornado drills at home at least twice a year.
- ✓ **Assemble a disaster supplies kit.** Include a first aid kit, essential medications, canned food, can opener, water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days), protective clothing, bedding, battery-operated radio, flashlight, extra batteries and any special-needs items.
- ✓ **Protect your home against high winds.** Remove diseased or damaged limbs from trees. Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans and anything else that could become a projectile if picked up by the wind.
- ✓ **Consult with professionals about a “safe room.”** If you are building a new home or remodeling, ask about having a structurally reinforced space constructed for your family’s protection during a tornado or high winds.