

A **tornado** is a violently rotating column of air that extends from the base of a thunderstorm. A condensation funnel does not need to reach the ground for a tornado to be present. A debris cloud beneath a thunderstorm is all that is needed to confirm the presence of a tornado.



Whether practicing a tornado drill or sheltering during a tornado warning, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages everyone to **DUCK!**

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

Information, photos, and protective position illustration are provided by the **National Weather Service**, one of 13 agencies and organizations represented on the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.



- American Red Cross
- Emergency Management Association of Ohio
- National Weather Service
- Ohio Citizen Corps
- Ohio Department of Aging
- Ohio Department of Commerce - State Fire Marshal
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Insurance
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Ohio Department of Public Safety - Ohio EMA
- Ohio Insurance Institute
- Ohio News Network

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has been dedicated in educating Ohioans about severe weather safety and preparedness since 1978.

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

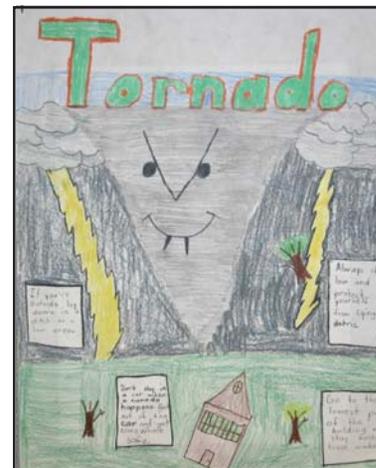
Tornado Safety & Preparedness in Ohio Schools

*Make a safety plan.
Practice tornado drills. Be Ready.*

A **Tornado Watch** is issued by the NWS when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes. Watches can last for 4-8 hours. During a tornado watch, people should review tornado safety rules and be prepared to move to a place of safety. Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or local newscasts for up-to-date weather information.



Andrew, 5th Grade (2007-08)
Salt Creek Elem., Pickaway County



Lauren, 2nd Grade (2007-08)
Marion Local Elem., Mercer County

A **Tornado Warning** is issued by the NWS when a tornado has been detected by Doppler radar or sighted by storm spotters. If a tornado warning is issued for your area, seek safe shelter immediately! A tornado watch does not have to be in effect for a tornado to form. Continue to listen to your NOAA Weather Radio or local newscasts for up-to-date weather information.

Instructors should teach students to get into a protective position when instructed. Students should face an interior wall with knees and elbows on the floor, and hands over the back of their heads.



Schools - Be Ready ...

Have a school safety plan to prepare for **high risk days** and **tornado watches** and **warnings**. In the plan, designate which faculty will monitor the NOAA Weather Radio during watches and other severe weather events. Include provisions for all after-hour, school-related activities. Have a backup source of information, such as a TV, radio or Internet.

Identify in the plan the personnel and method to disseminate all severe weather information to every classroom and activity. Have an alternate method to notify students and faculty in case of power failure.

Ensure faculty and staff in charge of outdoor and after school activities have access to a weather radio at all times. Ensure they are knowledgeable of the school safety plan and where the nearest protective areas are located.

Schools, including modular and portable classrooms, should be inspected for the designation of the best available protective areas. Interior locations on the ground floor, away from windows, are best.

Inspect the most interior areas on the ground floor in the school to select and designate the best available protective areas. Portable classrooms, large, open rooms such as lunchrooms, gymnasiums and auditoriums, or rooms with exterior walls should never be used as protective areas from tornadoes.

Notify students and faculty in portable or modular classrooms of impending weather first, so they can take cover before severe weather arrives. Also, allow that faculty or students with disabilities take cover early, before the arrival of impending severe weather.

Prioritize areas within the school building by number of barrier walls, construction material, etc., as possible protective areas. Create a movement plan to fill the highest-rated areas first.

School Buses - Be Ready ...

Establish guidelines for the use of school buses during tornado watches and warnings. All school buses should be equipped with radios for communicating important weather information. Delaying bus departures and diverting buses on routes are strategies for protecting drivers and riders.

School bus drivers should identify protective areas along each part of their route where they and their charges can take cover if overtaken by a tornado or high winds. Do not hesitate to take cover in ditches or other places below ground level. Do not stay in the school bus if caught in a tornado or high winds. Do not seek protection under an overpass or bridge. Do not attempt to outrun tornadoes or other severe weather.



Tornado Actions

Listen to a NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio for continuous up-to-date weather information.

Tornado Watch - Weather conditions are favorable for tornadoes and other dangerous weather to form. Be aware of quickly changing weather conditions. Be prepared to move quickly to protective areas if the warning signal is given.

School Signal: _____

What to Do: _____

Tornado Warning - A tornado has been detected by radar or has been spotted. Go at once to the protective areas posted and get in the protective position, as illustrated. If you see or hear a tornado coming, take cover immediately. Do not wait for the warning signal.

School Signal: _____

What to Do: _____

Protect Yourself! Lie face down, draw your knees up under you and cover your head with your hands.

