

TORNADO SAFETY TIPS

Whether practicing in a tornado drill or sheltering during a warning, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans 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

Take responsibility for your safety and be prepared before a watch or warning is issued. Despite Doppler radar, tornados can sometimes occur without any warning, allowing very little time to act. It is important to know the basics of tornado safety. Know the difference between tornado watches and tornado warnings.

Tornado Watch: Tornados are possible. We need to remain alert for approaching storms. Look for the following danger signs:

1. Dark, often greenish sky
2. Large hail
3. A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
4. Loud roar, similar to a freight train
5. Prepare for emergency.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. We are to take shelter and implement our Tornado Safety procedures immediately.

The Life Safety Department continually monitors the NOAA Weather Radio. Residents can also tune in to one of the following for weather information: NOAA Weather Radio (purchase on your own) Local/cable television - Weather Channel 22 (WPCODT2) ; The Weather Channel - Channel 41; Twin Lakes Channel 1851 - for emergency evacuation. Or local radio stations of your choice.

If you are a person with special needs, register your name and address with the Life Safety Department (X1375) and/or the Clinic Nurse (X1320). NOAA Weather Radio has available an alerting tool for people who are deaf or have hearing impairments. Some weather radio receivers can connect to an existing home security system, much the same as a doorbell, smoke detector or other sensor.

If you are not in your villa during a tornado watch, the safest place to be during a tornado is a basement. If the building has no basement or cellar, go to a small room (a bathroom or closet) on the lowest level of the structure, away from windows and as close to the center of the building as possible.

Be aware of emergency shelter plans in stores and offices. If no specific shelter has been identified, move to the building's lowest level. Try to avoid areas with large glass windows, large rooms and wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, large hallways or shopping malls. If you are outside or in a car, go immediately to the lowest level of a nearby sturdy building. Sturdy buildings are the safest structures to be in when tornados threaten. Do not stay in your vehicle. Do not try to outrun a tornado. If you cannot seek shelter in a building, lie flat in a ditch or ravine and clasp your hands behind your head to protect yourself from flying debris.

It is not safe to seek shelter under highway overpasses and bridges.