



Licking County Planning Department
And Offices of Community & Economic Development
20 South Second Street, Newark, Ohio 43055

2009 Severe Weather Calendar of Events

[National Flood Safety Awareness Week - March 16-20, 2009](#)

[Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week - March 22-28, 2009](#)

[Statewide Tornado Drill - March 25, 2009 9:50 a.m.](#)

[National Lightning Safety Awareness Week - June 21-27, 2009](#)

[Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week - November 15-21, 2009](#)

Ohio Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 22-28, 2009

Statewide Tornado Drill: Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 9:50 a.m.

by Julia Dian-Reed, National Weather Service,
Jeff Walker, Licking County Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security/911 Agency,
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and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness

Seasons come and seasons go, but the need for safety in dealing with severe weather events knows no season. In fact, the more information we have regarding extremes of nature, the better that we can protect our family, our property, and our community.

Licking County officials have partnered with various other agencies and entities to present the following information to help increase the safety of our citizens as we leave winter weather behind us and head into the spring and summer seasons.

Tornado Facts, Safety Tips & Insurance Information

Ohio Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 22-28, 2009

Statewide Tornado Drill: Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 9:50 a.m.



Tornado Facts

As the severe weather season approaches, take some time during Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week to make a safety plan for your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Planning ahead will lower the chance of injury or death in the event severe weather strikes.

Tornadoes develop from severe thunderstorms. They are usually preceded by very heavy rain and/or large hail. A thunderstorm accompanied by hail indicates that the storm has large amounts of energy and may be severe. In general, the larger the hailstones, the more potential there is for damaging winds and/or tornadoes.

The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or more. Damage paths have exceeded the width of one mile and 50 miles long. Tornadoes generally move from southwest to northeast, but have also been recorded traveling in any direction. The forward speed of a tornado varies from 30 mph to 70 mph.

Even though Ohio had tornadoes in November of 2002 and 2003, the peak tornado season for Ohio is generally April through July. Tornadoes usually occur between 2 p.m. and 10 p.m., but have been known to occur at any hour.

Fujita Tornado Damage Scale – By Category

The Fujita tornado scale (F scale) was developed by the late Professor Theodore Fujita of the University of Chicago to classify tornadoes according to wind speed and damage. As of February 1, 2007, the F scale was replaced by the Enhanced Fujita (EF) scale. A team of meteorologists and wind engineers develops the EF scale to better classify the damage associated with the wind speeds of tornadoes. Effective immediately, all tornadoes will be given "EF" classifications, rather than "F".

FUJITA SCALE		OPERATIONAL EF SCALE		
F No.	Fastest ¼ mile (mph)	3-Second Gust (mph)	EF No.	3-Second Gust (mph)
0	40-72	45-78	0	65-85
1	73-112	79-117	1	86-110
2	113-157	118-161	2	111-135
3	158-207	162-209	3	136-165
4	208-260	210-261	4	166-200
5	261-318	262-317	5	More than 200

Note: The Enhanced Fujita Scale is a set of wind estimates (not measurements) based on damage. It uses three-second gusts estimated at the point of damage based on a judgement of eight levels of damage. These estimates vary with height and exposure. Standard measurements are taken by weather stations in open exposures using a directly measured "one-minute-mile speed."

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. Meet with household members to develop a disaster plan to respond to tornado watches and warnings. Conduct regular tornado drills. When a tornado watch is issued, review your plan – don't wait for the watch to become a warning. Learn how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Despite Doppler radar, tornadoes 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.
- Tune in to one of the following for weather information: NOAA Weather Radio, local/cable television (Ohio News Network or the Weather Channel), or local radio station.
- If you are a person with special needs, register your name and address with your local emergency management agency, police and fire departments before any natural or man-made disaster.
- NOAA Weather Radio has available an alerting tool for people who are deaf or have hearing impairments. Some weather radio receivers can be connected to an existing home security system, much the same as a doorbell, smoke detector or other sensor. For additional information, visit: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/special_need.htm.
- 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, offices and schools. 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, cafeterias, large hallways or shopping malls.
- If you're outside, in a car or mobile home, go immediately to the lowest level of a nearby sturdy building. Sturdy buildings are the safest structures to be in when tornadoes threaten. Winds from tornadoes can blow large objects, including cars and mobile homes, hundreds of feet away.
- If there is no building nearby, lie flat in a low spot. Use your arms and hands to protect your head. It is not safe to seek shelter under highway overpasses and bridges.

Tornado Statistics

Ohio Tornado Statistics 1940 - 2007

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1940-49	2	0	5	5	10	6	2	5	3	0	0	0	38
1950-59	1	4	7	8	12	12	12	5	1	2	1	0	65
1960-69	0	1	5	37	26	20	16	12	4	1	8	0	130
1970-79	2	4	3	26	28	50	25	18	14	7	1	2	180
1980-89	1	0	17	19	32	50	16	7	1	2	2	0	147
1990-99	1	5	1	16	21	48	77	17	5	3	3	1	198
2000-05	0	0	0	6	22	6	5	9	2	2	20	0	72
2006	0	0	1	0	2	6	11	5	0	2	0	0	27
2007	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	12
Totals	7	14	40	120	155	198	164	84	30	19	35	3	869

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Note: The increase in tornadoes listed from the 1950's to the 1960's is not necessarily indicative of an absolute increase in the number of tornadoes, but is more likely the result of better communications, an increase in population, and more public awareness of severe weather.

Tornado Loss Prevention Tips

The following steps are suggestions that homeowners should take before a tornado or other natural disaster occurs to assure speedy and hassle-free recovery.

The Insurance Information Institute has a web tool that makes conducting a home inventory a breeze. Now you can catalog your possessions online, room by room. Once completed, you can add items and photos. Maintaining a comprehensive inventory will come in handy, should you need to file a claim or reevaluate the amount of insurance you carry. It's good for renters, too. Visit <http://www.knowyourstuff.org> to get started.

Home Coverage and Preparedness Tips

- Tornado losses are most often covered by the "windstorm peril" under the homeowner's insurance policy.
- Check with your homeowner insurance agency to assure adequate coverage is provided by the policy. Notify the insurance agency of any additions or improvements to the home.
- Consider purchasing the replacement cost coverage endorsement for the home and its contents. It would give the option to rebuild or replace damaged property at current costs rather than depreciated values.
- If you experience a storm-related loss to your home that is covered by your insurance, notify your insurer in a timely manner, as required by your policy.

Home Inventories Assist in Settling Claims

- Videotape, photograph or compile a written inventory of your home and belongings.
- Keep the inventory off premises in a bank safe deposit box. The inventory will provide a record for you and the insurance company, should a loss occur.
- Update your inventory every time you move or every two to three years.

Written Inventory Tips

- Go through each room of the home and list every item. Include the purchase date, price and model numbers.
- Include professional, written appraisals of antiques, jewelry and other costly possessions.
- Visit http://www.ohioinsurance.org/renters_insurance/images/inventory.pdf to download a sample of a personal property inventory form.

Video or Photo Inventory Tips

- Pan the camera around the room to capture all items. Obtain close-ups of expensive items such as jewelry, china and furs.
- Consider grouping items for easier inventory.
- Narrate the video by noting purchase costs and dates. Include model and serial numbers for appliances and electronic devices.

Auto Coverage and Preparedness Tips

- If there is threatening weather, shelter vehicles to prevent damage from winds, flying debris and hail.
- Vehicles are protected under the "other than collision" (comprehensive) portion of an auto insurance policy, if damaged by windstorms or hail.

After the Loss - Insurance Tips

- Photograph any damage and inventory losses. Photos will assist when settling claims.
- Secure property from further damage or theft and save related receipts, since many insurers will reimburse for these expenses.
- If required to seek temporary housing due to a covered loss such as a tornado, check your policy for "loss of use" coverage. Many policies cover such expenses up to a stated amount.