

# Memo from Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

## PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL

**MARCH 22, 2017 AT 9:50 A.M.**



### To Your Organization's Safety Officer/Manager:

#### **2017 STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL**

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week will be held March 19 - 25, 2017. Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security urges you and your organization to exercise a tornado safety plan during the **Statewide Tornado Drill on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 9:50 a.m.**

Tornadoes are nature's most violent windstorms and are the number one risk for Franklin County. Tornadoes develop from severe thunderstorms and can cause fatalities and destruction in a matter of seconds. Peak tornado season in Ohio is generally April through July, but tornadoes can and have occurred at any time, during any season. More than 30 tornadic events have been reported in Franklin County since 1950. Designing and exercising a tornado safety plan for your establishment will help your organization respond safely in a real event.

#### **HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DRILL**

- Listen for the outdoor sirens at 9:50 a.m. on March 22nd and participate by practicing your organization's safety plan. If you can't participate in the tornado drill on March 22nd, conduct your own drill on another day this spring.
- Note: The drill will take the place of the weekly Wednesday noon outdoor warning siren test in Franklin County. The system will be activated one time for three minutes — a longer tone than in the regular Wednesday noon test.
- [Click here](#) to tell us about your participation this year's drill. Make sure to provide your email address to receive a participation certificate.

#### **SEVERE-WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIPS**

##### Be Informed

- Register for Franklin County's Mass Notification & Warning System, ALERT Franklin County at [www.alertfranklincounty.org](http://www.alertfranklincounty.org)
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio. More information visit [www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/).
- Learn more about tornadoes and other severe weather hazards Franklin County faces on the FCEM&HS website at [www.fcemhs.org](http://www.fcemhs.org).

##### Develop a Plan

- Know where to shelter and how you will communicate. Details at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

##### Build a Kit

- Keep extra emergency supplies on hand, including a battery-operated radio, food, water and medication. [Click here](#) for more information.

##### Get Involved

- Volunteer with the FCEM&HS Siren Watch Program. Get details [here](#).

Register at [www.alertfranklincounty.org](http://www.alertfranklincounty.org)



#### FCEM&HS

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Sign up at [www.alertfranklincounty.org](http://www.alertfranklincounty.org)



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