

OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM

The Franklin County Outdoor Warning System is one of the largest siren systems in Ohio. The sirens are part of a warning system that also includes NOAA weather alert radios and the media. FCEM&HS is responsible for the management and activation of the Outdoor Warning System. Each jurisdiction owns the sirens within its boundaries, contracts with FCEM&HS for operation and support and makes individual purchasing decisions.



FCEM&HS OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM ACTIVATION POINT

The sirens can be activated from three locations in the county. Each of these sites activates the sirens at least once per month. Sirens are tested weekly on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon in fair

weather. During tests, sirens sound for 20 seconds, pause for 40 seconds, sound for 20 seconds and stop completely. To avoid confusion, sirens are not tested during inclement weather or when inclement weather is imminent.

During siren tests and after a Tornado Warning, computers and technicians check all sirens to determine any necessary repairs. To report a malfunction, call FCEM&HS at (614) 794-0213.

Emergency Contact Numbers:

Police.....	911
Fire.....	911
Sheriff.....	911
American Red Cross	251-1443
FCEM&HS.....	794-0213
Columbus Public Health	645-7417
Franklin County Health	462-3160
National Flood Insurance Program..	800-638-6620
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources Flood Plain Planning.....	265-6750
Poison Control.....	800-222-1222

For More Information Contact:

Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security (FCEM&HS)

5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43230
Regular Business Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Phone: (614) 794-0213
www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs/

After Hours Emergency Number:
(614) 882-6614

The Outdoor Warning System is *intended* to be heard **OUTSIDE ONLY**. Every home and business should have at least one tone activated weather alert radio with a battery backup.

MARCH 2009

TORNADOS



BE ALERT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WATCHES & WARNINGS

TORNADO WATCH

A Tornado Watch means that Weather conditions during the watch *might* produce a tornado. The Outdoor Warning Sirens WILL NOT sound during a Tornado Watch, but be prepared to go to your safe area.

Check your radio, TV or NOAA Weather Alert Radio for special weather announcements or updates on the current weather conditions.

TORNADO WARNING

A Tornado Warning means that a tornado has been sighted or is imminent in Franklin County. The Outdoor Warning Sirens WILL sound for three minutes and be silent for seven minutes. This sequence repeats as long as the Warning remains in effect.



IMMEDIATELY TAKE SHELTER in your safe area and monitor broadcasts.

Be safe - take Watches & Warnings seriously!

WHERE TO SHELTER

SAFE AREAS

INSIDE

- The basement or lowest level
- Interior room with no windows
- Under the stairs or a heavy table

OUTSIDE OR IN A VEHICLE

- Lie flat in a ditch or low lying area

PROTECT YOURSELF

Sit with your back to the wall, pull your knees in and cover your head with your arms or a book.

PLACES TO AVOID

- Manufactured homes
- Underpasses
- Buildings with large, flat roofs (like a gymnasium or cafeteria)
- Elevators

AT SCHOOL

Follow teacher instructions - they know the safe areas!

*It takes longer to shelter in large buildings
PLAN AHEAD!*

AT WORK

TORNADO WATCH - tell others and be prepared to go to a safe area.

TORNADO WARNING - tell others and take shelter in a safe area.

BE PREPARED

MAKE A PLAN NOW

SAFE AREA

- Choose your safe area in advance
- Practice getting there quickly

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

- Radio with fresh batteries
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Food/snacks and water
- Prescriptions
- First aid kit
- Blankets
- Cell phone
- Money
- Baby supplies (formula, diapers)
- Supplies for any special needs

If you keep a travel bag ready, put it in your safe area!

COMMUNICATION

- Choose a local meeting place
- Plan ahead who you will contact if your family gets separated
- Choose local and long distance contacts since it is sometimes easier to call long distance when local systems are busy

ALL CLEAR

Conditions may remain dangerous even though a Warning has expired. Stay inside until the media reports that severe weather has passed.