

Portage Prepares

Helping Portage County Citizens prepare for emergencies and disasters.

www.co.portage.oh.us/portageprep/

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



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Board of County Commissioners

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Tornado Safety Tips and Facts

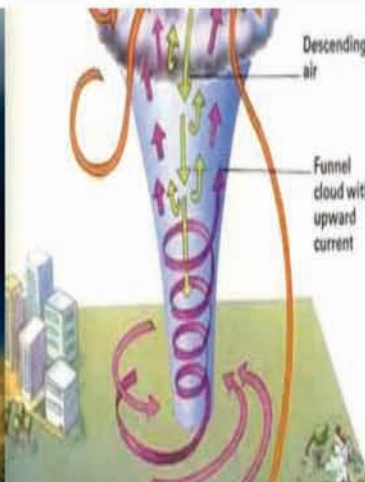
Tornado Facts

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.

Peak tornado season in Ohio is generally April through July, and they usually occur between 2 p.m. and 10 p.m. Last year, though, an EF1 tornado occurred in Fairfield County at 6 in the morning - which proves that tornadoes can happen at any time,



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.

Be aware of weather conditions. Listen to a local radio station to stay up-to-date on changing conditions

Remember:
Overpasses offer
NO PROTECTION
from tornadoes and
should not be used
as sheltering areas.

Tornado Safety and the Dangers of Highway Overpasses

Many people mistakenly think that a highway overpass provides safety from a tornado. The reality is: an overpass may be one of the worst places to seek shelter from a tornado. An overpass as tornado shelter can put people at a greater risk of being killed or seriously injured by flying debris from the powerful tornado winds.

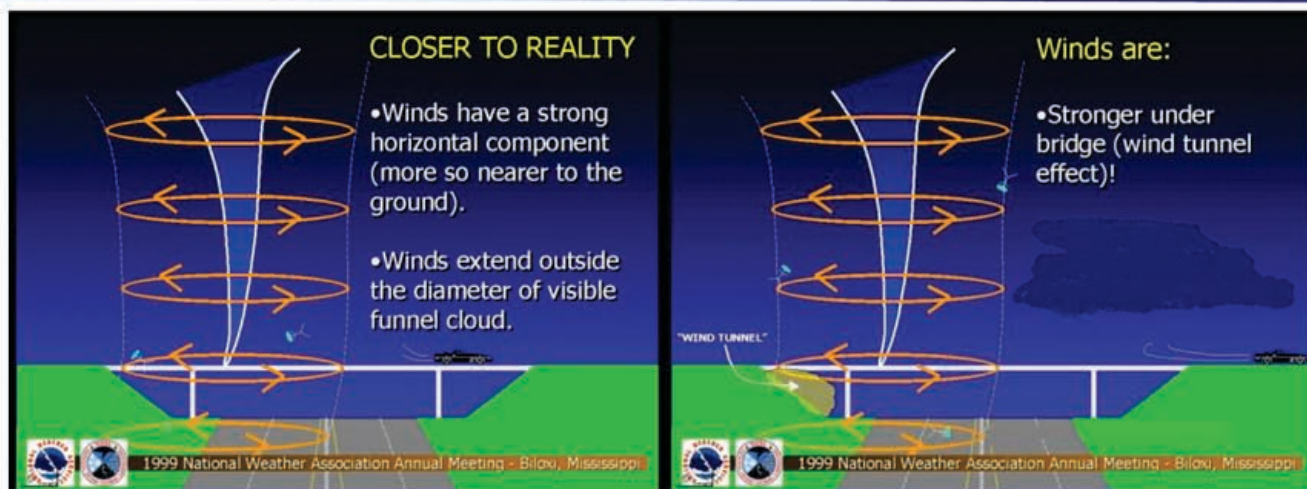
Wind speeds in tornadoes can exceed 200 mph. These destructive winds produce airborne debris that are blown into and channeled

under the overpass where people might try to seek shelter. Debris of varying size and types, including dirt, sand and rocks, moving at incredible speeds can easily penetrate clothing and skin, causing serious injuries and possibly death. Very fine debris can also be forced into eyes, causing injury or loss of sight. A person can even be blown out or carried away from the overpass by the fierce tornado winds. If a person is positioned at the top of an overpass, he/she could encounter even

higher wind speeds and more missile-like debris. Wind direction will also shift abruptly as the tornado passes, tossing debris from all sides.

When a tornado approaches, the safest course of action is to get out of the tornado's path. Seek shelter in a sturdy, well-constructed building.

If you cannot seek shelter in a building, lie flat in a ditch or ravine and clasp your hands behind your head to protect



Portage Prepares is a county education program for preparing Portage County communities to meet the challenges of emergencies and/or disasters in order to be safe and reduce injury. Portage Prepares is a program of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and its Advisory Committee under the guidance of the Portage County Board of Commissioners. For additional information on emergency preparedness, go to www.co.portage.oh.us/portageprep/.