Are You Ready for Tornadoes or High Winds?

Would you know how to protect your family from destructive high winds or even a tornado? The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to learn what to do to prepare for and recover from natural and home disasters. Everyone should know that a tornado watch means conditions are right for a tornado to develop. Everyone should know that a tornado warning means a tornado is occurring or is imminent; seek immediate shelter. Ohioans should take the proper steps to protect their families and homes before disasters strike.

✓ Prepare a home tornado plan. Pick an uncluttered place in your home that is on the lowest floor with no windows. The safest place is in the basement under the staircase. In the event of a tornado warning in your area, your household should know where to go in order to stay safe. Practice tornado drills at home at least twice a year.

✓ Assemble a disaster supplies kit. Include a first aid kit, essential medications, canned food, can opener, water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days), protective clothing, bedding, battery-operated radio, flashlight, extra batteries and any special-needs items.

✓ Protect your home against high winds. Remove diseased or damaged limbs from trees. Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans and anything else that could become a projectile if picked up by the wind.

✓ Consult with professionals about a “safe room.” If you are building a new home or remodeling, ask about having a structurally reinforced space constructed for your family’s protection during a tornado or high winds.