



A message from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and your friends and neighbors of the LYNDHURST CERT

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Recent Tornadoes Emphasize Importance of Preparedness

Over the past few weeks our country has been devastated by violent tornadoes. Our thoughts are with those affected by these catastrophic disasters. Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May; in the northern states, it is late spring through early summer but it's important for all Americans to know what to do if they are near a tornado-prone region. Here are a few basic steps to prepare for this type of emergency:

- **Get a Kit.** Create an emergency kit including but not limited to items such as bottled water, non-perishable food, battery-powered (or crank) radio, flashlights, and extra batteries. Keep this kit stored in a safe place and don't forget important documents. Collect phone numbers of family members, banks, insurance companies, etc with your emergency kit.
- **Have a plan.** Before the tornado occurs, have a plan that allows communication with your family and identifies a safe and secure shelter location. If you do not have a storm cellar, take cover in the basement. If you are in an apartment, move to a hallway or if possible move to a hallway on the lowest level of the building. Avoid windows, doors, and vehicles.
- **Know the facts about tornadoes.** Be on alert for signs of a tornado which can include strong winds and a possibility of precipitation. Tornadoes typically pick up debris and form a visible cloud in the shape of a funnel.
- **Listen to your local weather forecast.** Updated information will be available if a tornado could strike in your area. The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) also has weather updates available.

For more information on how to plan and prepare for emergencies visit the [FEMA's website](#), contact the local [Citizen Corps Council](#) or here at home, the Lyndhurst CERT, at [http:// www.lyndhurst -oh.com/CERT](http://www.lyndhurst-oh.com/CERT).