

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter
Urges residents to prepare for Tornado Season**

Cleveland, Ohio – April 30, 2007 - Each year an average of 16 tornados are reported in Ohio, most of them during the spring months of April, May, and June. A tornado is a rotating column of air that touches the ground during a severe thunderstorm, devastating everything in its path. In order to prevent tragedy in your home during a tornado, follow these tips from the American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter.

Be Prepared

- Develop a plan for your family to use when at home, work, school or outdoors and have frequent tornado drills.
- Designate a place of safety, preferably underground and free of windows. If a basement is unavailable choose an interior room such as a hallway or get under sturdy piece of furniture.
- Assemble a safety kit including: food, water, a flashlight with batteries, and a portable radio.
- Know who is most at risk: elderly, young children, the mentally and physically handicapped, residents of mobile homes, and those with a language barrier.
- Know the county in which you live and keep a highway map nearby to follow storm movement from weather bulletins.

Listen to the Weather

- Tune in to your local television or radio station for the weather forecast.

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- Listen for areas with severe thunderstorm watches; tornado warnings, meaning conditions are right for a tornado; or a tornado watch, meaning one has been spotted. During a tornado watch, move your family into your designated tornado shelter. If you are in a car or mobile home immediately abandon it.

Watch for Environmental Signs

- Dark often greenish sky
- Large hail
- Loud roar, like a train
- Wall cloud
- A visible funnel cloud, which may only extend partially towards the ground
- Low hanging clouds can block a funnel cloud from sight while others will be clearly visible.

For more information about preparing for an emergency, visit, www.redcross-cleveland.org

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