



News Release

Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County EMA Offers Spring Severe Weather Awareness Tips, Sponsors Tornado Spotter Training Course

Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 21 through 27, 2010. Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is encouraging citizens to recognize the occasion by creating a severe weather safety plan.

"It is important for citizens to prepare a tornado safety plan so everyone knows where to go and what to do," stated Summit County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator Valerie DeRose. "When choosing a shelter, choose an area that is the lowest part of your home, try to be as close to the center of your home as possible and stay away from outside windows."

Once a proper shelter is located, the Emergency Management Agency recommends that the following emergency supplies be placed in your shelter area:

- Battery powered radio and flashlight (extra batteries)
- Blankets
- Clothing, shoes and rain gear
- Credit cards, cash and an extra set of car keys
- First aid kit and prescription medications
- Food (non-perishables, packaged or canned) and a non-electric can opener
- Water (3-day supply - 1-gallon per person, per day) stored in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months.

Citizens interested in learning more about safety preparation and tornados are invited to participate in a Skywarn Tornado Spotter Training Course scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2010, at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the American Red Cross, located at 501 West Market Street in Akron.

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The course is a training activity that focuses on identifying and reporting severe local storms (e.g. floods, thunderstorms and tornadoes). Upon completion of the class, participants will be presented with an opportunity to become an official Skywarn Tornado Spotter.

The primary target audience includes: amateur radio personalities, custodians, emergency management personnel, health care providers, public safety personnel and school administrators.

Gary Garnet, a warning and coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service, will be facilitating the course.

To register for the Tornado Spotter Training Course contact the Summit County Emergency Management Agency at 330-643-2558, or click on <http://www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema>.

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