



# March/April 2023 Newsletter

## Spring Weather Safety — Vol. 1, Issue 2

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As severe weather season approaches, spring is a good time to put together a safety plan with your family, friends or household. Planning ahead will lower the chance of injury or death in the event that severe weather, such as a tornado, strikes.

Ensure that everyone knows the signs of a tornado, including a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, an approaching cloud of debris, or a loud roar – similar to a freight train. Pay attention to the weather and to weather reports. Meteorologists can predict or forecast when conditions might be right for a tornado to develop.

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that comes in contact with the ground – usually descending from the base of a severe thunderstorm. Tornadoes are usually visible as funnel clouds. Related severe thunderstorms can produce heavy rains, flash flooding and hail.



### Tornado Safety Tips

Whether practicing in a tornado drill or sheltering during a warning, the 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

**FIRST RESPONDERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, EMERGENCY MANAGERS, and PUBLIC HEALTH Departments** get a lot of **EXERCISE**. All of these groups are required to “exercise” to know how to properly respond during an incident or disaster. Exercises help build proficiency in skills necessary to protect life and property in response to simulated, natural and/or man-made disaster scenarios.

In June, the Richland County EMA in collaboration with many first responders and other community partners will be conducting a “**table top**” exercise. A table top exercise involves the groups coming together to discuss an incident – there is no “action” – simply talking through how they would respond for a particular situation.



Have you signed up for RC Alerts?  
Use the QR Code to receive notifications on County Related weather and community alerts!





## CERT Communications Before and After a Disaster

The Richland County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and the Medical Reserve Corps, use various mediums of communications before, during and after a disaster. Internet is used to monitor the potential of severe weather. The National Weather service provides bulletins on potentially severe weather, weather radar, and local weather broadcasts on special weather radios that can be activated in severe weather events. Local television stations provide weather information and possible warnings. The CERT team uses a computer based alert system to notify team members of severe weather, team activations, and general health and welfare bulletins. The CERT team has access to local police and fire communications channels during activations. The CERT team also utilizes handheld 2 way radios for use at deployments and special details. Local deployments have included traffic control at an accident scene, search and rescue for a lost resident, and assisting at the drive thru clinics at Richland County fairgrounds during COVID. For more information on CERT/MRC or the HAM Radio Club contact Richland County EMA 419-774-5686.

## Total Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024

**Richland County is preparing for the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse.**

On Monday, April 8, 2024, people within a 124-mile-wide band in the State of Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse. The path of the eclipse will put most of Richland County in the path of totality, meaning the sun will be blocked by the moon in the daytime, creating up to 2 minutes of night, just after 3 p.m. that day. A total solar eclipse is a rare and spectacular event. On average, one happens somewhere on Earth only once every 1.5 years. And, in the entire existence of the United States, only 21 total solar eclipses have crossed the lower 48 states. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806, while the next one will not occur until the year 2444.

Many people may come to Richland County to view the eclipse. Areas in the US that have previously experienced totality report that their population doubled or tripled for the event.



# SAVE THE DATE!

In 2024, a total eclipse will go through Ohio. Start planning for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!"

**Eclipse.Ohio.Gov**