



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE CHIEF, MIKE SUHY



The Village will be participating in a statewide tornado drill on March 22 at 9:50 am.

We will be sounding our warning sirens throughout the village.



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

Safety Basics

A tornado's path of destruction can be more than one mile wide and 50 miles long and can devastate a neighborhood in seconds. You may have little warning, so preparation and planning are key to reducing injuries. It's important to know what to do before, during, and after a tornado:

Before

Know a safe place: Know the safe places at home, work and at school. Locate local shelters and be aware of the tornado risk in your county or parish.

- Practice tornado drills at home and school.
- Have a plan for how family members will contact one another during an emergency. Establish an out-of-area contact (such as a relative or family friend) who can coordinate family members' locations and information should you become separated. Make sure children learn the phone numbers and addresses and know the emergency plans.
- Prepare a family disaster supplies kit. Families with children should have each child create their own personal pack.

During

During a tornado watch:

- Remain inside, away from windows and doors.
- Listen to the radio or TV. Keep a battery-operated radio or a NOAA Weather Radio.
- Make sure your family disaster supplies kit is complete.
- Be alert during a thunderstorm watch. Severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes. Being prepared will give you more time should the weather turn severe.

During a tornado warning – Listen to the radio or TV for weather updates and instructions from local officials. Quick action and planning ahead can save your life! If you get caught in a tornado, know what to do: take shelter immediately; stay away from windows, corners, doors and outside walls; be aware of flying debris. Crouch on the floor near an interior wall or under a heavy object, such as a table. Bend over and place your arms on the back of your head and neck (which are injured more easily than other parts of your body).

After

Continue to listen to the news and weather updates. Stay away from power lines and broken glass. Be aware of the possibility of broken gas lines and chemical spills. If you smell gas or chemical fumes, immediately evacuate the area and contact authorities. Stay out of damaged buildings and return home only after authorities have issued an all-clear signal.



Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department Employee Spotlight

Firefighter Tom Kekelis

Professional:

- Local 702 Secretary/Treasurer 2005-2009
- Local 702 President 2015-2024
- Acting Officer 2017 to Present
- Associate Degree of Science, Fire Science
- Associate Degree of Applied Science, Nursing
- State Certified Fire Safety Inspector
- ICS 100, 200, 300, 700, 800
- Fire Officer I; Supervisory Level
- Fire Officer II; Supervisory and Managerial Level
- Fire Officer III; Managerial and Administrative Level
- Fire Officer IV; Administrative Level
- Health Safety Officer
- Incident Safety Officer
- Blue Card Incident Commander Certification
- CPR Instructor

Personal:

- Wife Ally for 14 years
- Son Elias, 11 years
- Board Member for Groza Titans Football Organization
- Berea Midpark Middle School Football Coach
- Youth Football and Basketball Coach



"I enjoy working for Cuyahoga Heights because of the wide variety of emergency challenges we can encounter and serving a community I grew up in."