

Tornado Evacuation Plan

Pursuant to section 3737.73. of the Ohio Revised Code, principals or person in charge of public primary and secondary schools having an average daily attendance of fifty or more pupils shall designate appropriate locations in their respective facilities to be used to shelter pupils in case of a tornado, tornado alert, or tornado warning. The designation of such space shall be reviewed and approved by the City of Cleveland Division of Fire.

Specific Safety Requirements

- (a) The fire alarm system shall be used to alert building occupants of a tornado, tornado alert, or tornado warning.
- (b) The principal or person in charge of the school shall submit a clear, comprehensive, detailed, and legible drawing to the City of Cleveland Division of Fire, showing the building floor plan (s) and designated tornado shelter area (s) along with this document. A copy of the floor plan (s) submitted shall be maintained in the office of each school with this document, for examination by the fire safety inspector. Floor plans showing evacuation routes leading to the shelter area shall be posted in each occupied room within the facility.
- (c) Tornado drills shall be conducted at least once a month whenever school is in session during the tornado season. For the purpose of this rule, "tornado season" is the period from the first day of April to the last day of July. A record of such drills shall be maintained in the office of each school for examination by the fire safety inspector.
- (d) The occupants of modular classroom facilities (when applicable) shall be moved out of such facilities and to the designated tornado shelter area (s) in the event of a tornado, tornado alert, or tornado warning.
- (e) First aid kits and supplies should be in or close to the tornado shelter area (s).

Tornado Evacuation Procedures

In the event of a tornado, tornado alert, or tornado warning the principal or designated individual will issue an all page notification through the Public Announcement System as follows: (NOAA weather radio is the best means to receive warnings from the national weather service, whether a unit is purchased and placed at each school or at a central location is up to CMSD. The National Weather Service continuously broadcasts updated weather warnings and forecasts that can be received by NOAA Weather Radios sold in many stores. The average range is 40 miles, depending on topography. Your National Weather Service recommends purchasing a radio that has both a battery backup and a tone-alert feature which automatically alerts you when a watch or warning is issued)

TORNADO WATCH: Tornadoes are possible in the area. Remain alert for approaching storms and for further instructions should a tornado warning is issued by the National Weather Service. (CMSD may consider occupants of modular classroom facilities to evacuate to the shelter area with this type of warning)

TORNADO WARNING: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. All building occupants shall move to the pre-designated tornado shelter area immediately. All occupants shall remain in the shelter area until further instructions by the principal, designated individual or rescue personnel.

Upon expiration of either notification described above, the principal or designated individual shall issue an all page notification through the Public Announcement System to resume normal school operation.