

For more information, contact:

Beth Thomas
Communications Coordinator
216.431.3072

Elizabeth Belu
Communications Intern
216.431.3256

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Be Prepared For Tornado Season With These
American Red Cross Safety Tips**

Cleveland, Ohio- March 28, 2006 - The month of April is the official start of tornado season. Every year tornados cause hundreds of deaths. The American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter is always there to provide assistance to those who become displaced by a tornado in Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties. Below are some simple steps that people can take to prepare for and respond to a tornado.

Before a tornado strikes:

- Pack an emergency kit with food, water, a radio, flashlights, batteries and any important documents in it that you might need.
- Have a safe place in your home where your family will stay if there is a tornado. Basements or inside hallways are the best choices.
- Listen to the radio for weather updates.
- Know the difference: A watch means that the weather conditions are right for a tornado to occur. A warning means that a tornado has been sighted and you should seek cover.

When a tornado is close:

- Get inside, away from windows and doors. If you are outside, try to find a place indoors. If you are unable to get inside find a ditch or low-lying area and lay down flat.

For more information on tornado safety and disaster preparedness, visit our Web site www.redcross-cleveland.org.

The American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies by providing immediate emergency assistance to families affected by disasters in Cuyahoga, Geauga and Lake counties. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time and money from the American people to do its work.

- # # # -