

Governor Ted Strickland



American Red Cross
Emergency Management Association of Ohio
National Weather Service
Ohio Citizen Corps
Ohio Department of Aging
Ohio Department of Commerce-State Fire Marshal
Ohio News Network

Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Insurance
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Public Safety-Ohio EMA
Ohio Insurance Institute

November 2009

Dear Ohioans:

Any kid can tell you that winter is for sledding, skating and snowballs.

But any adult who has experienced winter weather in Ohio can tell you that we get it all – ice, snow, sleet, cold, wind, freezing rain and even flooding. Sometimes there's danger of hypothermia and frostbite. Sometimes ice-laden tree limbs fall on houses, cars and power lines. Sometimes fire erupts because of poorly maintained chimneys and stovepipes or heaters. Sometimes, when we're driving, we suddenly find that we're skating on thin ice.

There are plenty of examples like this – but the important thing is to be aware of the kinds of winter weather that can happen in your part of Ohio and to know how to minimize the risk of injury and property damage for you and your loved ones.

Since 1978, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA), made up of members from various state and local agencies, has worked to educate Ohioans about severe weather safety.

To help Ohioans prepare for winter, Governor Ted Strickland has proclaimed November 15-21 as Ohio's **2009 Winter Safety Awareness Week**, designed to raise awareness of how to prepare for winter hazards.

We encourage you to explore our Web site at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov for valuable information, including:

- Gov. Strickland's [public service announcement](#) on severe weather awareness
- Winter weather [terms](#) from the National Weather Service;
- Winter [health and safety](#) tips;
- Information about [snow emergencies](#);
- Information about [portable generators](#).

The goal of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is to educate and motivate Ohioans to learn how to stay safe and minimize property damage during severe weather. Your goal should be to act as if your safety depended upon it – because it does. We encourage you to take advantage of this year's **Winter Safety Awareness Week** to develop good winter safety habits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Holm". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Holm, 2009 Chair, Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness
Assistant Director, Communications, Ohio Department of Education