



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 Department of Education

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

Spring 2013

2013 marks the 100th anniversary of the great Ohio flood (March 22-27, 1913), known as the greatest natural disaster in Ohio history. 467 died and more than 20,000 homes were destroyed. Learn more about this devastating event at <http://ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=497>.

For 35 years, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has been committed to educating Ohioans about the dangers associated with severe weather and providing vital safety information when severe weather threatens. Since 1978, OCSWA has spread the word that Ohio's most common natural hazards – floods, tornadoes, windstorms (remember learning about [derechos](#) last year...), hurricanes (who could forget Ike in 2008...), thunderstorms, winter storms and severe heat during summer – can, and do, occur in the Buckeye State. In an effort to increase public awareness, OCSWA conducts statewide "Safety Awareness Weeks" during the spring and winter seasons.

Governor John Kasich has designated March 3-9, 2013 as Spring Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week. We encourage you to use this as an opportunity to spread the word about the importance of severe weather preparedness.

Ohio tornado activity varies each year, averaging about 16 tornadoes annually. Thirteen tornadoes were reported in Ohio in 2012.

The OCSWA website – www.weathersafety.ohio.gov – includes important safety information about severe weather events and offers suggestions on how Ohioans can reduce the impact of severe weather hazards by incorporating risk reduction strategies into recovery efforts. The site also helps explain the ever-changing weather terminology that we must learn and understand in order to plan and remain prepared at all times. There's even a section explaining the Emergency Alert System.

The citizens of Ohio depend on the media to convey accurate and timely information should severe weather or a disaster strike. It comes as no surprise that your role during weather emergencies is vital. The committee encourages you to review and use this information during the 2013 Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 3-9, and throughout the year. Be sure to mark your calendars now for the statewide tornado drill scheduled for Wednesday, March 6 at 9:50 a.m.

On behalf of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, thank you for your continuing cooperation. We appreciate your assistance in educating Ohioans on proper safety measures before, during and after severe weather.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell A. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mitchell A. Wilson, 2013 Chair
Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness
VP-Public Information & Education
Ohio Insurance Institute