



Governor John R. Kasich

American Red Cross
Emergency Management Association of Ohio
Hands On, Central Ohio / Ohio Citizen Corps
National Weather Service
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 Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Public Safety-Ohio EMA
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Insurance Institute
Ohio News Network

Spring 2011

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has been committed to educating Ohioans about the dangers associated with severe weather hazards since 1978. The most common types of natural hazards affecting Ohio are floods, tornadoes and severe winter storms. Even large windstorms from the remnants of hurricanes have been known to cause tremendous damage here like in the fall of 2008. To assist in public awareness and to aid in the reduction of the impact severe weather can inflict on lives and property throughout Ohio, the committee conducts statewide "Safety Awareness Weeks" during the spring and winter seasons. Governor John Kasich has designated the week of March 20-26, 2011 as Spring Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week.

Ohio tornado activity varies each year, averaging about 16 tornadoes annually. Thirty-nine tornadoes were reported in Ohio in 2010. Most were EF0 or EF1 with winds up to 100 mph, but there was one major tornado in Millbury near Toledo – an EF4 – with winds up to 175 mph that killed six people and caused numerous injuries.

The OCSWA website includes vital safety information about floods, tornadoes and severe thunderstorms. It also suggests ways Ohioans can reduce the impact of severe weather hazards by incorporating risk reduction strategies into recovery efforts and has the very latest in severe weather terminology incorporated from many agencies including the National Weather Service. Facts and statistics on these topics are provided for your use. Additional resources include information on the Emergency Alert System, public service announcements, Web links and contacts for information from the participating organizations.

The citizens of Ohio depend on the media to convey accurate and timely information, should 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 2011 Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 20-26, and throughout the year. Be sure to mark your calendars now for the statewide tornado drill scheduled for Wednesday, March 23 at 9:50 a.m.

On behalf of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, thank you for your cooperation. Your assistance in educating Ohioans on proper safety measures during severe weather is appreciated and applauded.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Taylor, 2011 Chair
Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness
Meteorologist-The Ohio News Network

"Teaching Ohioans Severe Weather Safety and Preparedness"

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov