



Governor John R. Kasich

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 Dept. of Mental Health & Addictive Services
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Public Safety - Ohio EMA
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Insurance Institute
WBNS-10TV News

Spring 2014

Natural disasters have become more frequent over the past few decades, and they have had a profound impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of neighborhoods across the planet. Last year alone, more than 20,000 people across the world were killed in natural disasters that caused \$125 billion in damages. Relief and recovery efforts have become more sophisticated and comprehensive, but nothing is more important than making sure our communities are prepared for disasters. That's why the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is committed to educating citizens about the dangers associated with severe weather. For more than 35 years, the focus has been on sharing critical information that has proven to save lives.

Social media now plays a pivotal role in informing the public about emergencies and disasters. This exciting new tool is used widely to warn unsuspecting individuals and communities of impending danger, inform friends and family that someone is safe, and raise funds for disaster relief, among other benefits. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is embracing use of enhanced digital media in several ways, most notably with an easier to remember web address: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

The website continues to make available a wealth of information on those severe weather events that could affect the State of Ohio and shares information on how everyone can participate in the process of minimizing the impact of severe weather on our families and the community. You'll also find additional survival apps and stronger presence on both Facebook and Twitter. Ohio Governor John Kasich has designated March 2-8, 2014 as Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week. We strongly urge citizens of Ohio to visit our website, become familiar with its content and share with others what you have learned.

Let's make Severe Weather Preparedness a priority in our lives!

My thanks go out to the members of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness for their dedication to the citizens in this Great State of Ohio!

Sincerely,

Jeff McElroy
Chair, Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness
Regional Disaster Direct Services Support Manager
American Red Cross