

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 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

November 2010

Dear Ohioans:

Winter is on its way and, of course for us, we know it will mean times of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and bitter cold.

While the coldest temperatures on average occur in January in Ohio, sub-zero readings have occurred as early as November before, and snow and ice storms can happen on any given day over the next several months. Frostbite and hypothermia are among the concerns Ohioans should have while preparing for our upcoming weather in addition to literally driving on ice when freezing rain ices up our roadways. Flooding can occur during wintertime in Ohio too. Heavy rain storms, rapid snow and ice melts or ice jams on rivers all attribute to winter flooding.

There are plenty of reasons to have due diligence in the winter. But the important thing is to be aware of the different weather conditions that can affect your part of the state in the winter, 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 14-20 as Ohio's **2010 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 "Mark Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark Taylor, 2010 Chair, Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness
Meteorologist, The Ohio News Network