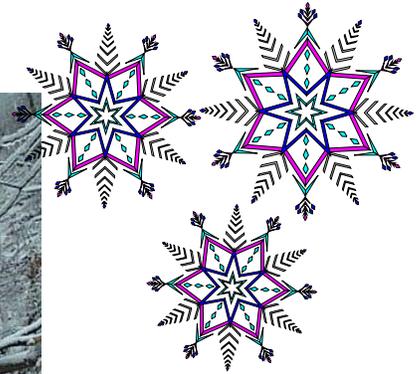


Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness

Winter Safety Awareness 2004-2005



Disaster scenes in Scioto County during the February 2003 snow and ice storms.



This publication can be found on the
Ohio EMA web page: www.ema.ohio.gov

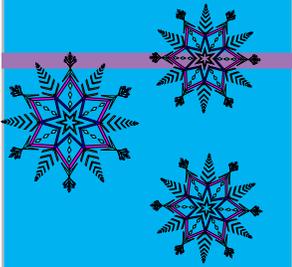
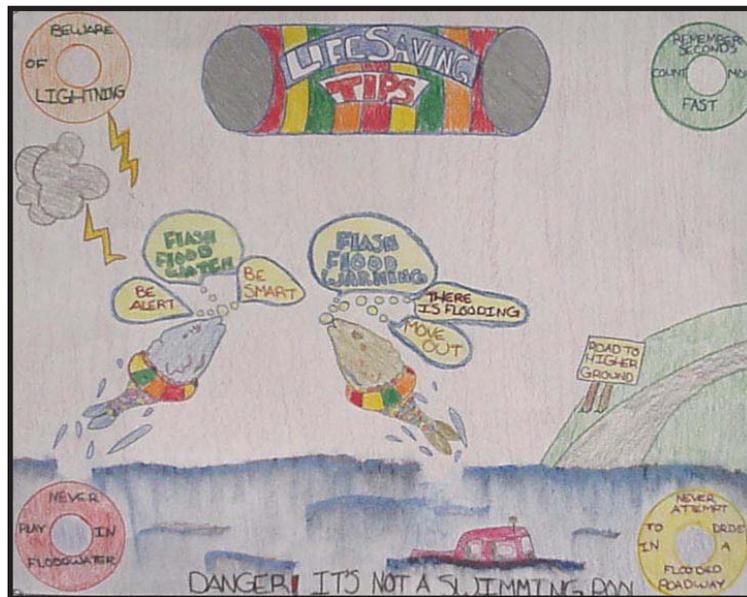


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Ohio Winter Safety Awareness

November 2004

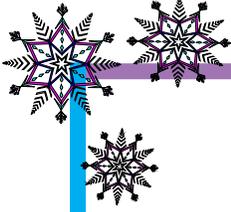
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2004 State Overall Severe Weather Awareness Poster
 Artist: Gabriela Torres, 3rd Grade
 Salt Creek Elementary, Pickaway County

For complete rules of the poster contest, visit the Ohio EMA Web page at:
www.ema.ohio.gov/PDFs/Severe_Weather/2005_Poster_Rules.pdf





Governor's Resolution

STATE OF OHIO

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Ohioans face a yearly threat of snow storms, freezing temperatures, ice storms, and severe winter weather; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon government, at all levels, to promote effective emergency preparedness and management practices that will better protect the lives and property of the people of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is committed to educating the public on the methods of preparedness and response to the natural hazards that affect Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's news media and state and local governments have proven their ability and willingness to work together to inform the public about severe weather safety; and

WHEREAS, these joint educational campaigns have proven effective in educating the citizens of Ohio about the actions they can take to prepare for and respond to severe winter weather events.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BOB TAFT, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby designate

**WINTER SAFETY
AWARENESS WEEK
November 14-20, 2004**

throughout the State of Ohio and encourage Ohio's news media, local governments, and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness to continue working together to educate Ohioans about the dangers of and the safety measures necessary for severe winter weather events.

On this eighth day of November 2004;

Bob Taft
Governor



Letter from the 2004 OCSWA Chair



Each year the annual poster contest promotes severe weather awareness among elementary-age students and their families. The winning poster is used to promote awareness of the year-round severe weather threat.

Appropriately, this year's overall poster contest winner stresses flood safety (see page 2). As the seemingly endless series of hurricanes—turned tropical depressions—proceeded north across the United States this Fall, Eastern and Southeastern Ohio communities were pummeled with the excessive rains related to those massive storm systems. As I write, those communities are still sorting through the flood damages.

This summer, a girl lost her life when flood waters swept her off a bridge. Two women were found drowned in their car after flood waters forced them off the road. A man lost his life while trying to drive his pickup truck through a flooded roadway. This preventable hazard remains the leading cause of flood-related deaths in Ohio.

The mission of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is to inform all Ohioans - young and old - of the weather hazards that most affect the state, and instruct how to prepare for and recover from severe weather incidents. The Committee sponsors two weather awareness weeks every year. One in March for springtime and one in November for winter. This year, Governor Bob Taft has proclaimed November 14 through 20 as **Winter Safety Awareness Week**.

This winter safety awareness packet contains valuable winter weather safety and preparedness information for your home, your health, your family and your neighbors. Facts on topics such as winter flood safety, flood insurance, winter fire safety and winter weather preparedness are provided in short, easy reference format.

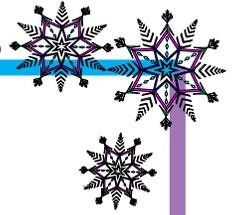
The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is comprised of representatives from professional organizations, businesses and government agencies. All have contributed to produce this winter severe weather information packet. Each of these groups is ready to provide further information to media outlets and the public, so that Ohioans can obtain accurate and timely information before disaster strikes.

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages you to join us in promoting severe weather safety as part of the 2004 Winter Severe Weather Awareness Safety Week.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Thoms, CFM
2004 Chair, Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness
Environmental Specialist, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Water, Floodplain Management Program

Winter Safety Public Service Announcements



Ohioans know winter weather is coming and will soon be reminded by the bitter cold, snow and ice. We would like to invite members of the media to assist us in getting the messages out, to protect our residents as winter weather approaches. Below are five sample public service announcements for media outlets to use. We encourage these messages to be used. Members of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness are available for more information. Please see page 23 for contact information.

(:20)

Winter weather is just around the corner. Listen to your radio or TV for winter weather storm watches and warnings, and prepare your plan now on how to protect yourself and your family. Be sure to check on your neighbors who are elderly or have disabilities to ensure their warmth and safety. For more winter weather safety tips, contact your local county emergency management agency.

(:30)

Now is the time to think about winter weather safety at home before the bitter winds blow and the snow falls. Make sure you have the supplies you need - a battery-powered radio - a flash light - food you don't need to cook, bottled drinking water - enough supplies to last a few days. It's a good idea to keep an emergency winter weather kit in your car or truck as well. Your local county emergency management office has more information. Prepare now for winter. It's for you and your family's safety.

(:25)

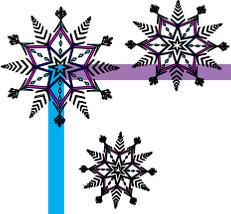
If you're in a your car and you're caught in a winter storm, it's too late to think about having an emergency kit in your trunk. Prepare before the storm. Your trunk kit should contain a flashlight - a first aid kit - a blanket - dry food rations - booster cables - and extra hats - gloves and coats. Your local county emergency management agency has more details. Call now for winter safety tips.

(:30)

Flooding is Ohio's most common severe weather threat. A heavy rain after a snowfall can produce flash flooding. If you are driving and come up on high water - back up and turn around. It may only look to be a few inches deep, but the roadbed may be washed out. It takes only two feet of water to carry away a car - and only a few inches of running water to knock an adult off his or her feet. Call your local county emergency management agency for more winter safety tips.

(:30)

It won't be long before temperatures start dipping below freezing. For safety's sake - be careful with space heaters in your home or office. Follow the manufacturer's directions for use or refueling - and keep your space heater at least three feet away from furniture -drapes or other flammable objects. Don't put anything on top of your space heater. Be warm this winter - but above all - be safe. Your local emergency management office has more information on winter weather safety tips. It's for you and your family's safety.



Winter of 2003- 2004 ... in Review

Snowfall and outbreaks of cold air were common during the winter of 2003-2004. Although most of the winter months saw temperatures that averaged above normal, January of 2004 entered the record books as the coldest month in years. Temperatures during January averaged nearly six degrees below normal at many locations. Cleveland fell to -7 degrees on January 25, which was its coldest temperatures since early in 1996. On January 31, Cincinnati fell to a frigid -12 with nearby Dayton falling to -10. For the winter, temperatures averaged just a little above normal and warmer than the winter of 2002-2003.

Although no major winter storms affected the state, seasonal snowfall totals still averaged near normal across the southern and western portions of the state. For the second winter in a row, an active lake effect snow season occurred in the Northeast Ohio snowbelt. Cleveland had its fourth snowiest winter ever with 91.2 inches. East of Cleveland, snowfall ranged from 55 to 75 inches along the lakeshore to more than 100 inches inland from Lake Erie. Snowfall totals were near records across portions of northern Ashtabula and Geauga counties. Just more than 200 inches of snow fell in these areas.

December 2003 and January 2004 saw most of the snow activity, with little or no snowfall recorded during February, even in the snowbelt. From January 3 to 5, the majority of the state experienced three days of steady rain which caused flooding, saturated road embankments and extensive road damage. Because of excessive rain, melting snow, floods and landslides, Ohio was granted its first federal declaration for 2004. Eight counties in the central and south-eastern parts of the state were eligible to apply for federal disaster individual assistance: Belmont, Franklin, Jefferson, Licking, Morgan, Ross, Tuscarawas and Washington. These counties received more than \$2.5 million in federal and state disaster assistance.

Also, the National Weather Service recorded more than two feet of snow fell on portions of northeast Ohio in March.



Ross County residents in Yellowbud, Ohio are forced to deal with a flooded Scioto River (January 6, 2004)

Winter Weather Preparedness for Schools



School administrators should coordinate and organize information to prepare a winter weather emergency plan. The following lists suggestions to follow while designing a winter disaster preparedness plan.

Gather Information

- Know where to get weather information. Invest in buying a NOAA Weather Radio; use local media sources, the Internet and paging services.
- Know how and where to get road information: State police road conditions, city and county transportation officials, and drivers or security teams are excellent sources.

Alert Students and Staff

- Alert students and staff to take action. Use mobile communication for bus drivers and a PA (public address) system for school staff and students.

Activate the Plan

- Determine when to activate plan. Gather information about the type of winter storm, expected impact, and time of impact on the school district. The primary decision will be whether to cancel, delay or hold classes as usual.
- In weather watch situations, immediate action will usually not be required.
- When a warning or advisory is issued, assess the weather situation by monitoring NWS forecasts, current weather conditions and road conditions.

Cancel or Delay Classes

- Determine when to cancel or delay classes. How much time do you have before the storm impacts the area? Not only must students be transported to schools safely, but also back to their homes by bus, car or on foot.
- What kind of an impact will the storm make? Will roads be impassable, or will road conditions just have a minimal effect on transportation of students, causing only slight delays.

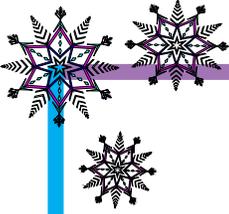
School Bus Driver Actions

- For heavy snow or blowing and drifting snow - be familiar with alternate routes. Stay up to date on the latest forecast and maintain communication with school officials.
- For ice storms - remain alert for downed trees, utility lines and other road hazards. Be familiar with alternate routes. Stay up to date on the forecasts and maintain communication with school officials.
- For extreme cold - learn to recognize and treat symptoms of hypothermia and frost-bite.

Safety Instructions

- Educate school staff and students. Conduct drills and hold safety programs annually.
- Participate in Winter Weather Awareness Week campaigns.
- Contact your local emergency management agency or National Weather Service office for a speaker to discuss winter weather safety.

School administrators can visit the Ohio Department of Education Web site at www.ode.state.oh.us, or call 1-877-644-6338 for additional information.



Wind Chill Temperature Index

What is Wind Chill Temperature?

It is the temperature it “feels like” outside and is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by the effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, the body is cooled at a faster rate causing skin temperature to drop. Wind Chill does not impact inanimate objects like car radiators and exposed water pipes, because these objects cannot cool below the actual air temperature.

What does this mean to me?

The NWS will inform you when Wind Chill conditions reach critical thresholds. A **Wind Chill Warning** is issued when wind chill temperatures are life threatening. A **Wind Chill Advisory** is issued when the wind chill temperatures are potentially hazardous. These hazardous wind chill temperatures could lead to life-threatening situations, if caution is not exercised.

When are Wind Chill Warnings and Wind Chill Advisories issued?

The National Weather Service issues Wind Chill Advisories when the wind chill temperature reaches -10 F to -24 F for more than a few hours with winds of 10 mph or greater. Wind Chill Warnings are issued when wind chill temperatures reach or exceed values of -25 F and colder for more than a few hours with winds of 10 mph or greater.



Wind Chill Chart



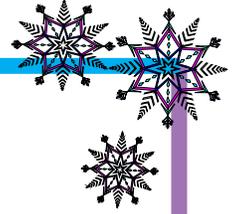
		Temperature (°F)																		
		Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
Wind (mph)	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63	
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72	
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77	
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81	
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84	
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87	
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89	
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91	
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93	
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95	
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97	
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98		

Frostbite Times 30 minutes 10 minutes 5 minutes

Wind Chill (°F) = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})
 Where, T= Air Temperature (°F) V= Wind Speed (mph) *Effective 11/01/01*

The Wind Chill Temperature Index -

- Uses wind speed calculated at the average height of the human body’s face (five feet), instead of 33 feet (the standard anemometer height).
- Incorporates modern heat transfer theory (the body losses heat to its surroundings during cold and windy days).
- Lowers the calm threshold to 3 mph.
- Uses a consistent standard for skin tissue resistance.
- Assumes the worst case scenario for solar radiation (clear night sky).



Protecting Your Home

Every home should have a disaster supplies kit: a battery-operated radio, flashlight, matches, extra batteries and an extra set of house and car keys. Stock ample wood for the fireplace and plenty of nonperishable foods that can be eaten without heating. Keep bottled water and juices on hand in case your power and water supplies are interrupted.

Other items to include in the kit are prescription medicines and nonperishable infant formula, especially if there is a chance that roads will be impassable.

Remove dead tree branches. Ice and snow, combined with winter winds, can cause limbs to snap.

Clean gutters. Snow and ice can build up quickly, especially if your gutters are clogged with debris. When thawing begins, water from melting ice has nowhere to drain and can back up under your roof and eaves, causing water damage to walls and ceilings. Consider buying screens to keep your gutters debris-free.

Check your homeowners insurance policy to make sure coverage is adequate for the type of winter weather in your area. Learn what is excluded from the policy.

Make sure auxiliary heaters and fireplaces are adequately maintained and serviced. Many fires related to auxiliary heating sources are preventable through simple maintenance. Before installing a wood-burning stove, check with local fire officials as to codes and proper installation techniques. Do not store kerosene in a non-approved container or in your home and be sure to keep alternative heat sources from flammable materials (walls, curtains, etc.).

During winter, drain pipes if your power goes off or if you plan an extended stay away from home. To drain, turn off the water heater and main water supply, open all faucets in the house and drain the system by keeping the valves open. Drain all toilets by holding the lever down until the tank empties.

If well water is used, the pump's electric switch should be shut off and the pressure tank and system should be drained.



An ice-covered home in Scioto County - February 2003



Winter Safety Tips



Winterizing Your Auto

Prepare a winter emergency kit for yourself and keep it in the trunk with:

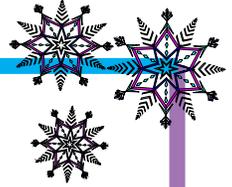
- Blankets or a sleeping bag
- Waterproof matches and candles.
- Extra clothing, particularly boots, mittens and hats.
- A steel shovel and rope to use as a life line.
- Dry food rations such as raisins, nuts and candy.
- Flashlight with spare batteries and emergency flares.
- Jumper cables.
- First-aid kit and necessary medications.
- A metal coffee can to store small items and for melting snow to drink.
- Sand or non-clumping cat litter for tire traction if vehicle gets stuck in ice or snow.
- A charger or an extra battery for cell phone. If a cell phone isn't available, have change for use in pay phones.
- Brightly colored cloth to use as a signal for help.
- If planning a long trip, consider packing bottled water, cans of soup or broth, manual can opener, card games or puzzles.

Winterize your car. Get a tune-up to save wear and tear on the battery. Consider snow tires or chains as your travel dictates. Chains are best on glare ice. Other car care tips include:

- ◆ Check radiator coolant and sturdiness of hoses and belts.
- ◆ Refer to the vehicle's manual to see if a lighter grade oil is recommended for winter driving.
- ◆ Change burned out headlights, tail lights and turn signals.
- ◆ Check that tire tread is 1/16 inch for adequate traction.
- ◆ Make sure brakes are in proper working order.
- ◆ Keep spare window washer fluid in the trunk and make sure the wiper blades are in good working order.

Winter-Wise Driving Tips

- While listening to the radio, pay attention to weather reports. Allow time in your schedule for bad weather and/or traffic delays.
- Become familiar with your vehicle's winter weather operating characteristics. Front-wheel-drive vehicles generally handle better than rear-wheel vehicles on slippery roads because the weight of the engine is on the drive wheels, improving traction.
- Keep your windows clear of snow and ice. Remember to clean head, tail and brake lights.
- If you need to turn on your wipers, you need to turn on your headlights.
- Bridges become slick and icy before roads. Bridge temperatures can be five to six degrees colder than roadways, so drive with extreme caution during freezing temperatures.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full. Fill the tank before you park for lengthy periods. This will help prevent fuel line freeze-up.
- Leave ample stopping time between you and the driver in front of you. Braking distance can be up to nine times greater on snowy, icy surfaces than on dry roads.
- If your vehicle is equipped with an Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), be sure to:
STOMP - firmly depress the brake pedal. STAY on the brakes - do not pump the brakes.
STEER where you want the vehicle to go.
- During winter travel, it is best to supply those at your destination with the following information: your cell phone number, departure time, travel route and anticipated arrival time.
- If your vehicle lock freezes, heat your key. Do not pour hot water on the lock - it will refreeze.



Survival tips if you become stranded in your vehicle

The best advice is to remain in your vehicle. If nothing else, you are guaranteed shelter - something you will not have if you leave the vehicle. Other helpful tips:

- Tie a brightly colored cloth to your antenna, driver-side door handle or outside mirror.
- Have a charged and ready cell phone to call for help in case you become stranded.
- Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow. Poisonous gases filter into your vehicle if the pipe is clogged.
- Run your engine and heater no more than ten minutes every hour. Crack open a down-wind window for ventilation when the engine is running.
- Light a flare to let people know you're stranded in the vehicle.
- Use floor mats, seat covers and blankets for added warmth. If you must leave your vehicle during a blizzard, secure a lifeline of rope or cord to your car to avoid becoming lost or disoriented.
- Keep bottled water in the car or melt snow in a coffee can for drinking water. Eating snow will only lower your body temperature.
- Remain calm. Chances for rescue are better if you remain calm and in your vehicle.

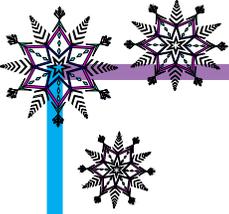
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION

NO. 97-015

AUTHORITY OF COUNTY SHERIFF TO CLOSE ROADS DURING SNOW EMERGENCIES

“The county sheriff may, pursuant to R.C. 331.07 and R.C. 311.08, declare a snow emergency and temporarily close the state roads and municipal streets within his jurisdiction when such action is reasonably necessary for the preservation of the public peace. (1986 Op. Attorney General No. 86-023, approved and followed.)”

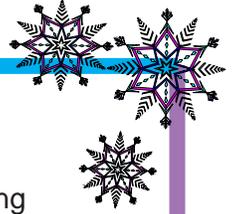
To briefly summarize this opinion, the county sheriff's authority to close county and township roads during a snow emergency was expanded to include closure of state roads and municipal streets. The authority falls generally within a county sheriff's duty to “preserve the public peace.” The Attorney General's opinion is that there should be no distinction among the different types of roads within each county so long as the circumstances warrant closure during snow emergencies.



Flood Insurance & Disaster Assistance Info

Losses caused by flooding are not covered by home owners, renters or condo insurance. However, coverage is available by purchasing a separate flood insurance policy through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). NFIP is a federal program that enables property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance protection against flood losses. It is designed to provide an insurance alternative to disaster assistance to meet the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by flooding. Buildings or property do not have to be located in a floodplain to be eligible for coverage. This federal flood insurance may be purchased from any licensed insurance agent.

- Approximately 80 percent of all federally declared disasters involve flooding.
- Most forms of federal disaster assistance are available to individuals and businesses only if the President declares a federal disaster for specified areas.
- With a federal declaration, individuals may be eligible to apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual and Family Grant Program or for low-interest Small Business Administration (SBA) Home/Personal Property Loans or SBA Business Loans.
- The average federal individual and family grant is usually less than \$2,500.
- The average duration and loan payment of a SBA loan is 18.5 years and \$140 per month.
- The State of Ohio Individual Assistance Grant Program (State IA Program) may also be available to flood victims for losses and expenses incurred by individuals and families that do not qualify for the SBA loan program.
- Most Ohio communities qualify for the NFIP. According to the Federal Insurance Administration, approximately 280,000 structures are located in Ohio's mapped floodplain areas, with a value of \$11 billion. Only approximately seven percent of these structures are protected by flood insurance.
- As of Sept. 30, 2004, the average Ohio premium for a NFIP policy is \$533 annually, compared to \$411 per year, nationally.
- Many Ohioans could be eligible for flood insurance called Preferred Risk Policy (PRP). This policy is available to those in low-to-moderate risk areas, and is offered at set coverage amounts, at a much lower premium. Check with your insurance agent regarding availability.
- Home owners, business owners and renters can purchase flood insurance, as long as their community participates in the NFIP. Flood insurance claims are paid even if a federal disaster is not declared.
- Flood insurance reimburses for all covered losses. Home owners can obtain coverage limits of up to \$250,000; businesses, up to \$500,000.
- There are two types of flood insurance available: **Structural Coverage** for walls, floors, insulation, furnace, and **Contents Coverage** for items permanently attached to the insured structure.
- Licensed property/casualty insurance agents or brokers can sell the Standard Flood Insurance Policy. The NFIP's toll-free agent referral program is 1-800-427-4661 for individuals who have difficulty finding flood coverage.
- Flood damage to vehicles is covered by "other than collision" (comprehensive) auto insurance coverage.



Floods are second only to fires as the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Most communities in the United States can experience some kind of flooding after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms or winter snow thaws. Floods can be slow or fast-rising, but generally develop over a period of days. Flash floods usually result from intense storms dropping large amounts of rain within a brief period. Flash floods occur with little or no warning and can reach full peak in only a few minutes.

Emergency Information

Flood waters can be extremely dangerous. The force of six inches of swiftly moving water can knock people off their feet. The best protection during a flood is to leave the area and seek shelter on higher ground.

Flash flood waters move very quickly and can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and obliterate bridges. Walls of water can reach heights of 10 to 20 feet and generally are accompanied by a deadly cargo of debris. The best response to any signs of flash flooding is to move immediately and quickly to higher ground.

Just two feet of moving water can float and carry away most vehicles, including sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and pickup trucks. You can protect yourself best by being prepared and having time to act.

Before a Flood:

- Check with your local floodplain administrator to determine if you live in a flood-prone area. Visit the FEMA Flood Map Store at: www.fema.gov/nfip/fmapinfo.shtm to review the flood map for your property online. Visit the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Water's web site at www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/ for a list of Ohio's local floodplain administrators.
- Consider installing check valves in building sewer traps to prevent flood waters from backing up in sewer drains.
- Plan and practice an evacuation route.
- Have disaster supplies on hand.
- Develop an emergency communication plan.
- Make sure all family members know how to respond in case of a flood.

- Learn about and encourage your community to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.

During a Flood Watch:

- Listen to a radio or television for the latest storm information.
- Fill bathtub, sinks and jugs with clean water in case water becomes contaminated.
- Bring outdoor belongings - such as patio furniture - inside.
- Move valuable household possessions to upper floors or to safe grounds if time permits.
- If you are instructed by local authorities, turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve.
- Be prepared to evacuate.



Flood Safety

During a Flood Warning:

- If indoors, turn on a battery-operated radio to get the latest emergency information and if told to leave, do so immediately.
- If outdoors, climb to high ground and stay there; avoid walking through any flood waters.
- If you are driving and have come to a flooded area, turn around and go the other way. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

During an Evacuation:

- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Evacuation is much simpler and safer before flood waters become too deep for ordinary vehicles to drive through. Leave early enough to avoid being marooned by flooded roads.
- Never attempt to drive or walk through flood waters. Water could be deeper than it appears and flood-water currents can be deceptive. Remember, it only takes two feet of water to carry away most vehicles.
- Listen to a battery-operated radio or TV for evacuation instructions.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Shortcuts may be blocked.

WEB RESOURCES:

www.ohioinsurance.org/pdf/flood.pdf
www.disastereducation.org/guide.html
www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/

After a Flood:

- Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to recede. Listen to a radio or television and do not return home until authorities indicate it is safe.
- Remember to help those who may require special assistance - - infants, the elderly and people with disabilities.
- Before entering a flood-damaged building, check the foundation for cracks and inspect porch roofs and overhangs to be sure they are adequately supported. Ask a building inspector to check the house before you go inside.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Do not strike a match or use open flame when entering a building unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area ventilated.
- Do not use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.
- For more information on floods or flood safety, contact your state or local emergency management agency, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water, the National Weather Service or your local American Red Cross chapter.



Cameron, Ohio (Monroe County) during the September 2004 floods caused by remnants of Hurricane Ivan.

Winter Fire Safety Tips



Holiday Time

The winter holidays are a time for celebration, and that means more cooking, lots of entertaining and an increased risk of fire. State Fire Marshal Stephen K. Woltz is urging Ohio families to pay particular attention to fire safety this holiday season. During last year's holiday season (Nov. 22, 2003 to Jan. 4, 2004), six people died in the 2,044 residential fires that occurred in Ohio. Follow these fire prevention tips to help keep your family safer during the holidays:

Decorations

- ◆ Use only noncombustible or flame-resistant materials when decorating.
- ◆ Never use lighted candles on or near a tree, other evergreens, or combustible materials. Extinguish candles before leaving the house or going to bed.
- ◆ Keep children and pets in mind when placing decorations on a tree.
- ◆ When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness - make sure the needles are soft and don't fall off. Live trees need water, and lots of it. Cut about one inch off of the bottom of the trunk before putting the tree in the stand. Add water and check daily. Dry trees can burn in SECONDS!
- ◆ Don't block your exit with your tree.
- ◆ Remove live trees from your home as soon as possible. Most Christmas tree fires occur on or after New Year's Day.
- ◆ Check each light set for damaged sockets or wires. Discard light sets and extension cords that are worn or cracked.
- ◆ Use UL approved light sets. Follow the manufacturer recommendations concerning the maximum number of light sets that can be connected together.
- ◆ Replace burnt out bulbs with bulbs of the same wattage as indicated on the tag attached to the light set.
- ◆ Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- ◆ Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. You could be electrocuted.
- ◆ Use only light sets and extension cords marked "for outdoor use" outside your home.
- ◆ Fasten outdoor lights securely with insulated clips or hooks. Use circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

Cooking

- ◆ Cooking-related fires are the number one cause of fires in your home.
- ◆ Don't leave cooking food unattended. If you must leave, turn off all cooking appliances.
- ◆ Keep any combustible materials such as towels, potholders, papers, etc., away from any heat source. Don't wear loose fitting clothing while cooking.
- ◆ Don't attempt to move a pan of grease that is on fire. Put a lid on the pan to smother the fire and then turn off the heat, or use an ABC-rated fire extinguisher. Alert your family so they can evacuate safely.
- ◆ Be sure to turn pot handles towards the back of the stove. Small children are curious and may reach for a handle to see what is in the pot. They could get burned.



Winter Fire Safety Tips

Fireplaces and Heaters

- ◆ Before starting a fire in a fireplace, remove all decorations (including stockings hung by the fireplace) and be sure the flue is open.
- ◆ Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. They can burn extremely fast; throwing off sparks and can ignite creosote that has previously accumulated in the chimney.
- ◆ Always use a screen in front of the fireplace. Also consider using a fire-resistant carpet or a mat (ones made for fireplaces) on the floor in front of the fireplace.
- ◆ Keep all combustible materials, including wrapping paper at least 3 feet away from any heater – space heaters need space.
- ◆ When plugging in electric heaters, make sure that the outlet was designed to handle the load. Be safe; do not plug anything else into the socket with the heater.
- ◆ When using kerosene heaters, make sure you use the correct fuel only. The wrong fuel may cause a fire or explosion.

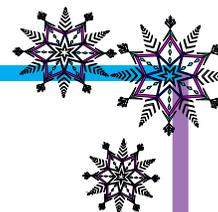
General Fire Safety

One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from a house fire is by having working smoke detectors in your home. By providing early warning of fire, smoke detectors can double your chances of escaping a fire safely. Annually, there are about 16,000 fires in the place we feel safest – our homes. Fire data shows that over the past five years, on average, nearly half of the 126 people that died each year in residential fires in Ohio did not have a working smoke detector in their home. Follow these tips to keep you, your family and your belongings safe from fire:

- ◆ Check your smoke detectors monthly. Only a *working* smoke detector can save your life.
- ◆ Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year – when you change your clocks, change your batteries.
- ◆ Install smoke detectors on each level of your home and in sleeping areas. Sleep with your bedroom door closed.
- ◆ Develop an escape plan with two ways out from each room.
- ◆ Practice your fire escape plan with your family – at least twice a year, including a night-time drill. Make sure overnight guests also know your fire escape plan.
- ◆ Install a carbon monoxide detector if you have any appliance or device that has a flame – stove, water heater, furnace, fireplace, space heater, etc.
- ◆ Don't use your oven or stove to heat your house.
- ◆ Smoking-related fires are the number one cause of fire fatalities in Ohio. Provide plenty of large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. Cigarette butts can smolder in the trash and cause a fire, so completely douse any smoking material with water before discarding.
- ◆ After a party, always check on, between and under upholstery and cushions and inside trashcans for smoking materials that may be smoldering.
- ◆ Keep matches and lighters up high, out of sight and reach of children - preferably in a locked cabinet. If your child sees you lighting candles or starting the fireplace, they make think it is OK for them to do it. Teach your kids about fire safety - matches and lighters are "tools" for adults, not "toys" for kids.
- ◆ Contact your local fire department for additional fire safety information or for help to conduct a winter fire safety check of your home.

For more fire safety tips, visit the State Fire Marshal Web site at www.com.state.oh.us/sfm/

Winter Health Safety Tips for Everyone



Winter's various dangers to people can occur suddenly, like a heart attack while shoveling snow, or slow and stealthily like carbon monoxide poisoning. Hypothermia and frostbite are always a concern, especially for the elderly and for people with chronic health conditions. The Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Aging offer these safety tips to help keep you and your family safe this winter season.

Snow Shoveling

Snow shoveling can cause serious injuries or death to people who are elderly, have chronic health problems or are not used to strenuous activity.

Tips

- Wear sturdy shoes with rugged soles to help prevent slips and falls.
- Never smoke while shoveling. Tobacco smoke constricts blood vessels just as cold air does; the combination can be dangerous.
- If you become short of breath while shoveling, stop and rest. If you feel pain or tightness in your chest, stop immediately and call for help.
- Have a partner monitor your progress and share the workload. If you have a heart attack, your partner can call for help and, if trained, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until help arrives.
- A shovelful of dry snow can weigh about four pounds; wet snow can weigh significantly more. Warm up before shoveling by walking and stretching your arms and legs for a few minutes. Warm muscles are less likely to be injured and work more efficiently.
- If you have a known health problem, use a snow blower or hire a snow removal service. Keep in mind, pushing snow blowers through heavy, packed snow can also present a health risk. Don't assume using a snow blower alone will eliminate your risk.

Frostbite

Frostbite is the most common cold-related injury. Frostbite is an injury to the body caused by freezing of skin tissue. Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color in affected areas. It most often affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers or toes. Frostbite can permanently damage the body and severe cases can lead to amputation. The risk of frostbite is increased in people with reduced blood circulation, those who drink alcoholic beverages, the elderly and people who are not dressed properly for extremely cold temperatures.

Tips

- Because frostbite and hypothermia both result from exposure, first determine whether the victim also shows signs of hypothermia, as described previously. Hypothermia is a more serious medical condition and requires emergency medical assistance.
- To prevent frostbite and hypothermia, it is important to dress warmly in layers of loose windproof clothing and to go indoors when you begin to feel cold. Wear several layers of loose-fitting clothing to trap body heat. Don't forget gloves or mittens and a hat that covers the ears. Be sure the outer layer of clothing is tightly woven to reduce body-heat loss caused by wind.
- Frostbite occurs in three stages: Early frostbite usually causes a reddening of the skin, followed by tingling and loss of feeling. In middle-degree frostbite, the skin turns white. With severe frostbite the skin turns hard and with severe and gangrenous frostbite, the skin has blisters and blackened areas.



Winter Health Safety Tips for Everyone



Hypothermia

Hypothermia (hi-po-ther-mee-uh) is a drop in body temperature, often caused by staying in a cool place for too long is called. Each year in the United States, more than 700 people die of hypothermia. According to the Ohio Department of Health statistics, at least 233 Ohio residents lost their lives to hypothermia from 1990 to 2002. Most of the victims were male and about 53 percent were 65 or older.

Long exposure when it's wet, windy and 30 to 50 degrees can be just as hazardous as dry, calm subzero weather. Wet clothes quickly draw heat from the body. In extremely cold weather, no one should participate in outdoor sports activities alone. People should drink plenty of nonalcoholic beverages to stay hydrated in cold, dry air.

Hypothermia can occur even inside a building. The thermostat should be set no lower than 65 or 70 degrees if the occupants are 75 or older.

Signs of Hypothermia

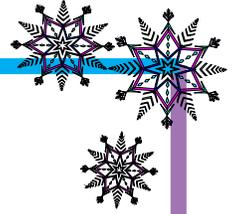
- Confusion or memory loss
- Sleepiness
- Slowed, slurred speech or shallow breathing
- Weak pulse or low blood pressure
- Exhaustion
- A change in behavior during cold weather or a change in the way a person normally looks
- A lot of shivering or no shivering; stiffness in the arms or legs
- Poor control over body movements or slow reactions
- Chilly rooms or other signs that a person has been in a cold place

Who is at risk of hypothermia and how can it be prevented?

Infants younger than one year of age are at risk. They should never sleep in a cold room and should wear warm clothing and have a blanket to prevent loss of body heat.

- Changes in your body that come with aging can make it harder to feel when you are getting cold. It may be harder for your body to warm itself. Pay attention to how cold it is where you are.
- If you don't eat well, you might have less fat under your skin. Fat can protect your body. It keeps heat in your body. Make sure you are eating enough food to keep up your weight.
- People with serious mental illnesses, developmental or cognitive disabilities who may not hear temperature or weather advisory warnings broadcast on TV or radio or may not fully recognize the significance of the cold weather warnings or who may wander are at serious risk of hypothermia and frostbite.
- Some medicines that people take increase the risk of accidental hypothermia. These include drugs used to treat anxiety, depression, or nausea. Some over-the-counter cold remedies can also cause problems.

Winter Health Safety Tips for Everyone



Some illnesses may make it harder for your body to stay warm. They include:

- Disorders of the body's hormone system such as low thyroid (hypothyroidism)
- Any condition that interferes with the normal flow of blood such as diabetes
- Some skin problems such as psoriasis that allow your body to lose more heat than normal. Regularly visit your doctor who can keep any illness under control, and try to stay away from cold places

Other health conditions might prevent people from moving to a warmer place or putting on more clothes or a blanket. For example:

- Severe arthritis, Parkinson's disease, or other illnesses that make it harder to move around
- Stroke or other illnesses that can leave a person paralyzed and make clear thinking more difficult
- Memory disorders or dementia
- A fall or other injury

Alcoholic drinks can also make a person lose body heat faster. People at risk of hypothermia should use alcohol moderately, if at all. They not drink alcohol before bedtime when it gets colder outside — and maybe inside, too.

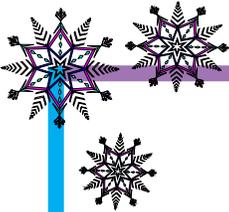
Clothing can make a person feel colder or help keep him or her warm. *Tight* clothing can keep one's blood from flowing freely leading to loss of body heat. People should wear several layers of *loose* clothing when it is cold. The layers will trap warm air between them.

[What can you do if you think someone might have hypothermia?](#)

First, take his or her temperature. If the temperature does not rise above 96 degrees, call for help. This person must be seen by a physician. Most hospitals will have a thermometer that can read very low body temperatures and will begin warming the person's body from the inside out.

While waiting for help to arrive, you can keep the person warm and dry. Wrap the person in blankets, coats, towels - whatever you may have available. Your own body can serve as warmth. Lie close, but be gentle. Rubbing the skin of an older adult can make problems worse because his/her skin is thinner and could easily be torn or injured by vigorous rubbing. Set the thermostat for at least 68 to 70 degrees.

Remember to check the forecast for very cold or very windy weather. On these days, it might be best to remain indoors.



Winter Health Safety Tips for Everyone

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death. Carbon monoxide is found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by cars and trucks, small gasoline engines, stoves, lanterns, gas ranges, burning charcoal and wood and heating systems. Each year, more than 500 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning. In addition, several thousand individuals are treated in emergency departments for carbon monoxide poisoning.

The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. High levels of carbon monoxide ingestion can cause loss of consciousness, coma and death. Unless suspected, carbon monoxide poisoning can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms mimic other illnesses.

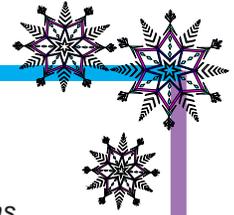
Tips

- Carbon monoxide can be easily and cheaply detected in the home; several relatively inexpensive alarms are available. Consider placing a carbon monoxide alarm on each level of your home and in your bedrooms.
- Have your chimney vent checked annually for defects or debris.
- Don't use a gas oven to heat your home.
- Don't sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
- During a power outage, make sure your generator is operating in a well-ventilated area.



Elyria, Ohio - 2002

Severe/Hazardous Weather Terms



The following is a list of forecast and warning terms that you will hear during the winter months. All of these weather warnings and advisories are issued by the National Weather Service (NWS).

WINTER STORM OUTLOOK - Issued prior to an official Winter Storm Watch. The outlook is given when forecasters believe winter storm conditions are possible. This is usually issued 48 to 72 hours in advance of a winter storm.

WINTER STORM WATCH - Alerts the public to the potential for blizzard conditions, heavy snow, significant icing or a combination of these events. Watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a winter storm.

WINTER STORM WARNING - Issued when a combination of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain or heavy sleet is expected to occur. Winter storm warnings are usually issued six to 24 hours before the event is expected.

◆ **Heavy Snow** - Around six inches of snow in 12 hours or less across northern Ohio, and four to five inches in 12 hours across central and southern Ohio; or around eight inches or more of snow in 24 hours or less across northern Ohio and six inches or more of snow in 24 hours across southern Ohio.

◆ **Significant Icing** - Usually an ice accumulation of 1/4 inch or more from freezing rain, an accumulation of 1/2 inch or more of sleet, or a combination of freezing rain and sleet.

BLIZZARD WARNING - Issued for sustained or gusty winds of 35 m.p.h. or more and falling or blowing snow creating visibilities below 1/4 mile. These conditions should persist for at least three hours.

LAKE EFFECT SNOW WARNING -

Issued for the snow belt of northeast Ohio when lake effect snow is expected to accumulate to six inches or more in 12 hours or less, or eight inches of snow in 24 hours or less.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES -

Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle and sleet which will cause significant inconvenience and moderately dangerous conditions.

◆ **For snow** - Three to five inches in 12 hours or less will trigger an advisory for northern Ohio, while two to three inches will trigger an advisory in central and southern Ohio.

◆ **For freezing rain, freezing drizzle** - Any accretion or accumulation up to 1/4 inch.

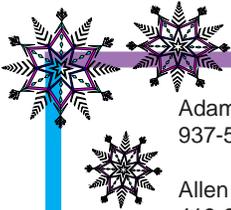
◆ **For blowing and drifting snow** - When blowing snow will restrict visibility to 1/4 mile or less and cause significant drifting snow.

LAKE EFFECT SNOW ADVISORY -

Issued when four to five inches of snow is expected to fall over the snow belt of northeast Ohio in 12 hours or less.

WIND CHILL ADVISORY - Issued when severe wind chill temperatures are expected.

DENSE FOG ADVISORY - Issued when widespread fog will reduce visibility to 1/4 mile or less.

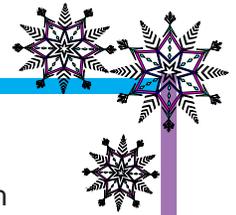


County Emergency Management Agencies

Adams County 937-544-6123	Fairfield County 740-654-4357	Licking County 740-349-6437	Portage County 330-297-3607
Allen County 419-993-1404	Fayette County 740-335-8264	Logan County 937-593-5743	Preble County 937-456-8121
Ashland County 419-282-4272	Franklin County 614-469-9700	Lorain County 440-329-5117	Putnam County 419-538-7315
Ashtabula County 440-576-9148	Fulton County 419-337-9207	Lucas County 419-213-6503	Richland County 419-774-5686
Athens County 740-594-2261	Gallia County 740-441-2036	Madison County 740-852-4200	Ross County 740-773-1700
Auglaize County 419-739-6725	Geauga County 440-285-9200	Mahoning County 330-740-2200	Sandusky County 419-334-6423
Belmont County 740-695-5984	Greene County 937-562-5994	Marion County 740-494-4059	Scioto County 740-355-8300
Brown County 937-378-5100	Guernsey County 740-432-9292	Medina County 330-722-9240	Seneca County 419-447-0266
Butler County 513-785-5810	Hamilton County 513-851-7080	Meigs County 740-992-4541	Shelby County 937-492-5635
Carroll County 330-627-2141	Hancock County 419-424-7092	Mercer County 419-586-6468	Stark County 330-430-3870
Champaign County 937-484-1642	Hardin County 419-674-2276	Miami County 937-339-6400 ext. 230	Summit County 330-643-2558
Clark County 937-328-4586	Harrison County 740-942-3922	Monroe County 740-472-2144	Trumbull County 330-675-2666
Clermont County 513-732-7661	Henry County 419-592-4876	Montgomery County 937-224-8936	Tuscarawas County 740-498-7078
Clinton County 937-382-6673	Highland County 937-393-5880	Morgan County 740-962-2424	Union County 937-645-3175
Columbiana County 330-424-9725	Hocking County 740-385-6168	Morrow County 419-947-4041	Van Wert County 419-238-1300
Coshocton County 740-622-1984	Holmes County 330-674-0989	Muskingum County 740-453-1655	Vinton County 740-596-3524
Crawford County 419-562-6009	Huron County 419-663-5772	Noble County 740-732-7387	Warren County 513-695-1315
Cuyahoga County 216-443-3196	Jackson County 740-286-5630	Ottawa County 419-734-6900	Washington County 740-373-5613
Darke County 937-548-1444	Jefferson County 740-283-8542	Paulding County 419-399-3500	Wayne County 330-262-9817
Defiance County 419-782-1130	Knox County 740-393-6772	Perry County 740-342-1141	Williams County 419-636-8497
Delaware County 740-833-2180	Lake County 440-256-1415	Pickaway County 740-477-1165	Wood County 419-354-9269
Erie County 419-627-7617	Lawrence County 740-533-4375	Pike County 740-947-7346	Wyandot County 419-294-6406

Visit the Emergency Management Association of Ohio Web site at: www.ohioema.org

Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness



The goal of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is to teach every Ohio resident how to prepare for and respond to threatening weather. We appreciate your efforts to help relay this critical and lifesaving information. This packet is provided as a service to help you educate Ohioans about severe spring weather hazards.

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has conducted state-wide safety campaigns since 1978. Committee representatives are listed below.

For more information on winter weather safety, contact either a committee member or your local emergency management agency (page 23).

American Red Cross

Jennifer Davis
(614) 253-2740 ext. 2404
davisjen@usa.redcross.org

National Weather Service

Gary Garnet - Cleveland, OH
(216) 265-2382, ext. 223
gary.garnet@noaa.gov

Mary Jo Parker - Wilmington, OH
(937) 383-0031
mary.parker@noaa.gov

Dan Bartholf - Charleston, WV
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Steve Eddy - Northern Indiana
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Richard Kane - Pittsburgh, PA
(412) 262-1591
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Ohio Department of Aging

Carol Shkolnik
(614) 752-9170
cshkolnik@age.state.oh.us

Ohio Department of Education

Mike Holm
(614) 644-6130
mike.holm@ode.state.oh.us

State Fire Marshal

Greg Drew
(614) 752-7207
agdrew@com.state.oh.us

Ohio Department of Health

Bret Atkins
(614) 644-8562
batkins@odh.ohio.gov

Ohio Department of Insurance

Derrick Dozier
(800) 686-1526, ext. 1187
derrick.dozier@ins.state.oh.us

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Christopher Thoms
(614) 265-6752
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Ohio Emergency Management Agency

Rob Glenn
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rglenn@dps.state.oh.us

Emergency Management Assoc. of Ohio

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Ohio Insurance Institute

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maryb@ohioinsurance.org

Ohio News Network

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eric.elwell@ONNnews.com