

News from Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

FCEM&HS Newsletter

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week - March 20-26, 2016



Michael R. Pannell, Director

NWS Severe Weather Spotter Training - March 5, 2016

The National Weather Service (NWS) depends in part on eyewitness information from citizens, public safety and emergency management personnel trained to recognize and report potentially life-threatening severe weather conditions. FCEM&HS and The Ohio State University Emergency Management will co-sponsor the annual **Severe Weather Spotter Seminar** by NWS on **Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road, Columbus.** The training and parking are free and open to the public. The seminar, led by meteorologists from the NWS Forecast Office in Wilmington, Ohio, will provide specialized training on how to spot, report and prepare for tornadoes and other severe spring weather conditions in Franklin County. Trainees will gain better understanding of storm structure and how to distinguish tornadoes from look-alikes. Residents interested in the training can register before 9:00 a.m. the day of the training.

Spring Issue

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Statewide Tornado Drill - Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 9:50 am

FCEMHS encourages the community to participate in the annual **Statewide Tornado Drill at 9:50 a.m. on Wednesday, March 23rd, 2016** when the Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren System will be activated. The sirens will be activated one time for three minutes – a longer tone than in the regular Wednesday noon tests. Franklin County experiences more tornadoes than any other county in Ohio. Designing and exercising a tornado safety plan for your home or establishment will help you respond safely in a real event. Area schools, businesses and agencies are urged to participate and complete an [online survey](#) about their participation. For more information visit www.fcemhs.org



Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week - March 20 - 26, 2016

With the spring season comes the possibility of hazardous weather including flooding, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. To raise awareness about these hazards, FCEM&HS will recognize **Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week March 20 – 26, 2016.** Planning ahead, knowing how to communicate, organizing a disaster kit and practicing safety drills are key to handling fast developing spring storms and minimizing injury and property damage. **Clear Channel Outdoor**, an emergency partner of FCEM&HS, will display weather-safety billboard messages to thousands of Central Ohio motorists. [Click here](#) for more information and preparedness tips on these spring hazards and additional risks for Franklin County.

FCEM&HS

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ALERT Franklin County

FCEM&HS reminds residents to plan and prepare for all hazards and emergencies before they happen. Emergencies can occur anytime and anywhere without advance notice. Sign up for ALERT Franklin County today at www.alertfranklincounty.org, which can also be found on www.fcemhs.org or any Franklin County local jurisdiction's website.

To remove your name from our newsletter mailing list or if you have a question or comment, email us at fcemhs@franklincountyohio.gov or call 614-794-0213.