

FCEM&HS Report

Ohio Spring Severe Weather Issue



NWS Annual Severe Weather Spotter Training March 2

February 2013

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. NWS will lead a half-day seminar on March 2 at OSU, teaching over a 300 trainees how to spot, report, and prepare for tornadoes and other severe weather. OSU Emergency Management will co-sponsor the event with FCEM&HS and NWS. To register visit www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs and click [Register for March 2 Weather Spotter Training](#), until February 23rd.



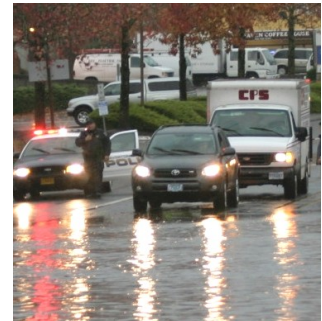
Ohio Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week March 3-9

With the spring season comes the possibility of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, with associated hazards such as hail, high winds, lighting strikes, and power outages. Planning ahead, 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 will again donate billboards countywide with public service messages on this topic. For more information and preparedness tips click [tornado safety](#) and [thunderstorm safety](#).



Annual Statewide Tornado Drill is March 6 at 9:50 a.m.

FCEMHS is urging the community to participate in the annual Statewide Tornado Drill at 9:50 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, when the Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren system will be activated for a longer tone (three minutes) than in the regular Wednesday noontime tests. Designing and exercising a tornado safety plan for your home or establishment will help you respond safely in a real event. FCEM&HS is also reaching out directly to more than 1,300 area schools, businesses and agencies to urge them to participate in the statewide tornado drill March 6 and complete an [online survey](#) about their participation. Visit www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs for more.



National Flood Safety Awareness Week March 18-22

Flooding continues to be a significant weather-related hazard in Central Ohio and can be deceptively dangerous. Cars can become buoyant in only 2 feet of water, and the force of 6 inches of swiftly moving water can knock adults off their feet. During National Flood Safety Awareness Week, FCEM&HS reminds residents never attempt to drive or walk through flood waters. The best protection during a flood is to leave the area and seek shelter on higher ground. For more on flooding click [flood safety](#).

FCEM&HS

Michael R. Pannell, Director
5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
Columbus OH 43230-1049
Phone 614-794-0213

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