

FCEM&HS Report

SPRING SEVERE WEATHER ISSUE



March 9, 2010



Director Pannell showing a TV reporter a map of the outdoor warning siren system March 5

FCEM&HS

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Severe Weather Spotter training class hosted by FCEM&HS in March 2009

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, a local government agency, coordinates county-wide emergency/disaster planning, education, warning, response and recovery.

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Severe Spring Weather Awareness Week March 21-27 Statewide Tornado Drill set for 9:50 a.m. March 24

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) will host a field trip on March 24 by 45 second-graders from Horizon Science Academy, a Northland area charter school.

Agency staff will teach the students about tornado safety and demonstrate the county's outdoor warning siren system while participating in the Statewide Tornado Drill at 9:50 a.m.

Also, FCEM&HS has reached out directly to more than 1,000 area businesses, schools and agencies to urge them to participate in the statewide drill and share their results in an online survey. Click for [drill participation details and preparedness tips](#).

Throughout Ohio Severe Spring Weather Awareness Week, Clear Channel Outdoor, an emergency warning system partner of FCEM&HS, will donate 11 digital billboards to promote awareness of spring weather hazards and the statewide tornado drill March 24 to thousands of Central Ohio motorists. Click for more on [thunderstorm safety](#) and [tornado safety](#).

FCEM&HS Director Michael R. Pannell said the activities are designed to improve community preparedness for springtime thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding and to demonstrate the agency's improvements in the county's outdoor warning siren system.

March 15-19 is National Flood Safety Awareness Week

Floods are the No. 1 weather-related hazard in Central Ohio and are deceptively dangerous, even to drivers – cars can become buoyant in only two feet of water.

To help FCEM&HS promote National Flood Safety Awareness Week March 15-19, Clear Channel Outdoor will donate 11 digital highway billboards across Columbus during the week with a message cautioning motorists to never drive into flooded areas: "Turn around, don't drown."

[More on flood hazards and safety](#)

Severe Weather Spotter Seminar Set for March 20

The National Weather Service (NWS) depends in part on information from citizens trained to report severe weather conditions.

The NWS's Wilmington, Ohio office will teach half-day classes on this to about 100 area citizens at FCEM&HS on March 20. Also presenting will be Central Ohio Severe Weather Net, the Central Ohio Amateur Radio section net for NWS-Wilmington.

[More on NWS Weather Spotter Training](#)