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The Preparedness Post

March 2019

Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week - March 17-23, 2019

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 17– 23, 2019.



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. Hazardous conditions can occur anytime and anywhere without advance notice.

[Click here](#) for more information and preparedness tips on these spring hazards and additional risks for Franklin County.

2019 Statewide Tornado Drill - March 20, 2019 at 9:50 am



FCEM&HS encourages everyone to participate in the annual Statewide Tornado Drill at 9:50 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. At that time, the sirens will be activated one time for three minutes – a longer tone than used during the regular Wednesday noon test. The test tone will be the same “tornado warning” tone which would be used in an actual tornado warning.

The 9:50 a.m. March 20th siren activation will be in place of the regular weekly Wednesday noon test of the Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren System. Area schools, businesses and residents are urged to participate and complete an [online survey](#) about their participation.

Tornadoes are nature's most violent windstorms and are the number one risk for Franklin County. Designing and exercising a plan will help residents respond safely in a real event.

Severe Weather Spotter Training - Saturday, March 23rd

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) and The Ohio State University Department of Public Safety are co-sponsoring the annual Tornado and Severe Weather Spotter Seminar by the National Weather Service (NWS). The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at The Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road, Columbus.



The seminar, led by meteorologists from the NWS office in Wilmington, Ohio, will provide specialized training to citizens, public safety officers and emergency management personnel on how to spot, report and prepare for tornadoes as well as other severe spring weather conditions in Franklin County. Trainees will be provided with the basic tools needed to become a severe weather spotter and assist NWS forecasters with the information necessary to issue warnings and updates.

The four-hour training will cover the basics of thunderstorms, tornadoes, lightning, flooding, damaging winds, storm structure and development as well as what visual clues to look for that may indicate when the weather is about to turn severe.

Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security fosters non-political cooperation and coordinates all-hazards emergency/disaster planning, education, warning, response and recovery efforts for the 42 local government jurisdictions of Franklin County.

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