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The Preparedness Post

November 2018

## National Weather Service Wilmington Confirms Franklin County Tornado



During the early morning hours on September 26th, a fast-moving tornado ripped through the East Side of Franklin County, leaving over 2,000 people without power and closing two local schools. The rare tornado happened so quickly that it was not detected by radar. The National Weather Service (NWS) in Wilmington did not issue a Tornado Warning therefore the outdoor warning sirens were not activated.

FCEM&HS assisted staff from NWS Wilmington throughout the day in surveying the storm damage. NWS confirmed that an EF-1 Tornado had touched down with top wind speed reaching 90 mph. The tornado is believed to have reached 150 yards wide and traveled a 3.75-mile path, snapping trees and knocking down power lines. No injuries were reported.

## FCEM&HS Welcomes New Staff Members

FCEM&HS is pleased to welcome three new staff members to the Agency. The new members bring a great deal of knowledge and experience to the team.

Lance Witcher joined the team in early September as the Agency's Information Technology Manager. Lance manages the Agency's IT projects, hardware and software licenses and troubleshoots IT related issues. Lance previously served in a number of IT positions with the State of Ohio and the private sector.



Adam Ingram is the Agency's new Emergency Management Planner. Adam will be responsible for reviewing, updating and maintaining The Franklin County Emergency Operations Plan and all associated plans covering topics such as mitigation, hazardous materials and terrorism. Prior to joining FCEM&HS this fall, he served as the Director of the Seneca County Emergency Management Agency as well as numerous positions with Team Rubicon USA.

Gina Williams recently joined FCEM&HS and will become the Agency's Fiscal Manager in 2019. After completing her training, Gina will assume her duties following the retirement of Jan Bartel, the current Fiscal Manager, early next year. Gina will be responsible for

preparing the Agency's annual budget, overseeing accounts payable, accounts receivable, the bi-weekly employee payroll as well as other accounting related activities. Gina previously served as a Fiscal Specialist with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and additional fiscal positions with the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council.

Please join us as we welcome these new members to our team.

## National Weather Service Begins Issuing Snow Squall Warnings



THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE ON A HIGHWAY WHEN SNOW SQUALLS ARE APPROACHING

The National Weather Service in Wilmington will issue Snow Squall Warnings for the upcoming winter season. A Snow Squall is an intense short-lived burst of heavy snowfall that leads to a quick reduction in visibility and is often accompanied by gusty winds.

Snow Squalls can cause sudden whiteout conditions and slick roadways which can lead to high speed accidents with multi-vehicle pileups and result in serious injuries and fatalities. These incidents move in and move on or fizzle out quickly, and typically last less than an hour.

Snow Squall Warnings will be issued through polygons and focus on distinct areas similar to tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings. The new warning is being issued to provide critical, localized life-saving information and situational awareness to motorists. [Click here](#) for more information on Snow Squalls.

## Winter Safety Awareness Week November 11-17, 2018

Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week will be celebrated November 11- 17, 2018. The week provides an opportunity for Franklin County residents to prepare themselves for the upcoming months of potential severe winter weather.

FCEM&HS reminds residents to update their emergency preparedness plans, replenish disaster supply kits for their home and car and prepare themselves, their pets and their homes for winter.

Citizens should consider purchasing a NOAA Weather Radio as well as alternative heat sources and/or generators. Winter driving can be dangerous. Residents should pay attention to weather forecasts and traffic reports. If the weather is bad, remember: **Ice and Snow ... Take It Slow – or just don't go.** For more information on Winter Weather Safety, visit [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov).



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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