

Governor Ted Strickland



American Red Cross
Emergency Management Association of Ohio
National Weather Service
Ohio Citizen Corps
Ohio Department of Aging
Ohio Department of Commerce-State Fire Marshal
Ohio News Network

Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Insurance
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Public Safety-Ohio EMA
Ohio Insurance Institute

Spring 2009

Tornadoes and severe weather in Ohio are dangerous, costly and sometimes unpredictable. Keeping you and those close to you safe during severe weather requires education and preparation. Here are some facts to consider:

- In the U.S. last year, there were 1,630 tornadoes and 125 reported fatalities ([National Climatic Data Center](#)) ;
- Over \$1 billion in damages was caused in southeastern/midwestern U.S. last year from [severe weather](#);
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur in Ohio from April through July – between the hours of two and ten p.m. But tornadoes – and severe weather that spawns them – can occur any time, any place.

Since 1978, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA), made up of members from various State and local agencies, has worked to educate Ohioans about severe weather safety.

To help Ohioans prepare for tornado season, Governor Ted Strickland has proclaimed March 22-28 as Ohio's **Severe Weather Awareness Week**, designed to raise awareness of how to prepare for severe weather hazards. **A Statewide Tornado Drill will be conducted on Wednesday, March 25th at 9:50 a.m.** Ohio schools, along with business and households, are encouraged to participate.

Schools are also invited to enter OCSWA's **annual poster contest**, which is designed to help Ohio schoolchildren learn about related safety procedures in school and at home. Last year's winning entries are available [online](#).

We encourage you to explore our Web site for valuable information, including:

- Gov. Strickland's [public service announcement](#) on severe weather awareness
- [Tornado](#) safety tips; spring and summer [health and safety](#) concerns
- [Thunderstorm and lightning](#) safety; [floods and flood insurance](#) information;

The goal of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is to educate and motivate Ohioans to learn how to stay safe and minimize property damage during severe weather. Your goal should be to act as if your safety depended upon it – because it does. We encourage you to take advantage of **Severe Weather Awareness Week** to develop year-round severe weather safety habits.

Sincerely,

Mike Holm, 2009 Chair, Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness
Assistant Director, Communications, Ohio Department of Education