



Governor John R. Kasich

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 Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health

Ohio Department of Insurance
Ohio Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Public Safety - Ohio EMA
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Insurance Institute
WBNS – 10TV
WCMH – NBC4

Spring 2015

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Palm Sunday tornado outbreak (April 11 -12, 1965). This event spanned several states including Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, claiming 256 lives. To learn more about this event in Ohio visit:

http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/swio/pages/content/1965_tornadoes.htm .

Severe weather watches, warnings, and the communication of those risks have evolved since that tragic event. In addition to warning sirens, radio and television broadcasts, social media is playing more and more of a role for the communication of weather-related events. For more than 35 years, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA) has been committed to educating Ohioans about the dangers associated of severe weather hazards and providing vital safety information when severe weather threatens. One of the many ways we seek to communicate with Ohioans is through our Twitter account, which can be followed [@OHWxAwareness](#).

Through social media and our webpage (www.weathersafety.ohio.gov) we will continue to provide information on the most common natural hazards in Ohio: floods, tornadoes, windstorms, thunderstorms, winter storms, and severe heat during summer. We'll also provide updates and definitions for any buzzwords that emerge, such as last year's favorite *polar vortex*, or the 2012 *derecho*.

No matter the season, severe weather can and will impact Ohio. And no matter the weather, it is always best to be prepared. OCSWA is gearing up for the **Ohio Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week**, which is **March 1-7, 2015**. This is a good time to review safety plans – know what to do during a flood or a thunder and lightning storm. And know the difference between storm watches and warnings, and take part in tornado drills. The Statewide Tornado Drill is Wednesday, March 4th at 9:50 am. Be sure to mark your calendars!

On behalf of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance in educating Ohioans on proper safety measures during severe weather events.

Sincerely,

Melissa Menerey, Chair
Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness
Environmental Specialist, Floodplain Management Program
Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil & Water Resources