



**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  
Ohio Silver Jackets  
WCMH – NBC4

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**Spring 2017**

There is a plenty of excitement about with spring's arrival: the longer, warmer days and nature coming out to play. But, it is also the time for severe weather, such as tornadoes and flooding. Ohio doesn't just have severe weather in the springtime, but experiences extreme weather conditions throughout the year. During the spring months, however, weather conditions can change drastically within a week or even a day. What's the adage? "You know you live in Ohio when you've used both the heat and the air conditioner in the same day."

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA) has been bringing Ohioans education and information about the dangers of severe weather for nearly four decades. We want to keep you safe and help you be prepared in case of an emergency. Information is available via our website: [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov) and on social media, including Twitter ([@OHWxAwareness](https://twitter.com/OHWxAwareness)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ohweatherawareness](https://www.facebook.com/ohweatherawareness)). Stay connected with us to know what to do when hazardous weather is in the forecast. Common severe weather conditions in Ohio include floods, tornadoes, windstorms, thunderstorms, winter storms, extreme cold and severe heat.

Severe weather safety requires family, friends and neighbors to get involved. Check on your neighbors and loved ones, especially your elders, to see if they have enough basic essentials, such as food, medications, fuel, etc., to get through a severe weather event, or invite them to stay with you until extreme conditions have ended. Very often, severe weather episodes show us how communities come together to help each other. So, whether you are young – or young at heart – learning and safety should be the priorities of us all.

Mark your calendars for the **Ohio Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 19 - 25, 2017**. The Statewide Tornado Drill is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:50 a.m. This is a great opportunity to get reacquainted with springtime weather topics, such as flood safety and what to do during thunder and lightning storms. It's also a great time to refresh your memory on the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning and other weather terms such as Flash Flood Warning, Flood Warning, Flood Watch and Flood Advisory. Take a few moments with your family, friends and neighbors and update your emergency plans, safety kits and supplies.

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness thanks you for helping your neighbors, loved ones and fellow Ohioans in learning about severe weather safety.

Sincerely,

Pete LuPiba  
Chair, Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness  
Public Information Officer  
Ohio Department of Education