



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 Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio Department of Public Safety -Ohio EMA  
Ohio Department of Transportation  
Ohio Insurance Institute  
Ohio News Network

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## Spring 2012

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has been committed to educating Ohioans about the dangers associated with severe weather hazards since 1978. The most common types of natural hazards affecting Ohio are floods, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and severe winter storms. Even large windstorms from the remnants of hurricanes have been known to cause tremendous damage in Ohio, like in the fall of 2008. To assist in public awareness and to aid in the reduction of the impact severe weather can inflict on lives and property throughout Ohio, the committee conducts statewide "Safety Awareness Weeks" during the spring and winter seasons.

Governor John Kasich has designated the week of March 25-31, 2012 as Spring Severe Weather Safety Awareness Week.

Ohio tornado activity varies each year, averaging about 16 tornadoes annually. Thirty-seven tornadoes were reported in Ohio in 2011. Most of the tornadoes were EF0 or EF1 with winds up to 100 mph; two were EF2 tornadoes.

The OCSWA website includes vital safety information about floods, tornadoes, and severe thunderstorms. It also suggests ways Ohioans can reduce the impact of severe weather hazards by incorporating risk reduction strategies into recovery efforts. The website also has the very latest in severe weather terminology incorporated from many agencies including the National Weather Service. Facts and statistics on these topics are provided for your use. Additional resources include information on the Emergency Alert System, public service announcements, Web links, and contacts for information from the participating organizations.

The citizens of Ohio depend on the media and NOAA Weather Radio to convey accurate and timely information should severe weather or a disaster strike. It comes as no surprise that your role during weather emergencies is vital. The committee encourages you to review and use this information during the 2012 Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 25-31, and throughout the year. Be sure to mark your calendars now for the statewide tornado drill scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 at 9:50 a.m.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo Parker".

Mary Jo Parker, 2012 Chair  
Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office  
Wilmington, Ohio