

Severe Weather Awareness Public Service Announcements

[Ohio Governor Ted Strickland](#)
[ODPS Director Henry Guzmán](#)

Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 25-31, 2007

Statewide Tornado Drill: March 28th at 9:50 a.m.

[Governor's Resolution](#)
[Severe Weather Terms](#)
[Safety Drills; Tornado Safety Precautions
\(ORC 3737.73\)](#)
[Tornado Facts & Safety Tips](#)
[Tornado Safety & Dangers of Highway
Overpasses](#)

Lightning Safety Awareness Week: June 24-30, 2007

[Thunderstorms & Lightning](#)
[Floods/Flood Insurance Info](#)
[Beat the Heat](#)
[Health & Safety \(power outage, floods,
excessive heat\)](#)

Emergency Preparedness

[Making a Disaster Plan](#)
[Preparedness Kit for Home](#)
[Preparedness Kit for Ohioans with Special
Needs](#)
[Preparedness Kit for Vehicle](#)
[Making a Disaster Plan for Pets](#)
[Preparedness Kit for Pets & Animals](#)
[Storm Ready](#)

Get Involved

You Can Make a Difference!

-Storm Spotter Information
[Skywarn](#)
[NWS Storm Spotter Trainings](#)
-Volunteerism in Disasters
[Ohio Citizen Corps](#)

NOAA Weather Radio

[NOAA Weather Radio](#)
[Public Alert Radios for Public Schools](#)
[EAS and Warning System Testing](#)

Ohio Severe Weather History

[Severe Weather in Ohio](#)

Weather Awareness for Kids

[OII Weather Safety Club](#)
[Owlie Skywarn's Weather Book](#)
[Ohio EMA Disaster Detectives](#)

OCSWA Poster Contest

[2007 Contest Rules](#)
[2006 State-Level Winning Posters](#)

Winter Severe Weather Awareness Week: November 12- 18, 2006

[Snow Emergency Classifications](#)
[Governor's Resolution](#)
[Letter from 2006 OCSWA Chair](#)
[Severe Weather Terms](#)
[2005-06 Ohio Winter Summary](#)
[Winter Preparedness for Schools](#)
[Wind Chill Index](#)
[Winter Home Safety Tips](#)
[Winter Vehicle Safety Tips](#)



Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness

*Teaching Ohioans Severe Weather
Safety and Preparedness*

[Home](#) [Media](#) [About OCSWA](#) [Current Weather](#)

Teaching Ohioans Severe Weather Safety and Preparedness

<http://www.ema.ohio.gov/Weather.htm>

**American Red Cross Ohio Department of Natural Resources
National Weather Service Ohio Emergency Management
Agency
Ohio Department of Aging Emergency Management
Association of Ohio
Ohio Department of Education Ohio Insurance Institute
Ohio Department of Health Ohio News Network
Ohio Department of Insurance Division of the State Fire
Marshal**

Bob Taft, Governor of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 14, 2006 Contact: Julie Hinds, Ohio EMA (614) 799-3698 GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS JUNE 18-24 "OHIO LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK" Summer is Peak Season for One of the Nation's Deadliest Weather Phenomena COLUMBUS, OH – To help promote effective emergency preparedness for lightning and severe thunderstorms, Governor Bob Taft announced June 18-24, 2006 as "Lightning Safety Awareness Week." The governor's resolution comes in conjunction with the National Weather Service's proclamation of National Lightning Safety Awareness Week. The purpose of Lightning Safety Awareness Week is to help safeguard people from the hazards of lightning and to lower deaths and injuries due to lightning strikes. According to the National Weather Service, on average 67 people in the United States are killed annually by lightning, which is more than the national average of people killed by tornadoes and hurricanes. "Educating the public on how to protect their lives, property and the lives of others on the dangers associated with thunder and lightning storms is imperative," said Taft. "I am pleased with the work of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness and its commitment in helping Ohioans understand the dangers of lightning and other natural hazards that affect our state." The committee encourages Ohioans to learn and practice these important lightning facts and safety tips: • Watch for Developing Thunderstorm. Especially during summer months, pay attention to weather conditions; watch for developing thunderstorms. On a sunny day, as the sun heats the air, pockets of warmer air start to rise in the atmosphere. When the warmer air reaches a certain level, towering cumulus clouds can develop, which could be one of the first indications of a developing thunderstorm. • If you can hear thunder, you are in danger of lightning. Seek safe

[Winter Fire Safety](#)
[Flood/Flood Insurance](#)
[Winter Health & Safety Tips](#)
[Carbon Monoxide Info & Safety](#)

shelter immediately. Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain area in a thunderstorm. If the sky looks threatening, take shelter before hearing thunder. • Minimize the risk of being struck by lightning while participating in outdoor activities. Many people participate in outdoor recreational activities during the summer. Those involved in outdoor activities need to take appropriate actions and seek shelter in a timely manner when thunderstorms approach.

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Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness

Things to Avoid While Sheltering Indoors: People should stay away from windows and doors and avoid contact with anything that conducts electricity, which include using telephones (corded and cordless) during storms. Cellular telephones are the safest to use during thunderstorms. Avoid water. Do not shower, bathe or wash dishes during storms. Water is an electrical conductor. • Things to Avoid While Outdoors: If a thunderstorm is imminent, stop or avoid outdoor water activities such as boating, swimming and fishing. If you are already in water, exit as quickly and as safely as possible. Never use a tree for shelter and avoid using solitary trees, open areas or hilltops as shelters. Stay away from all metallic objects such as fences, power lines, poles, etc. If you feel a tingling sensation or if your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Immediately assume the "Lightning Safety Position" by crouching down and covering your ears. DO NOT lie down or place your hands on the ground. • Helping a Lightning Strike Victim. If a person is struck by lightning, medical care is usually needed immediately. Cardiac arrest and irregularities, burns and nerve damage are typical life-threatening injuries when a person is struck. Knowing first aid measures, which include cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), can help lightning-strike victims survive. American Red Cross chapters and local fire departments often offer first aid and CPR classes. • Listen to your NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV station to receive up-to-date information about severe thunderstorm watches and warnings. For additional information on lightning safety, visit <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>, and the [Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness](http://www.ocswa.ohio.gov) Web site: <http://www.ocswa.ohio.gov>.