

## Are You Ready for a Flood?



Would you know how to protect your family in the event of a flood? The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to learn what to do to prepare for and recover from natural and home disasters. Everyone should learn the difference between a **flood watch** and **flood warning**. A flood watch means flooding is possible; a flood warning means flooding is occurring or will occur soon. Ohioans should take the proper steps to protect their families and homes before disasters strike.

- ✓ **Prepare a personal evacuation plan.** Determine your home's flood risk by contacting the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Floodplain Management Division. Decide in advance where your family should go in the event of an emergency and establish a family contact person outside of your area. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- ✓ **Assemble a disaster supplies kit.** Include a first aid kit; essential medicines; canned foods; manual can opener; water (one gallon per person, per day, for at least three days); protective clothing; battery-operated radio; flashlight; extra batteries; and any special needs items.
- ✓ **Protect your home against rising waters.** Move furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home. Raise the furnace, hot water heater and electrical system panel with the help of a professional.
- ✓ **Purchase and maintain flood insurance.** This is a very important document/policy, as flood insurance is not covered by homeowner policies. Find out about the National Flood Insurance Program by visiting the Web site: [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).