

Governor Ted Strickland



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 News Network

Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Insurance
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Ohio Insurance Institute

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 19, 2007

Contact: C.J. Couch, Ohio EMA (614) 799-3695

Governor Strickland Encourages Every Ohioan To Prepare For Severe Weather

March 25-31 is Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week

(Columbus, OH) – Governor Ted Strickland has proclaimed the week of March 25 through 31 as Ohio’s Severe Weather Awareness Week. In coordinating efforts with the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, the governor urges Ohioans to prepare now for natural disasters.

“We have seen the horrific images from Alabama, Florida and Georgia which detail the deadly and destructive nature of severe weather,” said Governor Strickland. “As Ohio prepares for the arrival of spring and summer, the times when we are at the greatest risk for severe weather, including tornadoes, I urge every Ohioan to organize your emergency plans and conduct safety and evacuation drills. I want everyone to be prepared.”

Since 1978, The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has encouraged families, schools and businesses to review their emergency preparedness plans, practice tornado and fire drills and refresh the supplies in their disaster preparedness kits.

As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week, a statewide tornado drill will be conducted on Wednesday, March 28 at 9:50 a.m. Counties will sound their warning sirens and the Emergency Alert System will broadcast a test message. The committee encourages homes, schools and businesses to practice their tornado drills at that time.

“Spring is a good time to prepare for the inclement weather that affects Ohio,” said Nancy Dragani, executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. “Every home, school and business should have a NOAA Weather Radio. Everyone should know the difference between a storm watch and a storm warning. And everyone should know where to go and what to do during severe weather.”

Ohio EMA is one of 13 state agencies and organizations that represent the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.

For additional information on severe weather preparedness, log on to www.weathersafety.ohio.gov or www.ema.ohio.gov.

###