



# This Week in Ohio EMA





Seneca County, Nov. 2002
Hancock County, Aug. 2007

Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director  
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## Heavy Rains Flood Ohio Again - Four Counties Declare State of Emergency Governor Strickland surveys damages in South Lebanon

Heavy rains inundated and flooded the Midwest this week, resulting in a federal disaster declaration for 70 counties in Missouri (FEMA, Region VII area). In Ohio, Butler, Hamilton, Tuscarawas and Warren counties issued local declarations due to flooding. The National Weather Service reported that more than five inches of rain fell on Tuesday and Wednesday.

At least 15 deaths in the Midwest are weather-related. Three people in Ohio died over the past few days - a woman in Whitewater Township (Hamilton County) drowned when she went to check on her sump pump, and a man and a woman died in two separate incidents while trying to exit their cars in rushing flood waters in Clinton and Gallia counties.



March 20 - Gov. Strickland talks with EMA personnel responding to South Lebanon flooding (Warren County). Shown in photo: Frank Young, Warren County EMA director and Keven Clouse, Ohio EMA field liaison. (Photo provided by Brewster Rhoads/Governor's Office)

Governor Ted Strickland surveyed some of the flood damages in South Lebanon (Warren County), Thursday evening. He said that South Lebanon would be the first of many visits to flood-damaged areas.

Butler, Hamilton and Warren county directors, Ohio EMA staff and other emergency management officials began assessing flood damaged homes and businesses today.

Tuscarawas County will start its damage assessment this weekend, once the flood waters recede. Approximately 50 Zoarville residents are isolated because of flood waters behind Dover Dam. The Army Corps of Engineers have been monitoring the water levels at Beach City, Bolivar and Dover dams and released water at the dams to prevent them from flooding over.

The state EOC Assessment Room will be open over the weekend to maintain coordination and communication with affected county EMAs.



## Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 23-29 Are You Prepared?

Governor Ted Strickland has proclaimed March 23-29 as Severe Weather Awareness Week. In a coordinated effort with the governor and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, the state will participate in a statewide tornado drill and test its Emergency Alert System on Wednesday, March 26 at 9:50 a.m.

Schools, businesses and households are encouraged to exercise their emergency plans and tornado drills during this time.

The best defense when faced with tornadoes or any severe weather incident is preparedness. Know the conditions. Make a plan. Practice the plan. Be prepared.

Know what to do before a tornado - Be alert to changing weather conditions. Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV station for up-to-date weather information. When a tornado watch is issued, review your emergency preparedness plan. Don't wait for the watch to become a warning. If a tornado warning is issued, prepare to take immediate shelter.

During a tornado drill or warning, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages everyone to **DUCK**.

- D** - Go **DOWN** to the lowest level
- U** - Get **UNDER** something
- C** - **COVER** your head
- K** - **KEEP** in shelter until the storm has passed

If you are in a vehicle, trailer or mobile home, get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building or storm shelter. If you are outside with no shelter, lie in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Do not seek shelter under a highway overpass or bridge.

For additional information on tornado safety and severe weather emergency preparedness, visit the OCSWA Web site at [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov).

### Union County EMA Receives 2007 Partner of the Year Award

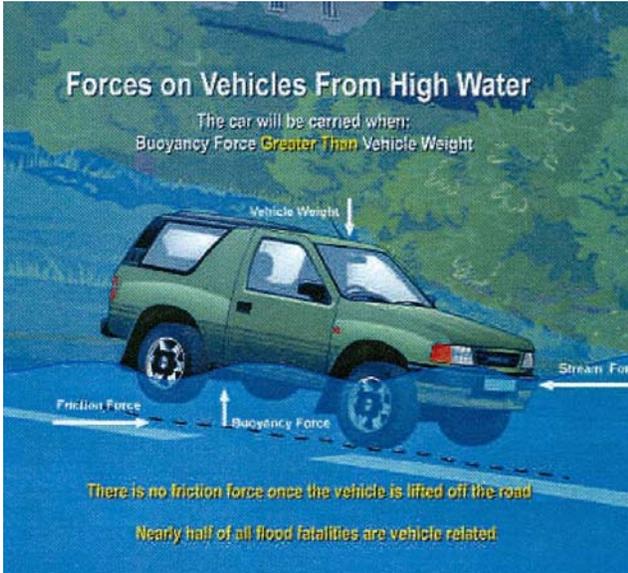
The Union County Emergency Management Agency recently received the 2007 Union County Health District Partner of the Year Award.

Pictured from left to right: Paul Slaughter, Marvin Gilbert, Brad Gilbert, Union County EMA Director Randy Riffle and Union County Health Commissioner Martin Tremmell.

The Union County Health Department awards the Public Health Partner of the Year award annually to a local business, organization or person that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improve the health, safety and well-being of Union County Residents.



**Never Try to Drive through Flood Water**



**Turn Around, Don't Drown** is a National Weather Service campaign to warn people of the hazards of walking or driving a vehicle through flood waters. Every year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather-related hazard. The main reason is that people underestimate the force and power of flood water. More than half of all flood-related deaths result from vehicles being swept downstream.

- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around Don't Drown.
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. Turn Around Don't Drown.

Visit [www.nws.noaa.gov/floodsafety/tadd.shtml](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/floodsafety/tadd.shtml) for additional information.

**EMA Updates**

**Brad Lawrence, Director**  
 Sandusky County EMA  
 2323 Countryside Drive, Suite B  
 Fremont, OH 43420  
 Resigning March 28 after four years of dedicated service as County EMA Director. Mr. Lawrence accepted a position with the Sandusky County Sheriff's Civil Office

**Tom Coelho, Director**  
 Vinton County EMA  
 106 South Market Street  
 McArthur, OH 45651  
 Office: 740-596-3524

**Dan Stahl, Director**  
 Seneca County EMA  
 126 Hopewell Avenue  
 Tiffin, OH 44883  
**E-Mail: [dstahl@senecadps.org](mailto:dstahl@senecadps.org)**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
					Bomb TAC (rescheduled)	CERT Train-the-Instructor Franklin County
Ohio Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week ~ Statewide Tornado Drill: Wednesday, March 26th at 9:50 a.m.						
30	31	April 1	2	3	4	5
CERT Train-the-Instructor Franklin County		Directors Seminar Holiday Inn East - Columbus				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						CERT Train-the-Instructor Fairfield County
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CERT Train-the-Instructor Fairfield County			Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA		

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training> - TAC - Technical Advisory Committee