



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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Officials Warn Residents of Potential Flooding

COLUMBUS, OH-- Record or near-record snowfalls in recent months combined with above normal rainfall could yield a mix of winter and flood threats and a new set of headaches for homeowners throughout Ohio.

According to the National Weather Service, a great potential for minor to moderate flooding in Northern Ohio following snowmelt exists. The snowmelt prediction serves as a reminder for Ohioans to consider flood mitigation steps if they are at risk for flooding.

Heavy rainfall at any time can lead to river flooding, even when overall river flood potential is considered below average. Ice jams can cause rapid water levels to rise on rivers with significant ice accumulation.

“Flooding may seem like a distant concern with snow still falling in many areas of the state,” said Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA director. “However, right now is the best time to take steps for family and home protection.”

Homeowners should consider being prepared and having some options to protect their homes from flooding.

- Make sure you are covered for flood damage. There are two types of flood policies, one for the building and one for contents. Have good pictures of your house in pre-flood conditions.
- Move valuable household possessions to upper floors or to safe grounds if time permits.
- Listen to a radio or television for the latest storm information.
- If you are instructed by local authorities, turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve.
- Be prepared to evacuate.
- When doing your own cleaning, wear a mask. Mold spores can cause illness. A chlorine bleach solution (10 parts water, one part bleach) is effective in killing mold.

For additional winter safety and flood safety information, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

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