



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director  
[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2011

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### WITH OHIO CITIES NEARING RAINFALL RECORDS, RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED OF FLOOD SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS TIPS

**Columbus, OH** – This week, Ohio cities including Toledo, was soaked with nearly 1.25 inches of rain. Cleveland received 1.5 inches of rain. Columbus, nearly 2 inches; and Cincinnati broke precipitation records with nearly 3 inches of rain in a day.

According to the Ohio Department of Transportation's BuckeyeTraffic.org, several major roadways are currently closed due to flooding. Safety experts urge motorists to be careful when approaching a flooded road. **NEVER** drive through flooded roadways. And **NEVER** drive around barriers warning of flooded roads. The best advice: **Turn around. Don't drown.** It only takes two feet of water to float away most vehicles, and many deaths have resulted from attempts to drive through flooded roadways.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency recommends the following safety measures during a flood warning:

- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or television station to receive current weather and emergency information. If your area is advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Have a disaster supply kit for the home and a "to-go" kit ready, in case you need to evacuate. Kits should include: battery-operated radio, flashlight, first-aid kit, prescribed medications, clothing, rain gear, nonperishable food/high-energy snacks, bottled water, cell phone, battery charger, emergency contact list and hygiene supplies. For a complete list of preparedness kits, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website at: [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov)
- Evacuation is easier and safer before flood waters block your escape. Leave early enough to avoid being marooned by flooded roads. And when evacuating, secure your home. Turn off utilities and disconnect electrical appliances.
- Never attempt to drive or walk through floodwaters.
- Report power outages and downed power lines to your utility provider.
- Avoid floodwaters. Water may be contaminated by oil, gas or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.

- Return home only after authorities say it is safe.
- Only call 9-1-1 in or during a true emergency.

For additional information on flood safety and preparedness, visit the following websites:

Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness: [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov)

ReadyOhio: [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov). Click on Are You Ready for **FLOODS**

National Weather Service: [www.nws.noaa.gov/floodsafety/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/floodsafety/)

FEMA's Ready Campaign: [www.ready.gov/floods](http://www.ready.gov/floods)

*The primary mission of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, is to coordinate activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. This mission is carried out by closely interfacing with local, state and federal agencies in an effort to bring resources of recovery and support to Ohioans impacted by the disaster. In addition to disaster response and recovery, Ohio EMA agency activities include: education, training, planning and preparedness - strengthening Ohio's first responder capabilities and improving communication across the state.*

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