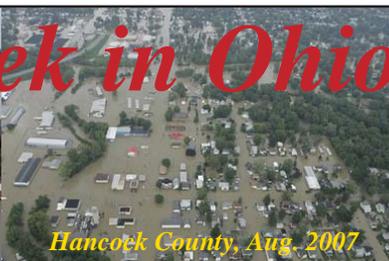
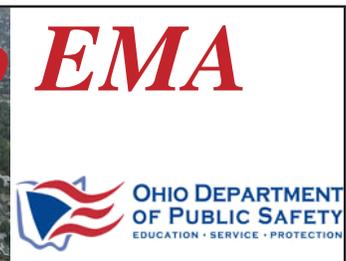


	<h1 style="text-align: center; color: red;">This Week in Ohio EMA</h1> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	
<p>Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director          Ohio EMA Public Affairs (614) 799-3695 <span style="float: right;">www.ema.ohio.gov</span></p>		
<p><i>June 13, 2008</i></p>		<p><i>Volume V, No. 12</i></p>

**Storms, Storms and More Storms! Be Prepared for Severe Weather**

*Lightning Safety Awareness Week is June 22-28*

Over the last few weeks, the Midwest has been hit -- hard with severe weather. East-central Iowa was hit by a tornado on June 11. Four Boy Scouts were killed and approximately 40 people were injured while camping. According to FEMA reports, Iowa has confirmed 21 storm-related fatalities.



Kansas suffered through another tornado that injured more than 100 people. Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and Wisconsin are recovering from severe flooding, with FEMA and state officials conducting preliminary damage assessments.

Not even Ohio nor Michigan escaped the rash of strong winds, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and floods. The National Weather Service confirmed that an EF-1 tornado touched down in Van Wert County on Monday evening, making it the county's third severe weather incident in 1-1/2 weeks. A tornado derailed a freight train in Ottawa County; strong wind, hail and floods and flash flooding damaged and destroyed homes and businesses in Adams, Brown, Clark, Hancock, Lawrence, Putnam, Ross, Scioto and Van Wert counties.

Last night, parts of Central Ohio received more than five inches of rain in a three-hour period. Tens of thousands of Ohio customers lost electrical power because of the severe storms.

Spring and summer are prime seasons for thunder and lightning storms and tornadoes. As emergency managers, we must continue to teach and inform the public of severe weather safety and preparedness. In a coordinated effort with the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, Governor Ted Strickland has proclaimed June 22-28 as "Lightning Safety Awareness Week," which is in conjunction with the NWS's National Lightning Safety Awareness Week.

A study comprised by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows that between 1998 and 2007, Ohio had 14 deaths resulting from lightning strikes, ranking the state the eighth highest in the nation. Nationwide last year, 45 people were struck and killed by lightning.

The National Weather Service's safety slogan continues to be, "When thunder roars, go indoors!" Other safety tips promoted by the NWS and Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness are as follows:

**Before Lightning Strikes -**

- Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening clouds, flashes of light or increasing wind. Listen for thunder.
- If you can hear thunder, you're close enough to be struck by lightning. Find safe shelter immediately.
- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or local TV or radio station for up-to-date weather information.

(Continued)

## Serbian Public Relations Delegates Visit Ohio



Six public relations delegates from Serbia visited with the Adjutant General's Department and the ODPS Ohio EMA on June 9 to visit the state Emergency Operations Center and participate in a joint information center exercise. The Adjutant General's Department's Public Affairs Office was host to the Serbians June 8-13. Pictured from left to right: Lt. Col. Robert Sreckovic, chief of public relations department, Serbian Armed Forces; Sanja Savic, Internet website editor; ODPS Assistant Director George Maier; Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, Adjutant General; Ohio EMA Chief of Public Affairs Tamara McBride; Capt. Petar Boskovic, Chief of Public Relations, Ministry of Defense; Dejan Blagojevic, interpreter; Ana Miletic, Chief of Information Section, Ministry of Defense; James Sims, State Public Affairs Officer; Danijela Marjanovic, journalist/advisor, Ministry of Defense; Lindsey Bohrer, Ohio Homeland Security PIO; and Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani.

### News Clip - Weather Update WBNS 10TV.com - Columbus

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** — The National Weather Service has issued a severe thunderstorm watch until 9 p.m. for the following counties in the 10TV viewing area:

Champaign, Clark, Crawford, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hancock, Hardin, Knox, Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, Richland, Union and Wyandot.

Hail to 2 1/2 inches in diameter, thunderstorm wind gusts to 70 mph and dangerous lightning are possible in these areas. A severe thunderstorm watch means conditions are possible for a dangerous storm. We'll see more wet weather as the work week comes to an end. Showers and storms are likely late in the day. Some severe weather is possible, Live Doppler 10 Meteorologist Mike Davis said. Temperatures will be in the upper 80s. The rain will continue into Saturday morning. Brighter skies are expected by the afternoon, with a high of 81 degrees, Davis said. We'll see sunny skies on Father's Day. More rain is possible on Monday.

*(Continued from front page)*

### If Caught Outside –

- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find immediate shelter.
- If you cannot find indoor shelter, find a low-lying open place away from trees, poles or metal objects. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- Be a small target. Do not lie flat on the ground; squat low to the ground by putting your head to your knees and placing your hands either behind your head or on your knees.

### If Someone is Struck by Lightning –

- People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge and can be handled safely.
- Call 911 and get medical care immediately. Cardiac arrest, irregular heart beats, burns and nerve damage are common in cases where people are struck by lightning.
- Give first aid. If breathing has stopped, begin rescue breathing. If the heart has stopped, a trained person should administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). American Red Cross chapters and local fire departments often offer first aid and CPR classes.

**Remember: When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**



**Attention County Emergency Managers:**

September is National Preparedness Month. The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Homeland Security is once again teaming with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Ready Campaign* and FEMA's Citizen Corps Program to encourage businesses and organizations to **Resolve to be Ready in 2008**.

Last year, with your hard work and planning, Ohio's National Preparedness Month activities received national attention. Weekly kickoff events were hosted by the EMAs in Cuyahoga, Scioto, Franklin, Lucas and Butler counties. This year, ODPS is asking every county to plan to hold one preparedness event. The *Ready Campaign's* focus this year is to encourage citizens to take the four important preparedness steps: Get a Kit; Make a Plan; Be Informed; and Get Involved. Ohio's focus will be the same as last year's: Ready Schools/Kids; Ready Businesses; Multicultural; and Ready Homes and Families. We're looking for another successful National Preparedness Month, but we can't do it without your help.

Go to [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov) to become a partner, post your events and order your toolkit that includes promotional aids and a form to order free copies of Ready brochures, booklets and posters.

A statewide planning meeting will take place Tuesday, June 17 in Ohio EMA's Emergency Operations Center. Emergency responders and managers are encouraged to attend.

September is National Preparedness Month. **Get Ready Now.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 15 	16	17 HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	18 Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	19 Water TAC Ohio EMA	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>National Lightning Safety Awareness Week</i>						
	Senior TAC ODOT-B	BVPS Exercise Partial Participation				
29	30	July 1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5
6	7	8	9	10 Pan FLu Exercise Knox County	11	12

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>

TAC - Technical Advisory Committee \* BVPS - Beaver Valley Power Station \* SOSTF - State of Ohio Security Task Force