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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY Don't Send Your Children Off Unprepared**

**COLUMBUS** - With the end of summer just a few weeks away, families across Ohio are preparing to send their children off, some for the first time, to live in college dormitories, residence halls and apartments. In addition to giving your children extra blankets, towels, and money for pizza, give them items, which will help to keep them safe. Give them gifts of safety: fire extinguisher, first aid kit, smoke detector and a weather alert radio.

"As parents, we are concerned for the safety of our children every moment of every day, especially when they are away from home said Nancy J. Dragani, executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. "Before your children go off to school, ensure they understand the importance of being prepared for any emergency," said Dragani.

#### **Fire Extinguisher**

Everyone should have a fire extinguisher capable of dealing with a variety of fires including kitchen grease fires, electrical fires and fire caused by having an open flame – such as a candle.

#### **First Aid Kit**

Many injuries are not life threatening and do not require immediate medical attention. Knowing how to treat minor injuries can make a difference in an emergency. Consider taking a first aid class, but simply having the following things can help you stop bleeding, prevent infection and assist in decontamination. If you have these basic supplies, you are better prepared to help yourself.

#### **Smoke Detector**

In the event of a fire, a smoke alarm can save your life. It is an important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal -- so you can escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect yourself and your home.

#### **Weather Alert Radio**

Weather alert radios broadcast storm forecasts, watches, warnings and other hazard information from the National Weather Service. Weather radios can be programmed to receive information specific to your residential county. Weather alerts radios are available at most department or electronic stores for under \$50.

Further information about preparing for any emergency or disaster, natural or man-made log onto;

[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)

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