



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director

www.ema.ohio.gov



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September is National Preparedness Month

Week Four – Be Informed – Are you Ready or Are you *READY*?

(COLUMBUS) – September marks the observance of National Preparedness Month and the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is leading a statewide campaign with a diverse group of national, state and local partners to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and to promote community involvement throughout events and activities.

National Preparedness Month 2009 focuses on changing perceptions about emergency preparedness to help Ohioans understand what it truly means to be *Ready*. Each week during National Preparedness Month, ODPS will be sending a press release or providing information on different areas of preparedness most likely to impact Ohioans.

Flooding is Ohio's most common natural disaster. Flooding can happen in every county and city; however, all floods are not alike. Some can develop slowly during an extended period of rain, or in a warming trend following a heavy snow. Others, such as flash floods can occur quickly, even without any visible signs of rain. It's important to be prepared for flooding no matter where you live, but particularly if you are in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even a very small stream or dry creek bed can overflow and create flooding. **Be Informed.**

Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a flood hazard.

- **Flood Watch** – Flooding is possible. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.
- **Flash Flood Watch** – Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground, listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for more information.
- **Flood Warning** – Flooding is occurring or will occur soon. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- **Flash Flood Warning** – A flash flood is occurring, seek higher ground on foot immediately.

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Prepare Your Home

- Find out if your home is at risk for flood and educate yourself on the impact a flood could have on you and your family. Then safeguard your home and possessions with flood insurance. Visit www.floodsmart.gov for more information.

For more information about preparing for or responding to a flood emergency, log on www.Ready.Ohio.gov or www.ema.ohio.gov so you can be sure your family and loved ones are *Ready*.

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Throughout the month, ODPS will highlight weekly testimonials of fellow Ohioans who have survived a disaster, or the impact the disaster has had on their community, on Ohio's preparedness Web site at www.Ready.Ohio.gov. The Web site also has information and resources to help Ohioans develop a successful game plan to be prepared, including making a plan, putting together an emergency kit and sharing information with others.