



Media Advisory

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Insurance Department, Ohio EMA, FLASH, NFIP and NOAA to Promote National Flood Awareness Week

COLUMBUS —The Ohio Department of Insurance, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will hold a press conference on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 1 p.m. to kick-off National Flood Awareness Week (March 15-19). Media are invited to attend. The flood awareness campaign will provide Ohioans information on protecting their property from flood waters, keeping themselves safe during a flood and making sure Ohioans are educated about purchasing flood insurance. The agencies will work together to promote disaster prevention and safety to Ohioans.

WHO: Nancy Dragani, Ohio Emergency Management Agency Director
Bruce McCullen, FLASH Project Manager
David Schein, FEMA Region V Flood Insurance Liaison
Julia Dian-Reed, National Weather Service Forecast Office
Mary Jo Hudson, Ohio Department of Insurance Director

WHAT: National Flood Awareness Week Kickoff

WHEN: Monday, March 15, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Ohio EMA 2855 West Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2206

The nonprofit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc. – FLASH[®] is a 501(c)(3) collaboration of organizations dedicated to strengthening homes and safeguarding families from disaster. Based in Tallahassee, FLASH is the nation's fastest-growing disaster safety education organization with more than 100 partners. To learn more about FLASH and access free consumer resources, visit www.flash.org or call (877) 221-SAFE (7233).

The mission of the Ohio Department of Insurance is to provide consumer protection through education and fair but vigilant regulation while promoting a stable and competitive environment for insurers. Ohio insurance consumers with questions and concerns about their insurance can call the Department's consumer hotline at **1-800-686-1526**. Free information can also be obtained at www.insurance.ohio.gov.

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The Ohio EMA coordinates the state's response and recovery from the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center. One of the primary focuses of the agency is to ensure that Ohio citizens are prepared to respond to and recover from an emergency or disaster and to lead mitigation efforts against the effects of future disasters. During times of disasters, Ohio EMA coordinates activities of responding state agencies and maintains liaison with similar agencies of other states and of the federal government.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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