



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
www.ema.ohio.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portions of Ohio under Flood, Flash Flood Warning State Officials Urge Caution around Flood Waters

Columbus, OH – At 6:45 this morning, the National Weather Service issued flood warnings with the potential of flash flooding for Clinton, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Madison, Pickaway and Ross counties until 9:45 a.m. Heavy rain and thunderstorms are likely until this afternoon.

A flood or flash flood warning is issued when flooding or flash flooding is imminent or occurring. Protective measures need to be taken.

“Springtime is severe weather season. We’re seeing it across the country, and we’re experiencing it here,” said Nancy Dragani, executive director for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. “We’re in the midst of tornado and thunderstorm season. We need to take precautions now to protect ourselves and our property.”

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness posted the following flood safety information:

During a Flood Warning

- If indoors, turn on a battery-powered radio, NOAA Weather Radio or television to receive the latest Emergency Alert System (EAS) information. If your area is advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- If outdoors, go to higher ground and stay there. Avoid walking through any flood water. Just six inches of rapidly moving water can knock an adult off of his/her feet.
- Do not allow children to be near or play around storm drainages
- If you are driving and have come to a flooded roadway or area, turn around and go the other way. Many deaths have occurred from attempts to drive through flooded roadways.

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Portions of Ohio under Flood Warning

Page 2

During an Evacuation

- If flood water is rising in your area, do not wait for an evacuation order to leave. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Evacuation is simpler and safer before floodwaters block your escape. Leave early enough to avoid being trapped.
- Never attempt to drive or walk through flood waters. Water can be deeper than it appears, and floodwater currents can be deceptive. Two feet of rushing water can float and carry away most vehicles.
- Continue to listen to EAS messages for evacuation instructions.
- Follow the recommended evacuation routes. Shortcuts may be blocked.

If your property has sustained flood damage, contact your flood insurance agent and your county emergency management agency.

For additional information on flood safety and flood insurance, visit the following sites:

Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

National Weather Service: www.weather.gov/floodsafety

FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program: www.floodsmart.gov

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