



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**July 26, 2012**

Release No. 1

### **TODAY'S STORMS COULD PRODUCE DAMAGING WINDS, FLASH FLOODING** *Ohioans Urged to Be Alert to Changing Weather Conditions*

**Columbus, OH** - In anticipation of strong storms with damaging winds developing later this afternoon, state and local officials encourage Ohioans to prepare now for the possibility of severe weather.

Ohioans need to be mindful of weather conditions before attending outdoor activities, such as ball parks, county and state fairs, and amusement parks. Listen to local weather reports on radio or television stations. Be alert to the issue of storm watches and warnings in your area.

#### **Know your severe weather terms:**

A **Severe Thunderstorm Watch** outlines an area where hail up to 1 inch in diameter or larger, and /or damaging thunderstorms winds are expected to occur. Tornadoes may be possible. In rare situations, the enhanced wording, "this is a particularly dangerous situation" will be used to describe extreme thunderstorm activity. A weather **watch** means the potential or conditions exist for a dangerous weather event.

A **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** is issued when large hail or damaging wind is occurring or imminent. Severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes with little or no advance warning. During a storm **warning**, seek safe shelter immediately.

A **Flash Flood Warning** signifies a short duration of intense or rapid flooding in counties, communities, streams or urban areas. If flooding occurs, move to higher grounds. Never walk or drive through flooded areas. Listen to local Emergency Alert Broadcasts (EAS messages) for weather updates and evacuation notices.

A **Flood Watch** can be issued for several different reasons. The watch may be issued for the potential of rapid flooding from either torrential downpours or dam breaks. A flood watch could be issued when the onset of flooding is slower, usually greater than six hours.

Minimize your risk. Seek shelter before an approaching thunderstorm. Remember: *When thunder roars, go indoors.*

For additional information on severe weather safety, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness site at [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov) or ReadyOhio at [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov).

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