

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BULLETIN

Public Information From:

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security
5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43230



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CONTACT: Mark Anthony, Public Information, office 614-794-0213, cell 614-206-1162

HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM

Winter Safety Awareness Week in Ohio Through Nov. 21

With winter just around the corner, Michael R. Pannell, Director of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS), has issued the following preparedness information about winter storms – a primary weather hazard in Central Ohio – to help keep you and your family safe.

- Snow Emergencies are declared by the Franklin County Sheriff, who posts the current snow emergency level, along with an explanation of the various levels, online at <http://www.sheriff.franklin.oh.us/> (scroll down to bottom left).
- Drive carefully. Even roads that appear dry can be dangerous – a patch of ice can send you sliding out of control.
- Plan ahead for road trips, including checking the weather forecast for your route the day you plan to leave.
- Heart attacks are a major cause of death during and after a snowstorm. If shoveling snow isn't critical, don't do it, and if you have to shovel snow, take time to rest often.
- Dress in several layers of clothes if you're going to be outside for an extended period.
- Never leave unattended a fireplace or electric or kerosene heater in use in your home – all can cause a house fire.
- Carry a small emergency kit in your motor vehicle, including a blanket, flashlight, drinking water, snacks, and distress flag or sign.
- **For more information online about winter storm preparedness, go to:**
 - Centers for Disease Control: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/faq.asp>
 - FEMA: www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/index.shtm
 - Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness:
<http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/>

Gov. Ted Strickland has proclaimed the week of November 15-21 as Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week to encourage households, schools, businesses and organizations to prepare now for severe winter weather.

FCEM&HS, a local government agency, coordinates county-wide emergency/disaster planning, education, warning, response, and recovery to minimize the adverse impact of disasters on local residents and property. For more information, go to www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs/.