



Licking County Planning Department
And Offices of Community & Economic Development
20 South Second Street, Newark, Ohio 43055

2009 Severe Weather Calendar of Events

[National Flood Safety Awareness Week - March 16-20, 2009](#)

[Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week - March 22-28, 2009](#)

[Statewide Tornado Drill - March 25, 2009 9:50 a.m.](#)

[National Lightning Safety Awareness Week - June 21-27, 2009](#)

[Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week - November 15-21, 2009](#)

National Flood Safety Awareness Week March 16 - 20, 2009

by Julia Dian-Reed, National Weather Service,
Jeff Walker, Licking County Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security/911 Agency,
Jim Mickey, Licking County Planning Department,
and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness

Seasons come and seasons go, but the need for safety in dealing with severe weather events knows no season. In fact, the more information we have regarding extremes of nature, the better that we can protect our family, our property, and our community.

Licking County officials have partnered with various other agencies and entities to present the following information to help increase the safety of our citizens as we leave winter weather behind us and head into the spring and summer seasons.

Turn Around Don't Drown®

Did you know that just six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock you off your feet and two feet of water can sweep an SUV off a road?

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, **Turn Around Don't Drown®**. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.



Floods kill an average of 127 Americans each year, far more than lightning, tornadoes or hurricanes, according to the National Weather Service. Flood deaths affect all age groups. Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related. Most flood victims die after walking or driving into moving water. **"TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®"** began with a weather service meteorologist in San Angelo, Texas.

Hector Guerrero wanted a catchy phrase along the lines of the fire-safety mantra "Stop, Drop, and Roll." He chose one after brainstorming with a group of firefighters from Harlingen, and a national campaign began.

The "**TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®**" campaign seeks to make people aware of what can happen when they drive into high water. Engines can stall, and fast-moving water sometimes sweeps cars off the road. People stuck in high water — and their rescuers — may find themselves in danger.

Flash Floods

Most flash floods are caused by slow moving thunderstorms, thunderstorms that move repeatedly over the same area or heavy rains from tropical storms and hurricanes. These floods can develop within minutes or hours depending on the intensity and duration of the rain, the topography, soil conditions and ground cover.

Flash floods can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Furthermore, flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mud slides.



Recent Headline on Firehouse.com

Ohio Firefighters Rescue Man from Flood Waters

Posted: 03-09-2009

CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP, Ohio --

Firefighters had to rescue a man who became stranded when his car drove into flood waters.

Officials said the man was in water up to his waist.

The rescue happened at about 9 a.m. Monday in Chippewa Township in Medina County.

No other information was immediately available.

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!

TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!