



**RICHLAND COUNTY EMA**  
**597 PARK AVE. EAST, MANSFIELD**



# Storm Season Safety

**Spring is here, be prepared for the unpredictable weather that comes with it!**

## Thunderstorm



If you hear thunder, go indoors immediately. Just because the sky is blue does not mean you're not at risk of being struck by lightning.

Lightning will travel through wires and plumbing if a building is struck. During a thunderstorm, do not use corded devices such as wired phones or videogame controllers, and also stay away from plumbing such as sinks and showers. Wireless devices, such as cellphones, are safe to use.

If you're caught outside in a storm, avoid open areas, isolated tall objects such as trees and utility poles, and metal conductors such as wires and fences.

If you or somebody else is struck by lightning, call 911 and move yourself or the victim to a sheltered place if possible. CPR will be necessary if the victim goes into cardiac arrest.

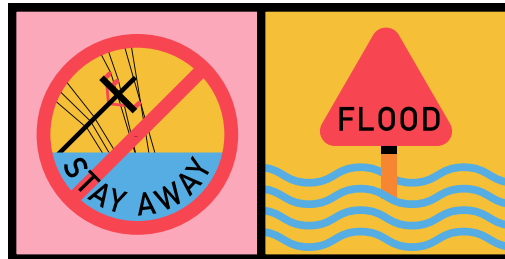
## Flood



DO NOT attempt to walk or drive through flood water. 6 inches of rushing flood water is enough to sweep an adult off their feet, and just 18 inches can carry away a large vehicle.

Get to high ground, and obey evacuation orders. Remember to lock your door if you must leave, and unplug utilities if time allows.

Stay away from any rooms with submerged electrical outlets or cords.



Wait until you get the All Clear from authorities before entering a flood damaged home or building.

## Tornado



During a tornado watch, it's important to be prepared. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

In the case of a tornado warning, immediately go to a basement, a safe room, or an interior room without windows. Large, open rooms such as gyms, cafeterias, and auditoriums are not safe and should be avoided.

If you are in a vehicle when a tornado strikes, it may be possible to avoid it by moving to right angles of it if it's far away and the traffic is light. Otherwise, park your vehicle as quickly and as safely as possible, abandon it, and seek shelter in a sturdy building or a low place such as a ditch or ravine, away from trees and cars. Crouch down low and cover your head with your hands.



**Severe Weather Awareness Week**  
**March 17-23**

### During Severe Weather:

Listen to the radio and/or watch local news/weather stations on the television to stay informed on the current status of the storm. Check the internet for updates, too!

**Statewide Tornado Drill**  
**March 20 at 9:50 AM**

# Upcoming Events



**Skywarn Spotter Training**  
provided by the National  
Weather Service

Pioneer Career  
and Technology  
Center

April 15 at 6-8 PM



## Family Fun Day

Malabar Farm  
June 29 at 12 - 4 PM

## Richland County Fair

Richland County Fairgrounds  
August 4th - 10th

## CERT Meetings

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Richland County EMA  
April 11, May 9, and June 13 at 6:30 PM



**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ...**

Want to make a difference  
in your community?

**CONTACT RICHLAND COUNTY EMA**  
419-774-5686



[RICHLANDCOUNTYOH.GOV/RCALERTS](http://RICHLANDCOUNTYOH.GOV/RCALERTS)



## LITHIUM ION BATTERY SAFETY FROM THE NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

### THE PROBLEM

These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space. Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous. Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

### SIGNS OF A PROBLEM

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call 9-1-1.



### SAFETY TIPS

Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Only use the battery that is designed for the device. Put batteries in the device the right way. Only use the charging cord that came with the device. Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch. Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged. Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C). Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

### BATTERY DISPOSAL

Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions. Do not put discarded batteries in piles.