



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
EDUCATION • SERVICE • PROTECTION

Ohio's Emergency Management News



Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director
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Several Thousand Ohioans Lose Power as Snow and Ice Storms Impact Midwest Governor Declares State of Emergency for Hocking and Scioto Counties

A crippling winter storm moved up the Midwest during the evening hours of January 27, dumping up to a foot of snow in Delaware and Union counties, and coating central and southern Ohio with snow and up to an inch of ice. At the height of the storm, approximately 150,000 Ohio customers were without electricity and approximately 40 shelters and warming stations were opened.

One week after the snow and ice storms, approximately 4,170 Ohioans remained without power, with outages highest in Hocking, Jackson, Pike and Scioto counties. Southwest Ohio was hit with another snow storm on Tuesday evening, which blanketed the region with 3 to 7 inches of snow.



Tree branches, heavy with ice and snow, fell on this trailer home in Pomeroy, Ohio. Photo by Doug Lavender, Meigs County EMS director

Governor Ted Strickland declared a State of Emergency for Hocking and Scioto counties on February 2 for state assistance with roadway debris removal. County-level emergencies were declared for Adams, Athens, Guernsey, Hocking, Meigs, Noble, Perry, Pike, Scioto and Vinton counties.

Earlier this week, through a mutual aid agreement, the Ohio National Guard responded to Kentucky's Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request of 50 Humvees to support the state's recovery from the widespread power outages. Nearly 550,000 homes and businesses in Kentucky had power knocked out from the severe ice and snow storms. The Ohio Department of Transportation has also sent crews to southwestern Kentucky to help with debris cleanup. The storms are responsible for six deaths in Missouri, two in Indiana, two in West Virginia and one in Ohio.

The Ohio EMA Operations Division continues to communicate with affected county EMA offices to ensure that all county needs and requests are met. Ohio EMA continues to monitor the winter weather situation across the state.

Ohio EMA Updates (from the January 6 - February 3, 2009 Monthly Report)

- Gov. Ted Strickland's request for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program for the September 14, 2008 wind event was approved by the U.S. Small Business Administration on January 21. Approval was for Franklin, Greene, Hamilton and Montgomery counties. Fifteen contiguous counties - Butler, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Darke, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Licking, Madison, Miami, Pickaway, Preble, Union and Warren - were also included in the approval.

The EIDL can provide loans at 4 percent interest to assist business owners' recovery from the financial impact of the incident. The program does not provide loans for physical damages to buildings, nor replace lost inventory. The deadline to submit loan applications is October 16, 2009.

- The Readiness and Response Branch is coordinating with all Emergency Support Function lead agencies, a FEMA, Region V-sponsored trip to Indianapolis, for the New Madrid Seismic Zone Workshop, February 24-26. The workshop will focus on the potential impact of a catastrophic earthquake event that would affect the New Madrid Seismic Zone within FEMA, Region V.

The workshop will focus on four major areas: Understanding the impact of a catastrophic earthquake and the science used to estimate damage; Identification of critical planning elements requiring integrated planning; Identification of resources needed to support emergency response and recovery efforts; and Identification of potential sources of those resources, both public and private.

- A Hostile Action-Based Drill with the Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS) was conducted on January 27. The Ohio EMA Operations Center's Executive Room was activated to support the drill. Its scenario included a terrorist attack on the nuclear power plant. BVPS tested its alternate Emergency Operations Facility. Several communication problems were identified, as well as coordination problems with Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

This drill was not federally evaluated and was conducted as part of the Nuclear Energy Institute's effort to establish criterion prior to an evaluated exercise, which is anticipated after 2010.

- The Plans Branch met with the Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC) last month, regarding Shelter Data Project working group meetings. Henry County EMA Director Tracy Busch, representing the Emergency Management Association of Ohio, also participated in the meetings.

OCSC has contracted with Ohio EMA to provide a complete statewide list of shelters and information, to include capability, capacity, number of meals served, and service population.



Directors' Seminar on Emergency Management and Homeland Security

April 15-16, 2009

The Directors' Seminar on Emergency Management and Homeland Security is for county emergency managers, elected officials and other state and local officials. The seminar provides an update on federal, state and local emergency management and homeland security priorities, goals and programs, and provides an opportunity for participants to get the latest updates on a broad range of timely and relevant subjects.

The Ohio Administrative Code mandates that all EMA directors participate in two such seminars per year.

Dates: April 15 - 16, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration Deadline: April 1, 2009

Location: University Plaza Hotel
3110 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43202

Register via the Ohio EMA Training Web site:

<http://ema.state.oh.us/training>

Call: (614) 799-3824 or 3680 for assistance.

ODPS Excellence in Service Award Presented to Ohio EMA Planner Brad Schwartz



Pictured from left to right: Carl Filer, Ohio EMA Plans Branch Chief; Brad Schwartz, Ohio EMA Planner; Henry Guzman, ODPS Director; and Rudi Blaser, Ohio EMA Plans Supervisor.

Brad Schwartz, Ohio EMA Planner, recently received the Ohio Department of Public Safety Excellence in Service Award for 4th Quarter, 2008.

Schwartz maintains and manages the ongoing development of the state's Emergency Operations Plan, and recently received special recognition for his work with the Ohio Department of Health's pandemic influenza planning, and for his assistance to the planning subcommittee of the Animal Health Technical Advisory Committee.

Nomination Text: Brad's commitment to the planning process and his determination to facility good planning practices on the federal, state and local levels has bolstered the positive reputation of Ohio EMA and has resulted in important work products that have a direct impact on preparedness across the state.

EMA Updates

Highland County Emergency Management

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Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 22-28

Statewide Tornado Drill:
March 25th - 9:50 a.m.

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		G139 Exercise Design and Evaluation (DATES CHANGED) Ohio EMA			Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Wkshp Noble County	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17 HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	18	19 Water TAC Ohio EMA	20	21
22	23	24	25 Ash Wednesday	26	27 EMAO Retreat	28

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>

TAC - Technical Advisory Committee, URSB - Utility Radiological Safety Board, HSEEP - Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation