

Ohio Emergency Management Agency – Spot Report

January 6, 2014

Winter Weather and Wind Chill

The National Weather Service at Wilmington, Ohio reported this morning that:

- Residual steady snow over eastern Ohio will taper off by early afternoon, except in the Lake Erie snowbelt, where snow showers will continue through Tuesday afternoon. Non-accumulating snow showers will be found over much of the rest of the area today.
- The largest snowfall totals across the area as of Monday morning occurred across the northern half of Indiana into northwest Ohio. The heaviest additional snowfall will be in lake effect areas across northeast Ohio.
- Westerly winds will be in the 15-to-25 mph range with gusts to 30-to-40 mph through Monday. This will allow for the threat of blowing and drifting snow where appreciable snow has fallen. Slightly lower wind gusts will continue into Monday night, with a more noticeable decrease in wind gusts through Tuesday afternoon.
- An extremely cold air mass will be in place across the region through the early part of the week. Sub-zero temperatures and extreme wind chill values will overtake the region.
- Wind chill values will drop down to between -25 and -45 for most of the region today, with portions of northwest Ohio not expected to exceed zero for the high temperature on Tuesday. Wednesday's highs will range from the teens to the north to near 30 along the Ohio River. Thursday's highs will range from the upper-20s to the north to near 40 along the Ohio River.
- Outside of the lake-effect snow potential in the far northeast, the next threat of organized precipitation will come Friday into Saturday. The bulk of this will be rain, and there will not likely be enough to cause any river or flooding issues. Northwest Ohio areas will need to be monitored for snowmelt and rain combining for local river rises.

Snow Level Emergencies (reported by local news media at different times this morning – emergency levels are subject to change)

Central Ohio – Clark, Crawford, Fairfield, Hocking, Logan, Marion, Morrow, Perry and Union counties are under a level 1 snow emergency. Hardin County is under a level 2 emergency..

Northwest Ohio – Lucas, Wood, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca and Williams Counties are under a level 3 snow emergency. Allen, Erie and Huron Counties are under a level 2 snow emergency.

Western Ohio – Clark, Miami, Darke, Logan and Champaign counties are under a level 1 snow emergency.

Southeastern Ohio – Montgomery County is under a level 1 snow emergency.

Warming Shelters

A number of warming shelters have been opened, and more are planned to be opened for daytime and overnight use. As of this time, we have received reports that warming shelters have been opened in the following counties: Lucas County (3), Delaware County (1), Clark County (1), Clermont County (2), Franklin County (10), and Fulton County (1 – at the Fairgrounds for travelers).

School Closures

Hundreds of school districts across the state cancelled classes for today and many will cancel for tomorrow. The Ohio Department of Regents reports that 26 of Ohio's 37 higher learning institutions cancelled classes today.

Ohio Department of Aging

The Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) is in communications with Ohio's twelve Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and Regional Long-term Care Ombudsman (RLTCO) to identify winter weather impacts and need. While the AAA and RLTCO offices based in Toledo and Lima are closed today (Monday) because of the weather in the region, staff are working from their respective homes checking on high risk consumers and working with local ARC and EMAs. ODA Communication staff is working with state sister agencies (OEMA, ODH) to do outreach and messaging through various media sources.

Power Outages

The Public Utility Commission of Ohio reported at 12:00 p.m. today that there was a total of 2,135 electric utility customers that were without power. Counties that reported more than a few outages were: Cuyahoga County (151), Medina County (163), Delaware County (1140), Franklin County (103), Darke County (55), Clark County (65), Clermont County (610), and Vinton County (671). See attached map.