



Ohio's Emergency Management News

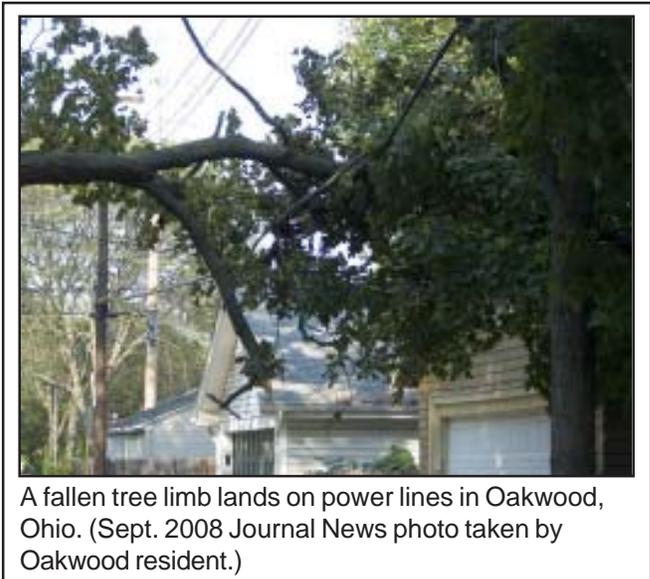
Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director
Ohio EMA Public Affairs (614) 799-3695 www.ema.ohio.gov

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One Week Left for Local Agencies to Apply for Disaster Public Assistance

State agencies, local governments and certain nonprofit organizations in 33 designated Ohio counties have only until Monday, November 24 to apply for federal disaster aid to help offset expenses related to emergency work from the September 14 severe wind storm.

Officials in Ashland, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Knox, Licking, Madison, Miami, Montgomery, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, Preble, Shelby, Summit, Tuscarawas, Union and Warren counties have one week to submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.



President Bush's October 24 disaster declaration authorized federal assistance after the September 14 severe wind storm. Applicants must submit RPA forms within 30 days of the date of designation of the area.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's FEMA and Ohio EMA are partnering to help eligible applicants. A Joint Field Office has been established in Dublin (Franklin County).

"We want to ensure that resources are allocated to every agency that is eligible," said State Coordinating Officer and Executive Director of Ohio EMA Nancy Dragani. "State and local officials can speed up the recovery process by submitting their applications before the November 24 deadline."

FEMA's Public Assistance program pays 75 percent of eligible costs; the applicant is responsible for the remaining 25 percent balance.

To date, 640 state agencies, local governments and private nonprofits have submitted Requests for Public Assistance. County emergency management agencies should be contacted for additional information or questions on eligibility.

Tune Up Your Vehicle and Driving Skills before Winter Weather Arrives

Winter Safety Awareness Week is November 16-22

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov



You drive over a patch of black ice. Do you know what to do? Your tires are bald and it's icy outside. Is your vehicle safe to drive? You break down in a desolate area. Do you have the proper items in your vehicles to survive? Being prepared for winter weather also pertains to your vehicle and knowing how to drive in blustery weather.

"Make sure your vehicle is in proper working order before heading out and have a safety kit in the vehicle in the event of an emergency," said Daniel J. Kelso, Ohio Insurance Institute president.

The Ohio Insurance Institute is one of 13 members comprising the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.

Get a tune up for your vehicle now, prior to severe winter weather. Tune-ups should include:

- Tire check - consider snow or all-season tires, if tread is worn
- Battery test - to check the battery strength
- Wiper blades check and replacement, if needed
- Radiator, engine and all fluid levels checked
- Brake line and pad inspection
- Headlight, brake light and turn signal inspections

Emergency Supply Kits for the Vehicle Should Include:

- *Blankets or sleeping bags*
- *Extra jackets, boots, mittens, hats*
- *High-energy snacks such as nuts, raisins, peanut butter crackers*
- *Flashlight, extra batteries*
- *First-aid kit, extra supply of necessary medications*
- *Emergency flares*
- *Cell phone and vehicle battery charger*
- *Brightly colored cloth to signal for assistance*
- *Large plastic garbage bags*
- *Steel shovel and rope to use as a lifeline*

Always check the weather reports prior to departure. If severe weather is possible, it is better not to travel. If you must leave, be sure to advise those at your destination of a departure time, anticipated arrival time and planned travel route.

Local Boy Scouts Troop Earns Radio Merit Badges through JOTA and Ohio EMA



Boy Scouts Troop #317 (Back row, left to right): Mike Swaney, Ron Beery, Tony Condo and Dave Alden. (Front, left to right): Kenny Beery, Garrett Berry, Sam Valley, Nathan Alden and Anthony Condo.

Michael Swaney, Ohio EMA telecommunications technician, conducted a tour of the EMA communications shop last month for a Gahanna Boy Scouts troop that he helps lead and support.

Troop 317 completed several radio merit badge requirements by visiting the amateur radio station W8SGT at the State Emergency Operations Center/ Joint Dispatch Facility on October 18 and logging their on-air radio contacts as part of the Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air (JOTA).

JOTA is an annual event where scouts throughout the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, all via the radio waves.

JOTA has been a Boy Scouts event since 1958.

Licking County is the 16th Ohio County to be



Licking County is the most recent Ohio entity to become certified as a Storm-Ready county. On November 3, the National Weather Service, Wilmington Office presented the Licking County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and county commissioners with its StormReady certification.

StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education and awareness.

Licking County is now one of 16 Ohio counties that are StormReady. Other StormReady counties : Allen, Auglaize, Clermont, Coshocton, Huron, Jackson, Lucas, Mercer, Medina, Richland, Sandusky, Scioto, Shelby, Union and Van Wert.



(From left to right) Doug Smith, Licking County Commissioner; Mary Jo Parker, NWS-Wilmington; Steve Smith, Licking County EMA deputy director; Jeff Walker, Licking County EMA director; Robert Bill, Ohio EMA; and Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioner.

To date, there are 1402 StormReady sites in the United States, Puerto Rico and Guam. To find out how to apply to become StormReady, visit the National Weather Service StormReady Web site at www.stormready.noaa.gov/index.html.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<i>Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week (Nov. 16-22)</i>						
	Canine TAC ODOT	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
				 <i>Thanksgiving</i>		
30	December 1	2	3	4	5	6
			Leadership and Influence (G241) Ohio EMA			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Community Mass Care (G108) Ohio EMA				

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>
TAC - Technical Advisory Committee