

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

GOVERNOR DECLARES EMERGENCIES IN 14 ADDITIONAL COUNTIES *State agencies working around the clock to protect Ohioans; 35 counties declared*

COLUMBUS (January 6, 2005) – A pattern of continuing severe winter weather prompted Governor Bob Taft today to declare emergencies in 14 additional counties. The declaration stems from ice and snow in Northern Ohio and heavy rain and flooding in Central and Southern Ohio.

“State agencies have been at work over the last 48 hours conducting search and rescue missions, detouring traffic, working to reopen routes and interstates, and getting power restored,” Taft said. “Thousands of Ohioans were just starting to recover from the most recent bout of snow and ice storms when this storm hit, and the state is working hard to ensure that affected families and businesses receive the assistance that they need to recover.”

The 14 additional counties include: Allen, Ashland, Athens, Coshocton, Crawford, Fairfield, Hocking, Knox, Marion, Mercer, Morgan, Perry, Seneca and Washington.

The Governor’s Declaration allows state resources to be used to assist local governments. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) coordinates state response and recovery efforts from the State Emergency Operations Center.

10 state agencies have been working to respond to the emergency along with the Ohio EMA, including the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Agriculture, ODOT-Aviation, Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. The Columbus Chapter of the American Red Cross is also assisting.

Since December 22, Governor Taft has issued emergency declarations in a total of 35 counties.

###

Media Contact: Orest Holubec, Governor’s Office, (614) 644-0957;
or Rob Glenn, Ohio EMA, (614) 799-3695.