



# STATE OF OHIO

## Emergency Operations Center

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[ema.ohio.gov](http://ema.ohio.gov)

### Joint Information Center **NEWS RELEASE** *2005 Severe Winter Weather Update #4*

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information:

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January 8, 2005

6 p.m.

### **STATE AGENCIES CONTINUE SUPPORT TO AFFECTED AREAS**

*49 Counties Remain Under State of Emergency Declaration*

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** –From the State Emergency Operations Center, 16 state and federal agencies and volunteer organizations are coordinating response and recovery efforts and monitoring ice and snow conditions in Northern Ohio and flooding in Southern Ohio. Governor Bob Taft has declared 49 counties under a state of emergency that allows state resources to be used to assist local governments and coordinate activities from the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center.

“Our focus is helping people by coordinating resources and operations with local efforts for an integrated response to the emergency,” said Dale Shipley, Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. “Progress is steadily being made with roads opening, power restoring and water receding.”

State agencies are working 43 missions stemming from recent snow and ice in Northern Ohio and flooding in Southern Ohio. At least ten county Emergency Operations Centers are open with **Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)** liaisons in affected counties.

Governor Bob Taft has declared 49 counties under a State of Emergency declaration: Allen, Ashland, Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Coshocton, Crawford, Darke, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hardin, Henry, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Huron, Jefferson, Knox, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Mercer, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, Preble, Richland, Ross, Seneca, Shelby, Tuscarawas, Union, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Wyandot.

#### **STATE AGENCY ACTIVITIES**

**Ohio Department of Transportation** continues to work debris removal in Northern Ohio. There are currently 526 crews working throughout the state and 82 flood related road closures in Ohio. This is down from 146 state or federal road closures on Thursday. ODOT continues to work debris removal missions in Allen, Belmont and Washington counties.

**Ohio State Highway Patrol** continues to assist ODOT and local officials with traffic control and road closures throughout affected jurisdictions. OSHP urges people to never drive through flooded roadways. Six inches of rushing floodwater can lift a vehicle off the road.

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## AGENCIES CONTINUE SUPPORT TO AFFECTED AREAS

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**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency** reported water boil advisories for Chillicothe, Logan and Madison counties. Ohio EPA is monitoring water treatment facilities in affected areas and responding as needed. Numerous facilities across the affected area are reporting overflows and bypasses of raw or partially treated sewage due to power outages and high flows. The Ohio EPA reminds citizens that floodwater should be considered contaminated.

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources** has rescued 41 people in ten missions. On one mission in Morrow County, an ODNR crew discovered an elderly woman knee-deep in frigid water in her mobile home. She was rescued and later treated for hypothermia.

**PUCO** reports approximately 101,200 people without power. At the height of the power outage due to the severe icing, snow and flooding, approximately 237,000 customers were without power. **First Energy** is reporting 23,000 customers in Medina and 3,400 customers in Akron are without power. **AEP** has approximately 46,500 customers out of service in Lima, Kenton, Bucyrus and Willard. **Dayton Power & Light** has approximately 15,000 customers without service in Dark, Mercer, Auglaize, Shelby and Logan counties. PUCO is reporting there are 15 Co-Ops with outages. **Sprint** is reporting 4,810 phone customers without service due to power outages in Lima, Mansfield and Sidney.

**Ohio Department of Health** continues to check on nursing homes in affected counties and no issues remain.

**Ohio Department of Administrative Services** is locating generators and equipment for debris removal missions.

The **Ohio National Guard** is monitoring the events from the EOC.

**Ohio EMA** continues to coordinate activities from the State EOC and will support county emergency management agencies with Ohio EMA field liaisons as needed. Currently, liaisons are supporting county EMAs in Logan County.

With multiple evacuations across the state, the **American Red Cross** is reporting that 76,553 homes have been affected and 18 shelters are currently open. Friday evening the shelters had a population of 352 with more than 1,000 meals served. A total of 50 Red Cross shelters have opened during this event.

**Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters** is locating flood clean-up kits for homeowners.

For more winter weather safety tips, log onto: [www.ema.ohio.gov/PDFs/Severe\\_Weather/Winter2004.pdf](http://www.ema.ohio.gov/PDFs/Severe_Weather/Winter2004.pdf)

For up-to-date information on road closures, visit: [www.buckeyetraffic.org](http://www.buckeyetraffic.org)

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**There will be no update on Sunday, January 9, 2005**