



# STATE OF OHIO

## Emergency Operations Center

---

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

### Joint Information Center **NEWS RELEASE** *2005 Severe Winter Weather Update #5*

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 10, 2005

For more information:

7 p.m.

Rob Glenn, Chief of Public Affairs, Ohio EMA at 614-799-3696

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY IN AFFECTED AREAS REMAINS A PRIORITY FOR STATE AGENCIES** *49 Counties Remain Under State of Emergency Declaration*

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** –From the State Emergency Operations Center, 16 state and federal agencies have been at work the past week conducting search and rescue missions, detouring traffic, working to reopen routes and interstates and tracking power outages. Governor Bob Taft has declared 49 counties under a state of emergency since severe ice storms, heavy snowfalls and flooding began hitting the State in late December.

“Progress continues as the weather improves,” said Nancy Dragani, Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. “State resources are having a positive impact on affected counties with needs related to public safety and removing debris.”

State agencies have received 60 missions with 28 ongoing missions to coordinate response when needed.

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** has 13 crews working on snow and ice removal in the northern region of the State. ODOT is also removing debris in Allen, Athens, Belmont, Logan, Meigs, Richland and Washington counties. Interstate 77 in Tuscarawas still has ramps closed at mile post 92 and State Route 212. There are 76 flood-related road closures in Ohio. During the height of the recent storm ODOT had 653 crews working throughout the state and 143 roads were closed.

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources** has rescued 41 people in ten missions. ODNR continues to have water rescue teams on stand-by. This morning, a search and rescue team at Paint Creek State Park on the border of Highland and Ross counties discovered one person drowned by driving his vehicle through deep water and being overcome by standing water. ODNR is also working landslides and sinkholes and monitoring river gauges for flooding potential.

**-MORE-**

## PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITY FOR STATE AGENCIES

2 of 2

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency** reported water boil advisories for Champaign, Monroe and Scioto 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.

**PUCO** reports less than 25,000 customers 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** has restored power in the Akron and Medina areas. Approximately 4,000 customers remain without power in the Mansfield area. Over 200 local and out of state crews are converging on Mansfield to restore power there. **AEP** has approximately 10,000 customers out of service in Kenton, Lima, Upper Sandusky, and Willard. **The Ohio Rural Cooperative** reports approximately 5,000 customers without service, and local and out of state crews are working to restore power. **Dayton Power & Light** reports 4,000 customers without power in Mercer and Shelby counties.

**Ohio Department of Health** is working to provide 100 doses of tetanus for Washington County. ODH is also assisting with water testing in the affected counties.

**Ohio Department of Administrative Services** is assisting local officials in locating resources for debris removal assistance including tub grinders and wood chippers, as well as continuing to try to locate generators.

**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 Clinton, Fairfield and Logan counties.

With multiple evacuations across the state, the **American Red Cross** is reporting that 89,817 homes have been affected and six shelters were open overnight. Shelters have housed 549 people and delivered meals and snacks for 2,367 people. The American Red Cross reports that 87 clean-up kits and 388 comfort kits have been distributed.

**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)

###