



# STATE OF OHIO

## Emergency Operations Center

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### Joint Information Center **NEWS RELEASE** *2005 Severe Winter Weather Update #10*

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 18, 2005

For more information:

5:30 p.m.

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

### **PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS TO BEGIN TODAY**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** - Today joint team of Federal Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Emergency Management Agency and local officials began conducting preliminary damage assessments. The large number of counties affected will cause the preliminary damage assessments will take some time to complete. Residents are encouraged to contact their local county EMA to report any damages.

“Joint damage assessment teams began surveying flooded areas today,” said Emergency Management Agency Executive Director Nancy Dragani. “Their results will determine the state’s applicability for federal disaster assistance.”

A total of 59 counties remain under a state of emergency declaration by Governor Bob Taft. The counties are: Allen, Ashland, Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Darke, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Huron, Jefferson, Knox, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Mercer, Meigs, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Richland, Ross, Seneca, Shelby, Stark, Tuscarawas, Union, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Wyandot counties.

#### **STATE AGENCY ACTIVITIES**

**Ohio Department of Transportation** is reporting that 54 US and state route closures are due to flooding. There are four counties with five or more closures including: Ashland, Coshocton, Stark and Tuscarawas. ODOT continues to assist with debris missions and slips. During the height of this storm event, ODOT had more than 650 crews working throughout the state, and more than 140 US and state routes were closed.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** continues to monitor conditions at its flood control reservoirs and dams around Ohio. Equipment is being positioned to remove debris at the Belleville Locks on the Ohio River where several barges had broken lose and lodged in the dam.

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources** provided a flat bottom boat to Licking County to assist with transporting goods to a village residents isolated by high water. During this storm event, ODNR has conducted 11 search missions, rescuing 51 people.

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**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency** continues to monitor waste water treatment plants and public water supplies.

The **American Red Cross** reported three shelters were opened Monday. ARC has placed families who need long-term housing in hotels. During the height of the flooding and power outage, the Red Cross had more than 40 shelters across the state opened, housing approximately 550 people. More than 2,500 meals were served.

**Ohio EMA** began preliminary damage assessments with FEMA and local officials today. EMA Field Liaisons continue to provide support to counties who need assistance. The State Emergency Operations Center coordinated nearly 100 missions during this storm event.

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**EDITORS NOTE: This will be the last daily update for this weather event.**