



Disaster News

FEMA -DR-OH-PR000

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TWO DISASTER OUTREACH CENTERS REMAINING OPEN

COLUMBUS, OH -- Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster recovery officials announced that the Disaster Outreach Centers in Bellefontaine and Bucyrus will remain open until further notice to serve victims of the winter storms and flooding that occurred between December 22, 2004 and February 1, 2005. Center locations and schedules are:

Bellefontaine - Logan County

Ohio Highpoint Career Center, House #4
 2280 State Route 540
 Bellefontaine, OH
 Hours of Operation
 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday thru Friday
 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday

Bucyrus - Crawford County

Crawford County Courthouse Conference Room,
 112 East Mansfield Street
 Bucyrus, OH
 Hours of Operation
 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday thru Friday
 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday

First register. Call toll-free application number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** or register online at www.fema.gov. Then visit a center to meet face-to-face with recovery specialists from local, state and federal, as well as voluntary, agencies with program and service information.

U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) staff will also be available at the center to assist victims with low-interest loan applications. Personnel at the centers can also provide disaster housing information, technical assistance on how to reduce future disaster damages, and referrals to other federal and state assistance programs.

After individuals have applied by phone, they may visit the center with any questions or to receive more specific information on federal and state recovery programs. To check on the status of their application, they may call the FEMA Helpline at same numbers listed above.

The Ohio EMA coordinates the state's response and recovery from the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center. One of the primary focuses of the agency is to ensure that Ohio citizens are prepared for all hazards with the capability to respond to and recover from an emergency or disaster and to lead mitigation efforts against the effects of future disasters.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.