



FEMA

February 21, 2005
FEMA-1580-DR-OH-PR005

Disaster News

FEMA	News Desk	614-890-8254
Ohio EMA	Julie Hinds	614-890-8424
SBA	Colleen Hiam	716-282-4612

FEMA AND OHIO EMA TO OPEN DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS

COLUMBUS, OH -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency have announced that three Disaster Recovery Centers will open this week to serve those affected by the winter storms and flooding that occurred between December 22 and February 1. Anyone who suffered damage or loss from this disaster may visit any one of these centers after having called to register for assistance.

Disaster Recovery Center Sites and Schedules:

- In Hockingport** – United Methodist Church, Community Center, 28821 Pavilion Street
Open Thursday and Friday, February 24 and 25 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
and Saturday, February 26 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon
- In Lucasville** - Valley Township Community Center, 459 Robert Lucas Road
Open Thursday and Friday, February 24 and 25 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
and Saturday, February 26 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon
- In Yellowbud** - United Methodist Church Annex, 599 Yellowbud Road
Open for one day only – Saturday, February 26 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The presidential declaration of February 15 made Ohioans in the following counties eligible for disaster assistance: Athens, Belmont, Clark, Coshocton, Crawford, Delaware, Franklin, Henry, Jefferson, Logan, Morgan, Muskingum Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Warren and Washington.

Homeowners, renters and business owners in declared counties who were affected by the disaster are urged to call and register for assistance by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**. The special number for those with hearing or speech impairment is **TTY 1-800-462-7585**. People may also register for assistance online at **www.fema.gov**.

“After calling to register, we encourage people to visit the center nearest them to meet face-to-face with our disaster recovery specialists,” said Lee Champagne, FEMA’s coordinating officer, said. “These centers will only be open for a short time and are a great source of free and useful information for those working to put their lives back together after disaster.”

PAGE TWO – Disaster Recovery Centers To Open

Recovery specialists at each center will be able to check on the status of assistance applications, provide information about various recovery programs and services available and provide help with U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loan application packets.

“Visitors to the Disaster Recovery Centers can also learn what their options are for repairing or rebuilding so they don’t have to face the same problems when severe storms strike again,” said Nancy Dragani executive director of Ohio Emergency Management Agency and state coordinating officer in the disaster recovery efforts.

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 to respond to and recover from an emergency or disaster and to lead mitigation efforts against the effects of future disasters. During times of disasters, Ohio EMA coordinates activities of responding state agencies and maintains liaison with similar agencies of other states and of the federal government.

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.

###