



Disaster News

FEMA -DR-OH-PR023

March 11, 2005

Contact:

Ohio EMA	Rob Glenn	614-799-3695
FEMA	News Desk	614-890-8254
SBA	Colleen Hiam	716-282-4612

FEMA AND OHIO EMA TO OPEN DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS

COLUMBUS, OH -- Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster recovery officials announced that Disaster Recovery Centers will open early next week in Pickerington and Union City to serve victims of the winter storms and flooding that occurred between December 22, 2004 and February 1, 2005. Center locations and schedules are:

Pickerington

Ohio University, Pickerington Branch
 12933 Stonecreek Drive
 Pickerington, OH 43147
 Hours of Operation
 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 15 through
 Friday, March 18

Union City

Union City Municipal Building
 419 East Elm Street
 Union City, OH 45390
 Hours of Operations
 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 16,
 through Friday, March 18.
 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 19

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.

###