



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

NEWS RELEASE
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State Officials Continue Assessment Efforts As Ohio Begins Recovery From Severe Winter Storm

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Emergency Management Agency is continuing monitoring and assessment of statewide recovery activities as Ohioans dig out from a major winter storm that dumped more than a foot of snow on many areas of the state during the past 48 hours. As of 9 a.m. this morning, local sheriffs' departments reported Level Three snow emergencies in six counties, Level Two snow emergencies in 43 counties and Level One snow emergencies in 11 counties.

County emergency management officials statewide are continuing to work closely with Ohio EMA in assessing the impact of the storm, with no counties reporting any declarations or requests for state assistance.

From 7 a.m. Friday through 7 a.m. Sunday, the Ohio State Highway Patrol investigated 2,166 crashes, with 215 involving injuries. Crash numbers reduced significantly during the period between 2 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday; an indication many Ohioans heeded the advice of state officials to remain off roadways during the evening hours Saturday.

Crews with the Ohio Department of Transportation are continuing to work extended hours to clear the state's highway system. As of 9 a.m. Sunday, 1,028 ODOT snow plows were in service statewide. Crews made significant progress overnight, clearing most of the areas where drifting was occurring along major highways. ODOT crews will continue efforts through Monday to get roadways scraped of all snow down to the pavement to allow additional treatments of salt. Currently, all major interstates remain open.

Motorists should continue to exercise caution as many areas of highways across the state continue to have a hard-packed snow covered surface. Drivers are also encouraged to give snow plows plenty of room to continue their work: Don't Crowd the Plows!

For up-to-date road conditions, ODOT reminds motorists to log on to www.buckeyetraffic.org or travelers may call the Ohio State Highway Patrol's toll-free road condition hotline, 1-888-2-OH-ROAD (264-7623).

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