



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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TORNADO DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS AND CLEAN-UP EFFORTS CONTINUE *Governor Strickland to Visit Storm-Damaged Areas*

Columbus, Ohio – The state of Ohio today received local state of emergency declarations from Athens, Perry and Wayne counties. County and state officials continue storm damage assessment and recovery efforts in all tornado and storm-affected areas. Thirteen people in Athens County were injured; approximately 500 were affected.

Counties affected by yesterday's storms include: Athens, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Holmes, Madison, Meigs, Mahoning, Perry, Pickaway, Tuscarawas and Wayne.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS) Storm Prediction Center's Web site, there were four tornado reports in Athens County last night, and two in Meigs County. The NWS Office in Charleston, WV is conducting storm and damage assessment to confirm tornado activities. The NWS confirmed an EF-1 tornado in Holmes County, and an EF 0 to 1 tornado in Tarlton, Ohio (Pickaway County).

As of 2 p.m. today, 18,405 customers remained without electrical service. AEP and South Central Power expect 90 percent of the outages to be restored by Monday.

The Ohio Department of Transportation and Ohio State Highway Patrol continue working road and traffic issues in Athens, Perry, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties.

Governor Ted Strickland today is touring areas damaged from last night's severe weather in Athens and Meigs counties, and will visit Wayne County Saturday. Thomas J. Stickrath, director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, was in Athens earlier today.

"The damage here is extensive, but we are already seeing significant efforts to clear debris and move forward," said Stickrath. "We were fortunate that no one in Ohio died because of the storms. Our thoughts go out to those who were injured and whose homes and property were damaged. State and local officials are working together to assess the damage and do whatever possible to clean up and recover quickly."

People who have sustained storm damage to their homes are encouraged to contact their local emergency management agencies. The State Emergency Operations Center's Assessment Room will remain operational to field affected counties' missions, resource requests and damage reports.

To review information on tornado safety and severe weather preparedness, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

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