



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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State Emergency Operations Center Activated Through Weekend to Coordinate Ohio Assistance to Irene-Stricken States

Columbus, OH – Before Hurricane Irene slammed the East Coast, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) was ready to assist. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) desk at the agency was activated and staffed throughout the weekend to monitor the hurricane and to coordinate Ohio’s response to assistance requests.

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact is a congressionally ratified organization that allows member states to quickly assist and respond to disasters. EMAC offers a responsive system for states to send personnel and equipment to help disaster relief efforts in impacted states. Ohio has been a signatory member of EMAC since 2002.

Ohio deployed an incident management team to Long Island, NY to assist Suffolk County incident management personnel and increase existing staff.

Yesterday, the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association was prepared to send basic life support ambulance strike teams to New Jersey, but the mission was cancelled before it could be fulfilled.

“The state of Ohio stands ready and prepared to assist the East Coast during its recovery from Hurricane Irene,” said Nancy Dragani, executive director of the Ohio EMA. “We have highly skilled response personnel and resources available to help the hurricane and flood ravaged states recover and rebuild from the storms’ impact.”

Ohio is prepared to fill several other EMAC requests currently on hold, pending additional information from requesting states.

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