



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center
NEWS RELEASE
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John R. Kasich, Governor

Emergency Management Agency
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2012

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State Emergency Operations Center Activates in Response to Severe Storms
One Severe Weather Related Fatality Reported in Muskingum County

Columbus—As severe storms swept across the majority of the state during the evening rush hour, the State Emergency Operations Center has been activated to assist local communities with a variety of power outages, debris and road closure issues. Currently, there are more than 1 million customers without electricity throughout Ohio.

As temperatures continue to climb in the 90's this weekend, residents without power are urged to seek cooling centers in their area. Residents can contact 211 or the local Red Cross to find out where cooling centers or shelters are located.

“The combination of power outage and heat will create very difficult situations for families and we want everyone to stay safe,” says Nancy Dragani, State Emergency Operations Center Director. “If you are experiencing a life threatening emergency please call 911 for help.”

The State EOC will be open and activated until the local communities are no longer in need of information or resources. State agencies supporting the response efforts include the, Ohio Departments of Transportation, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Health, Public Safety, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Additional safety tips are for residents currently without power:

Appliances in the home should be turned off during a power failure.

When power is restored, higher voltage surges are possible and may cause damage to some devices. Turning off or unplugging appliances, including television sets, will help prevent surges or circuit overloads when service is restored. Leave one light on to know when power is restored.

Downed power lines are not safe to touch or be near, whether they are on the ground or caught in fallen trees.

Power lines are not insulated like home extension cords, and must never be picked up or moved by individuals other than electrical utility workers. Other lines, such as cable TV or telephone lines can become energized if they contact fallen, active power lines. To be safe, never touch or attempt to move any fallen lines.

If you are operating an electrical generator, notify your power company.

A working generator can feed current into the power lines, creating a danger for repair workers. In addition, when power is restored, this can create a fire hazard to the generator itself.

What should I do if I see a downed power line?

DO NOT TOUCH OR ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE LINE. The current running through the line can be deadly. You should contact emergency personnel and the electric company immediately. Stay a safe distance from the line at all times.

If you experience frequent outages, what should you do?

All outages should be immediately reported to your electric company. The company must keep a record of all outages. If you are not satisfied with the reliability of your electric service, you can contact the PUCO's toll free call center at (800) 686-PUCO (7826). If warranted, the PUCO can ask for the company's records of outages in your area. At that point, the PUCO will choose the best course of action.

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