



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center
NEWS RELEASE
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John R. Kasich, Governor
Emergency Management Agency
2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ohio Joint Information Center, (614) 799-6480

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OPEN BURNING OF DEBRIS DISCOURAGED

Due to Unusually Dry Conditions, Residents Clearing Debris Urged to Refrain from Burning

COLUMBUS ([July 2, 2012](#)) – With weather forecasters predicting the hot and dry conditions experienced in the state to continue for the next few days, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency are emphasizing that [no permission for open burning of debris](#) has been authorized. This will be the case until further notice. In the severe hot and dry conditions forecasted for the state, the potential for fires to spread out of control is greatly increased.

Ohioans clearing debris from their property in restricted areas will not be permitted to burn the material until weather conditions improve. Ohioans clearing debris from their property in unrestricted areas are strongly discouraged from burning storm debris.

Under Ohio rules, open burning is not permitted in restricted areas, which include:

- the boundaries of any municipal corporation;
- corporation limits and a 1,000-foot zone outside any municipal corporation having a population of 1,000 to 10,000; and
- corporation limits and a one-mile zone outside any municipal corporation with a population of more than 10,000.

In areas outside those zones, there are fewer restrictions and open burning is allowed if it complies with state rules and local ordinances. Again, Ohio EPA discourages open burning in these areas at all times, and certainly until dry conditions are less severe.

In addition, many areas of Ohio are experiencing air quality concerns. Open burning sends smoke and tiny particles into the air and leads to diminished air quality.

Chronology

- July 2: FEMA delivers initial water supplies to counties and other local governments.
- July 1: Another round of severe storms move across Ohio wiping out power to more residents.
- July 1: Members of Ohio National Guard deploy to help check on Ohioans who may be at risk as a result of power outages and extreme heat.

- June 30: Gov. Kasich's request for federal assistance is approved.
- June 30: Gov. Kasich spoke to the President and requested federal assistance to respond to the storm. He also spoke with utility company CEOs and local elected officials to make state resources available to expedite recovery activities.
- June 30: Gov. Kasich declared an emergency for the entire state of Ohio so state agencies can assist local government response and recovery efforts. The National Guard was activated to help deliver needed supplies and conduct door-to-door checks in select areas to identify vulnerable Ohioans threatened by the severe heat.
- June 29: Ohio's Emergency Operations Center in Columbus was activated to coordinate state and local storm recovery efforts. The state contacted Federal Emergency Management Agency officials to let them know federal assistance may be needed.
- June 29: Severe storms and high winds during evening rush hour knocked out power for approximately one million homes and businesses across two-thirds of the state.

Residents without power can call their local 211 numbers for information and assistance, or 911 in an emergency. Information is also available online at www.ema.ohio.gov and on Twitter at #OHwx and #severeweather.

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