



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ohio Continues to Recover from Arctic Blast and Propane Shortage**

COLUMBUS, OH –Ohio continues to recover from the arctic blast and the backlash of the propane shortage that plagued the Midwest. The Ohio Emergency Operations Center’s assessment room remains operational, coordinating state response to affected counties to ensure those without propane are receiving the resources they need to stay safe.

The challenges in delivering propane for consumers during this prolonged period of cold weather started with a confluence of events beginning in October. Abundant grain crops were being harvested throughout the Upper Midwest almost simultaneously this fall. This was a large, wet crop which required massive amounts of propane in order to be dried prior to storage. That demand reduced propane inventories throughout the area. At the same time, infrastructure realignments inhibited the transportation of propane. As the harvest demand ended, a massive winter storm rolled across much of the country and the demand for residential, commercial and agricultural heat soared.

In an effort to speed the delivery of available propane to Ohioans, Governor John R. Kasich issued a statewide energy emergency declaration. The order, which expires Feb. 16, allows commercial drivers transporting heating oil and propane to spend more time on the road making deliveries. The Governor requested the same exemption at the interstate level and the U.S. Department of Transportation subsequently issued a similar declaration.

“More work remains ahead of us,” says Nancy Dragani, Executive Director, Ohio Emergency Management Agency. “Just because the temperatures have eased does not mean winter is over. We will continue to monitor the supply issues of propane and heating fuel throughout the state.” State officials from the Ohio Departments of Commerce, State Fire Marshal Division, Agriculture, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio are working to connect families with propane merchants who have supply.

State officials reemphasize the importance of practicing extreme caution when using alternate heating sources. Improper use can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning and home fires. For residents in need, please contact your local 211 for information and lists of resources. Call 911 in an emergency. Information is also available online at [www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov). Follow along on Twitter @Ohio\_EMA

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