

### March Snowstorms: Seventeen Counties Eligible for Federal Disaster Assistance

On April 24, President George Bush declared a federal emergency for 17 counties in Ohio and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local response efforts endured during the March 7-9 record and near record snow fall.

Ashtabula, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Crawford, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Geauga, Greene, Hardin, Huron, Lake, Morrow, Richland, Union and Wyandot counties are eligible to apply for FEMA reimbursement of to 75 percent of their costs for snow removal and other protective measures incurred over a continuous 48-hour period.

FEMA crews and trucks rolled into Franklin County on Tuesday and set the Joint Field Office in Dublin, approximately five miles east of Ohio EMA. The JFO was operational on Wednesday. Michael Smith is the federal coordinating officer for this disaster; Nancy Dragani, the state coordinating officer; Sima Merick, the deputy SCO.

Ohio EMA's Disaster Recovery Branch (public assistance staff) will conduct applicants' briefings during the week of May 5. See the following schedule:

Monday, May 5	Crawford County	9:00 a.m.
	Wyandot County	12:30 p.m.
	Hardin County	3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 6	Union County	9:00 a.m.
	Morrow County	9:30 a.m.
	Delaware County	1:00 p.m.
	Fairfield County	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 7	Clermont County	10:00 a.m.
	Brown County	2:00 p.m.
	Huron County	3:00 p.m.
	Richland County	3:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 8	Franklin County	9:00 a.m.
	Greene County	10:00 a.m.
	Clinton County	2:00 p.m.
	Lake County	2:30 p.m.
Friday, May 9	Ashtabula County	8:30 a.m.
	Geauga County	12:30 p.m.



Record snowfall in Columbus. More than 20 inches of snow fell, March 7 and 8. (Wikipedia photo gallery)



FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Michael Smith is working the Ohio snow disaster and the Indiana flood disaster from the Joint Field Office located in Dublin, Ohio.



Homeland Security Threat Level:  
**ELEVATED**



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attack  
**HIGH or Orange for Aviation Sector**

## FEMA Releases Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-20013

On April 16, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency released its Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-2013. The plan supports one of the major goals the Secretary of Homeland Security has set for the department: to strengthen the nation's preparedness and emergency response capabilities.

The strategic plan sets five goals in building a strong and adaptable national emergency management system that better leverages existing national capabilities, emphasizes responsibility for individual preparedness and enhances public and private sector partnerships. FEMA's strategic goals are:

- Lead an integrated approach that strengthens the nation's ability to address disasters, emergencies and terrorist events
- Deliver easily accessible and coordinated assistance for all programs
- Provide reliable information at the right time for all users
- FEMA invests in people and people invest in FEMA to ensure mission success
- Build public trust and confidence through performance and stewardship

The plan and a "plan-in-brief" are available on-line at [www.fema.gov/about/strategicplanfy08.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/about/strategicplanfy08.shtm).

*FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.*

### FEMA, Region V Executive Pandemic Seminar



FEMA, Region V state emergency management directors meet with the FEMA, Region V administrator during the Executive Pandemic Seminar that took place in Chicago, May 1 and 2. Pictured from left to right: Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management, Department of Military Affairs Administrator Johnnie Smith; Indiana Department of Homeland Security Executive Director Joseph Wainscott, Jr.; Ohio Emergency Management Agency Executive Director Nancy Dragani; Illinois Emergency Management Agency Director Andrew Valasquez, III; and Regional Administrator Edward Buikema.

## The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness

For 30 years, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has been dedicated in educating the public on severe weather safety and preparedness. The committee's goal is to inform Ohio residents of weather hazards that typically affect the state, and to encourage families to plan ahead, practice their plans, and know what to do during different types of weather and home emergencies.

April through August mark the peak season when tornadoes occur in Ohio. But time has shown that tornadoes can occur in any month at any time. Planning ahead and practicing the plans will significantly lower the chance of injury or death in the event of fire or severe weather.

### Preparing for a tornado

- Designate a shelter area in your home. Basements or storm cellars are the safest. If there is no basement, use an interior room with no windows or hallway on the building's lowest level.
- Practice getting to your shelter area (perform drills).
- If you live in a mobile home, find a sturdy building nearby where you can take shelter. Mobile homes offer little protection from a tornado.
- Contact your local emergency management agency to find out if there are any public safe rooms or shelters nearby. Also inform your local EMA of any special needs the household may have.
- Know the locations of designated shelter areas in places like schools, office buildings and shopping centers.



For additional information on severe weather safety and preparedness, visit [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>May 4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
		Hazardous Weather & Flood Preparedness Ohio EMA				
 <i>Mother's Day</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	 <i>Armed Forces Day</i>
		Emergency Planning Ohio EMA		Water TAC Ohio EMA	NE OH Pan Flu Exercise-Tabletop Cleveland, OH	
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
		Evacuation & Re-Entry Planning Ohio EMA		Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA		
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>Memorial Day</b>					

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training> - TAC - Technical Advisory Committee