





# This Week in Ohio EMA



Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director  
 Ohio EMA Public Affairs (614) 799-3695 www.ema.ohio.gov

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**‘Dry Hurricane’ Leaves More Than 1.9 million Ohioans in the Dark for Days**  
**Governor Declares Statewide Emergency; Federal/State Damage Assessments Begin October 6**

Usually, if a large hurricane strikes the Gulf Coast, storm remnants hit Ohio in the form of heavy rains and flooding. But not this time.

When Hurricane Ike made landfall in Texas on September 13, meteorologists reported that the storm’s radius was almost as large as Texas, itself - more than 500 miles across. People residing along the coast and peninsula were ordered to evacuate or face “certain death.”

This time it wasn’t the storm’s excessive rains that worked their way up to Ohio; it was the storm’s massive winds. Sunday afternoon, winds equaling a Category 1 hurricane (winds up to 74 mph) took more than four hours to move diagonally across the state, southwest to northeast. The extreme winds caused downed trees and power lines throughout the state.



A large tree limb takes down a power line during the September 14 severe windstorm. / Hamilton’s Journal-News photo by Dayton resident Annie Van Auker.

At the height of the incident, more than 1.9 million customers throughout Ohio were without electricity. Governor Ted Strickland declared a state of emergency on the morning of Sept. 15; a total of seven Ohioans died as a result of the storm. Eighty-four counties, total, reported windstorm damage, fallen debris and/or power outages.

State officials worked around the clock from the state operations room, monitoring the situation, and coordinating resources through their liaisons dispatched throughout the state. Agencies and organizations included: Ohio EMA and Ohio State Highway Patrol, divisions of the Ohio Department of Public Safety; Public Utilities Commission of Ohio; Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Ohio National Guard; Ohio Community Service Council; American Red Cross; and Ohio Departments of Aging, Agriculture, Health, Insurance, Job and Family Services, Mental Health, Natural Resources, and Transportation.

During the week of October 6, FEMA and Ohio EMA will conduct preliminary damage assessments in 33 locally declared counties that received substantial damage from the Sept. 14 windstorm. PDA results will be included in a letter from the governor to the president, requesting a federal disaster declaration for public assistance, all categories, A-G.

**See ‘Windstorm,’ page 2**

### ***Windstorm (continued)***

The storm may cost the state's private insurance companies more than \$500 million, according to the Ohio Insurance Institute. The state said the windstorm cost local governments at least \$34.5 million.

FEMA/Ohio EMA PDA Schedule with 33 Counties:

#### **Monday, October 6**

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Ashland, Delaware, Pickaway, Shelby, Summit, Warren

#### **Tuesday, October 7**

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Franklin, Holmes, Miami, Tuscarawas  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Coshocton, Knox, Madison, Preble, Union  
Time allotted all day for: Hamilton County

#### **Wednesday, October 8**

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Champaign, Clermont, Clinton, Licking, Perry  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Brown, Clark, Fairfield, Highland, Hocking  
Time allotted all day for: Butler County

#### **Thursday, October 9**

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Greene, Montgomery, Morrow

To be conducted over the phone or in cooperation with the Rural Electric Cooperatives: Carroll, Guernsey and Harrison counties

### ***Memorial Field of Flags ~ September 11***



The Memorial Field of Flags, set up at the Ohio Statehouse, honors the memory of the 2,999 victims who died on Sept. 11, 2001.

### **Some of Ohio's National Preparedness Month Activities**

#### **Belmont County Fair and Belmont County EMA**



More than 300 Belmont County second graders participated in a field trip to the Belmont County Fairgrounds on September 4, the first week of National Preparedness Month and "Ready Schools." This group of students visited the EMA booth, interested in starting an emergency preparedness plan for their families and pets. They learned to "Have a plan. Have a kit. If ordered to evacuate - do it!"

#### **Patriot's Day at the Statehouse, Sept. 11**



ODPS Director Henry Guzmán (at podium) and Ohio Boy and Girl Scout troops lead the audience in the Pledge of Alligiance. Also pictured from left to right (background): Col. Michael Pannell, Franklin County EMA director; Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman; Governor Ted Strickland; Franklin County Board of Commissioners President Marilyn Brown; and FirstLink President Marilee Chinnici-Zuercher.

#### **Darke County's "Pledge to Prepare" Walk - Sept. 27**

Darke County Red Cross Chapter and Darke County EMA co-hosted a "Pledge to Prepare" walk on Saturday, Sept. 27. County first responders were invited to participate, venturing through their communities, dispersing disaster preparedness information, door-to-door. It was a great opportunity to increase public awareness.

**ODPS-EMA Fiscal Branch Returns to Ohio EMA**



The EMA Fiscal Branch physically relocated to the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Shipley Building in 2006. After nearly two years, they've returned! (Back row, left to right) Ann Lechner, Porscha Donahue, Nichole Fields, Linda Williams and Rick Holly. (Front row, left to right) Nancy Boyd, Branch Chief Stacie Kitchen, Sandra Arnold and Queen Hopkins. Welcome Back!

**EMA Updates:**

Chad Berginnis, Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch Chief Resigning October 3 (obtained new employment)

Tom Collins, Ohio EMA Disaster Service Consultant, Disaster Recovery Branch Resigning September 30 (moving to California)

**Upcoming Severe Weather Awareness Dates:**

Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week: November 16-22, 2008

National Flood Safety Awareness Week: March 16-20, 2009

Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 22-28

Statewide Tornado Drill: March 25, 9:50 a.m.

National Lightning Safety Awareness Week: June 21-27, 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Ohio EMA Open House 10am-12pm</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
		Damage Assessment Ohio EMA	Debris Management Ohio EMA		Cost Documentation Ohio EMA	
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>October 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
		HMEP Reimbursement Requests DUE to EMA	LEPC Compliance Report DUE to EPA			Fayette & Highland Multi-County Exer. <i>Hillsboro, Ohio</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
	Animal Health TAC Ohio EMA				FY08 EMPG Work Plan Updates DUE	
					FY07 CCP 3rd Report DUE	
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
		EOC Management & Operations Ohio EMA				
			HMEP Supplemental Reimbursement Requests DUE	Bomb TAC SFM Office		
			ODH Biological Exercise - Columbus	Water TAC Ohio EMA	LEPC Plan and Checklist DUE to EMA	

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>

TAC - Technical Advisory Committee    HMEP - Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grants    LEPC - Local Emergency Planning Committee    CCP - Citizen Corps Program    EMPG - Emergency Management Performance Grants