ELECTED OFFICIALS' GUIDE to EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

EMA
PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC TRUST

The primary mission of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency is to coordinate activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. This mission is carried out by closely interfacing with local, state and federal agencies in an effort to bring resources of recovery and support to Ohioans impacted by the disaster. In addition to disaster response and recovery, Ohio EMA agency activities include: education, training, planning and preparedness — strengthening Ohio's first responder capabilities and improving communication across the state.

Mission Statement

To coordinate activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Vision Statement

A safer future through effective partnerships committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters.

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OVERVIEW

Established under Chapter 5502 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency is the central point of coordination within the state for response and recovery to disasters. When not in response or recovery mode, the primary focus of the agency is to ensure that the state and its citizens are prepared to respond to an emergency or disaster and to lead mitigation efforts against the effects of future disasters.

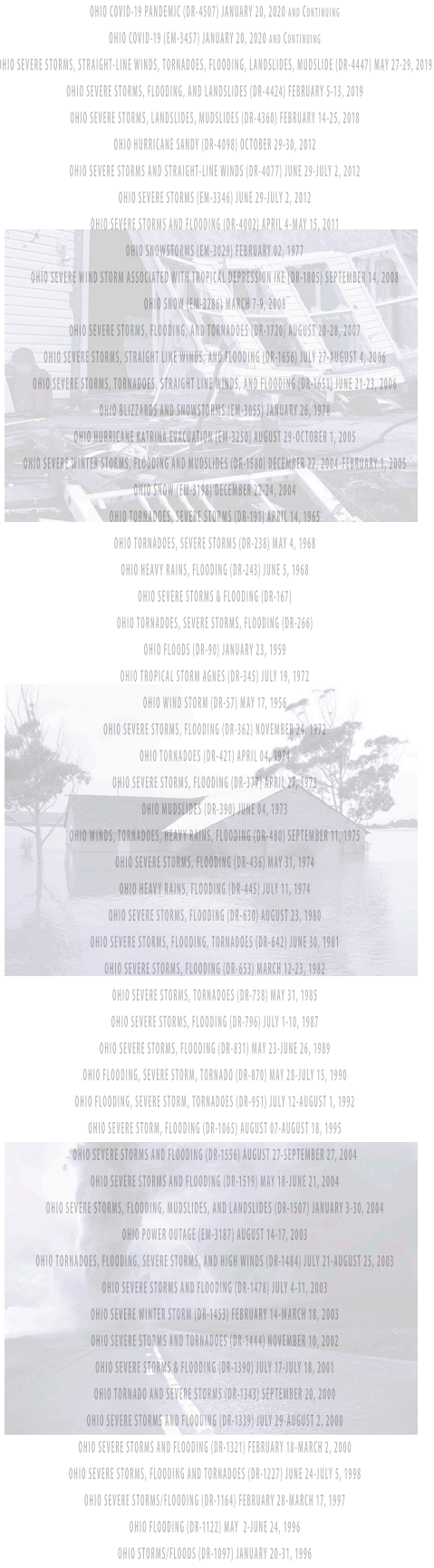
THIS GUIDE IS A SUMMARY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN THE STATE OF OHIO AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY OR DISASTER. DETAILED INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE STATE OF OHIO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN AT EMA.OHIO.GOV.

Effective emergency management systems are a tiered effort. When an emergency exceeds the capacity of local government, state assistance is requested through Ohio EMA. If an emergency exceeds the capacity of the state, aid is requested from the president through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). To ensure preparedness and the capability to respond at all levels, it is critical that Ohio EMA staff interface regularly with local and federal counterparts.

During an emergency response or recovery effort, all sections and branches are focused on the event. As the governor's emergency management organization, Ohio EMA can activate the State Emergency Operations Center to better coordinate emergency response with state agencies and volunteer organizations.

Ohio law designates the executive director of Ohio EMA as the state coordinator during emergency response and stipulates the executive director:

> *"Shall coordinate all activities of all agencies for emergency management within the state, shall maintain liaison with similar agencies of other states and of the federal government, shall cooperate with those agencies subject to the approval of the governor, and shall develop a statewide emergency operations plan that shall meet any applicable federal requirements for such plans."*



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PHASES

MITIGATION:

Activities undertaken to avoid, eliminate, or reduce the probability of an occurrence, or to lessen the effects of an emergency/disaster. It involves actions to protect lives and property and to defend against attacks.

PREPAREDNESS:

Activities undertaken to prepare for disasters and emergencies and facilitate future response and recovery efforts. Includes writing emergency operations plans and procedures, training, exercises, evacuation planning, public education, and warning.

RESPONSE:

Activities undertaken in the immediate aftermath of a disaster that help to reduce casualties and damage, and that expedite recovery. Response activities include warning, evacuation, rescue, and other similar operations.

RECOVERY:

Recovery from disasters are short- and long-term actions taken by disaster survivors and governmental entities to rebuild communities. Actions include helping disaster survivors return to permanent housing and replace essential personal property, reconstruction of infrastructure, community redevelopment activities, and long-term redevelopment planning.

THE ROLE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Emergency management, from mitigation through long-term recovery, must be recognized and supported by all elected officials as a critical government service.

You play a crucial role in public safety. Your understanding and support of emergency management is vital to the safety and well-being of the public and our communities. Emergency management is a critical government function from mitigation through long-term disaster recovery and preparedness efforts.

Before a disaster occurs, elected officials are encouraged to meet with their emergency management officials and establish solid relationships, request briefings on state and local preparedness efforts, learn about emergency plans and procedures, and visit emergency operations centers and other critical facilities.

- Lend support to state and local public information campaigns that increase preparedness activities and build community resiliency.
- The Ohio EMA Watch Office provides awareness reports twice a day to public safety partners throughout the state. The reports provide a comprehensive overview of potential hazards or ongoing incidents that are, or may require a coordinated response by state partners. Elected officials may request being added to the Watch Office's report distribution group by e-mailing emawatch@dps.ohio.gov.

During times of crisis, elected officials can be a valuable asset to their communities by having a clear understanding of how government responds to emergencies and disasters, what resources are available, what types of assistance can be provided to citizens and local governments, and how much time it may take to deliver the assistance.

Policymakers have a responsibility to make decisions that will ensure the safety of their constituents and communities, even when those decisions may be unpopular. Mitigation should be encouraged before a disaster occurs to strengthen and protect critical infrastructure, provide incentives to communities for the adoption and enforcement of effective building codes, and reward builders and homeowners who make responsible decisions to mitigate risk that can have positive impacts on the entire community (such as building tornado safe rooms or participation in the National Flood Insurance Program).

Components OF AN EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:

- Emergency management agencies are appropriately staffed, trained and resourced.
- Emergency operations centers are functional and used to coordinate disaster response; interoperable communications systems are in place; and information-sharing takes place between all response entities.
- Emergency warning and notification systems exist.
- Government has the ability to provide clear and timely information to the public during times of disaster.
- Mutual aid systems help facilitate the request or provision of supplemental disaster assistance when needed.
- The private sector, volunteer agencies and other key stakeholders are engaged with government in planning and preparedness activities and are effectively utilized during disaster response and recovery.
- Ohioans understand their responsibility and take action to prepare for disasters and lessen their reliance on government.
- Communication and coordination takes place regularly between emergency management agencies at all levels of government.

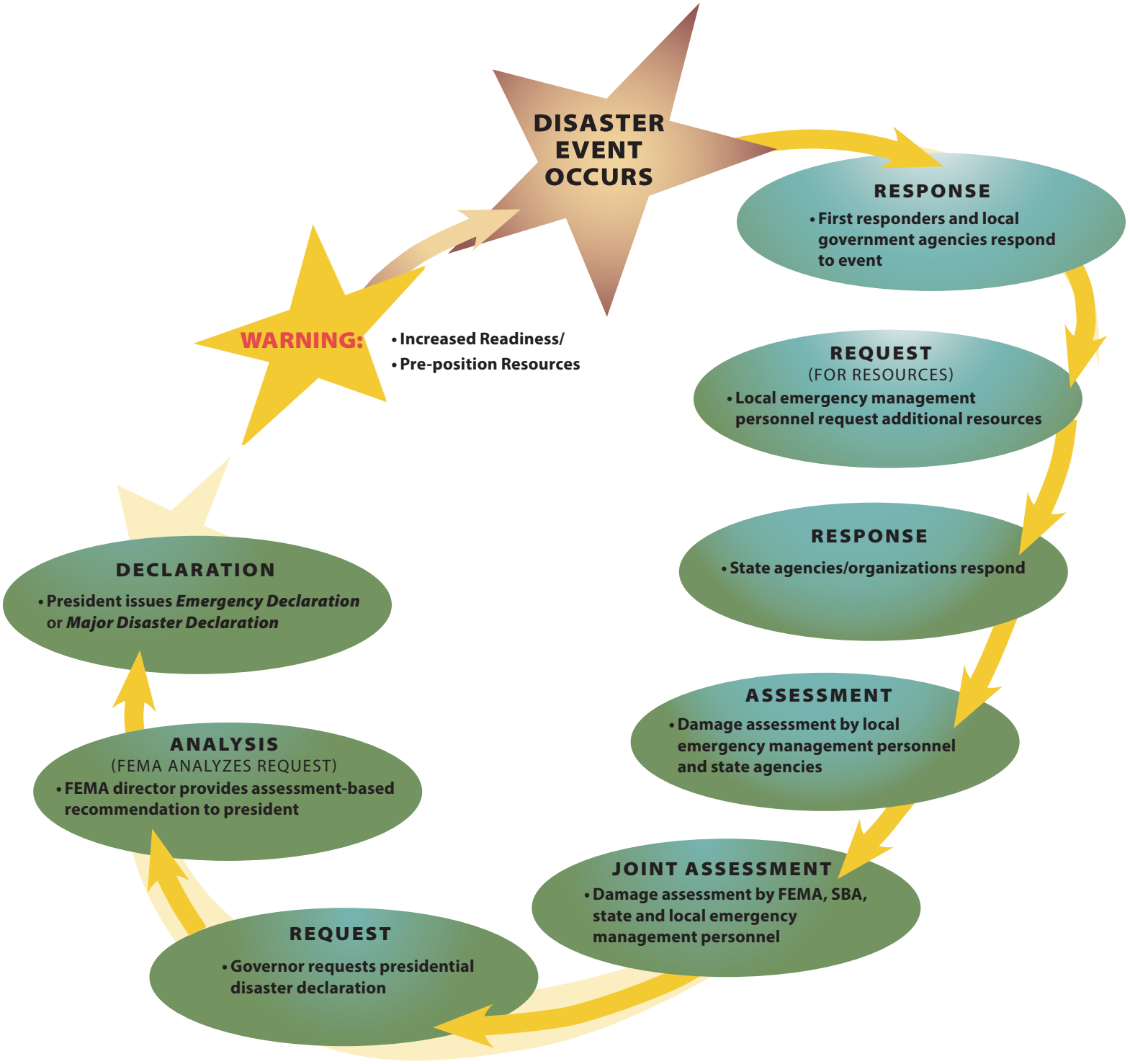
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand and recover from adverse situations.

Resilient cities:

- Are aware of their vulnerabilities and assets
- Have diverse and redundant systems to cope with disaster
- Have agencies that are integrated and share information
- Are self-regulating — if one system fails, they can cut it off without allowing it to cascade into catastrophic failure
- Are adaptive and flexible.

DISASTER SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
FOR A FEDERAL DECLARATION



STATE OF OHIO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

The Ohio Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) corresponds to the U.S. National Response Framework format – a system of 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) and four annexes that:

- Describe the state's operational response structure.
- Discuss the state's hazards and risks.
- Outline how the state will mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters.
- Provide an overview of how state-level emergency response resources will be accessed, mobilized, and managed.
- Provide details on the emergency response-related assignments of responsibility plans of more than 70 state and federal partner agencies.
- Discuss the state's multi-level cooperative emergency operations response.

HTTPS://WWW.EMA.OHIO.GOV/EOP_OVERVIEW.ASPX

POTENTIAL HAZARDS IN OHIO:

- Tornadoes
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Windstorms
- Winter Storms (Snow/Ice)
- Flooding
- Dam / Levee Failures
- Earthquakes
- Building/Structure Collapses
- Explosions and Fires
- Radiological Incidents
- Energy / Power / Utility Failures
- Terrorism Incidents
- Pandemics (Human &/or Animal Diseases), Emerging Diseases

OHIO EMA WATCH OFFICE

The Ohio EMA prides itself on providing a platform of information-sharing resources, from coordination calls to the use of the State Emergency Operations Center, for emergency management partners and decision-makers at all levels of government.The potential need for the aforementioned resources used to address consequence management associated with all hazards - whether they're man-made situation, infrastructure issues, health-related events, or severe weather events - does not end at the close of typical business hours.

No matter the event or time of day, Ohio EMA is prepared to work with partners to address planning, prevention or response needs through effective information-sharing. The Ohio EMA Watch Office serves as a single point of contact for partners to report incidents, potential hazards or assistance requests, in the event that local resources are overwhelmed.

The office provides daily comprehensive reports on potential and ongoing incidents throughout the state, as well as incident-specific reports to Ohio EMA leadership.

Analysts work with partners at the local, state and federal levels to:

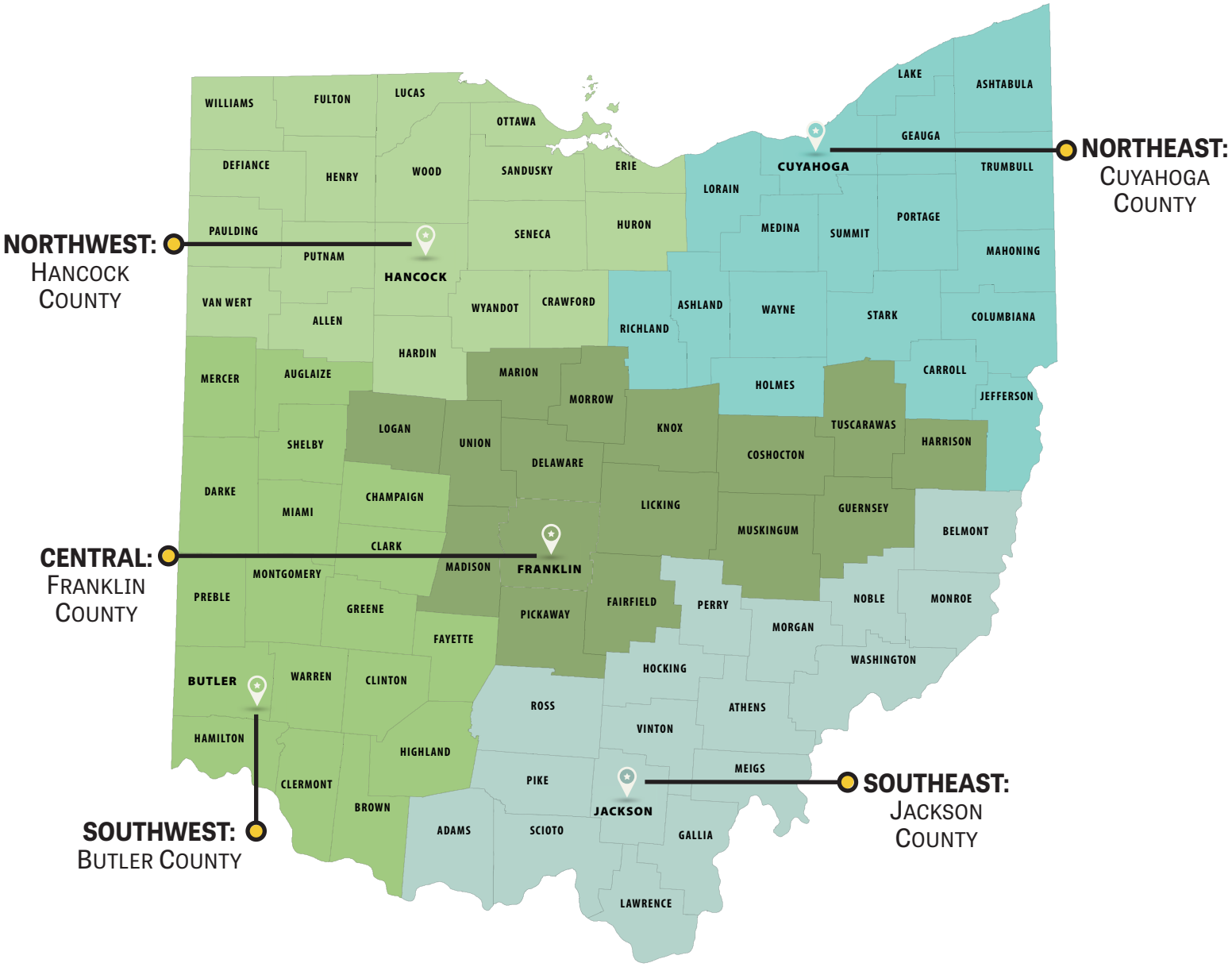
- Increase the flow of timely, accurate incident and hazard information to event-appropriate decision makers (i.e., county EMAs, State EOC partners).
- Streamline response to requests for state assistance during all status levels of the State EOC.
- Identify potential future hazards.
- Identify opportunities to address gaps in preparedness planning, and opportunities to develop new relationships.

The Watch Office also provides the State EOC with a consistent voice as the need to transition from daily operations into an elevated status is identified.

During State EOC activations, the Watch Office contributes to the center's information and planning function.

OHIO EMA REGIONAL FIELD OFFICES

To assist in the state's effort to improve response capabilities to serve Ohio citizens, county EMAs and first responders, the Ohio EMA has five regional field offices staffed by a regional supervisor and an emergency management specialist.



Regional staff improve the state's efficiency and speed up response time and assistance when disaster strikes. Regional personnel are available 24 hours a day to assist county emergency management directors in the response to, preparation for, recovery from, and mitigation against all potential hazards and risks threatening the state.

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

Based on factors including location, severity, property and population affected, many types of state, local, and federal assistance programs are available.

LOCAL EMERGENCY - Proclaimed by the governing body of a local government, a local emergency occurs when conditions become or are anticipated to exceed the resources of a local jurisdiction.

STATE OF EMERGENCY - Proclaimed by the governor when conditions exceed the control of local government and require the combined forces of mutual aid regions.

PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY - Declared by the president following the governor's request that state and local resources have been tasked, requiring federal assistance limited to emergency work.

PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION OF MAJOR DECLARATION - Declared by the president following the governor's request that federal financial assistance is needed to supplement state and local recovery efforts.

U.S. SBA DESIGNATION - Designated by the Small Business Association, based on a state request.

USDA DISASTER DECLARATION - Designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture secretary, based on a state request.

FIRE MANAGEMENT - Declared by FEMA based on a state request, not requiring a local assistance declaration or state proclamation, or a presidential declaration.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Ohio EMA's Disaster Recovery Branch provides training, guidance, and technical assistance regarding supplemental disaster assistance programs. Following disasters, the Disaster Recovery Branch provides damage assessment guidance and administers the following:

FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) PROGRAM:

- The FEMA PA Program provides reimbursement to state and local governments, and eligible private nonprofit organizations, for damages sustained to infrastructure, and for debris removal and emergency protective measures. The Disaster Recovery Branch administers and cost-shares this program with FEMA paying 75%.

INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS (IHP) PROGRAM:

- *Disaster Housing Grant Program* provides grants for rental assistance and/or emergency home repair to eligible applicants.
- *Other Needs Assistance (ONA) Grant Program* provides grants for serious needs and necessary expenses such as personal property, transportation, medical and dental expenses, child care, and funeral costs. The ONA program is available to those who do not qualify for a loan from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and have uninsured expenses not met by other sources such as insurance.

STATE DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM (SDRP):

- SDRP funds are available to local governments and certain nonprofit organizations through the Ohio EMA to reimburse for eligible damages associated with disaster events that are not declared by the president. Based on FEMA's Public Assistance Program, the state program has a 75%/25% cost share, except for regular time labor, which is cost-shared at 50%/50%.

STATE INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE (IA) PROGRAM:

- Ohio EMA administers grant funds to reimburse for uninsured eligible items damaged or lost from a natural disaster event not declared by the president, but declared by the Small Business Administration (SBA). Based on elements of FEMA's Individuals and Households Grant Program, the state program can provide limited grant funding for serious needs and necessary expenses not provided by the SBA or other assistance.

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) DISASTER LOANS:

Disaster assistance loans provide financial assistance in a declared disaster area. SBA disaster loans are available to homeowners and business owners.

- *Physical Disaster Loans* for real and personal property loans, are implemented when at least 25 homes and/or three businesses each have suffered at least 40% uninsured losses.
- *SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)* provides working capital loans for businesses, implemented when at least five businesses have suffered economic injury and other assistance is not available. It may be implemented under a USDA designation, or may be implemented under SBA physical declarations.

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Elected officials should make sure the public, private sector, and media understand the limitations of government in disasters and plan for emergencies in advance.

Increasing reliance on government to meet the most basic needs of people in the immediate aftermath of a disaster leads to unrealistic expectations and causes other vital response and recovery actions to be delayed.

Disaster assistance programs are available to help individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and governments recover following a disaster, but the programs are limited, and many include loans that must be repaid or require a shared financial contribution. Sufficient government funding is not available to fully restore what can be lost in a disaster. Therefore, it is important that people consider the following: make good decisions about where they build their homes and locate their businesses; purchase adequate insurance; put emergency plans in place; and take actions to lessen the impact of disasters before they strike.

State and local emergency management agencies regularly promote individual and family preparedness through public information campaigns. Annually, the state of Ohio promotes spring and winter severe weather awareness campaigns, statewide tornado drills, The Great ShakeOut earthquake drills, and National Preparedness Month. Specific instructions on what to do during an emergency or disaster can be found on agencies' websites, along with emergency plans, evacuation routes, and emergency shelter locations. Elected officials are encouraged to contact their local and state emergency management agencies and lend support to public information campaigns that take place within their jurisdictions.

OHIO PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (OP3)

In a coordinated effort to increasingly serve Ohioans before, during, and after a disaster, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and Ohio EMA, rely on strong partnerships among citizens, government, higher education, and private businesses. To aid in strengthening these partnerships across the state, the Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3) program was created. OP3 provides current information and situational awareness on disaster prevention, response, and recovery efforts to state agency and business executives — allowing decisions and resources to best support the needs of the impacted community.

OP3 aims to:

- Assist public and private sector entities with returning-to-normal operations in the wake of a disaster, by sharing critical information with OP3 members.
- Provide situational awareness of imminent threats on a need-to-know basis through voluntary information- sharing between OP3 members.
- Build a comprehensive network of businesses, associations, and state agencies to jointly participate in disaster prevention, planning, response, and recovery efforts.

Ohio | Department of Public Safety

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