



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2024, a severe weather system swept through the State of Ohio including instances of tornadic activity, severe thunderstorms, and hail. These storms resulted in multiple fatalities and injuries. Additionally, this storm system left behind significant damage impacting local communities and structures; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of these events is affecting the life, health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ohio, particularly in Auglaize, Crawford, Darke, Delaware, Hancock, Licking, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Richland, and Union counties, where the National Weather Service in Wilmington and in Cleveland has confirmed tornado touchdowns; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Emergency Operations Center was activated on the evening of March 14, 2024, to coordinate the State's emergency response and recovery efforts and to provide support to the impacted counties; and

**WHEREAS**, and in accordance with the State's Emergency Operations Plan, immediate emergency response activities were taken by both State and local government officials to stabilize the impacts from this incident and to protect and preserve life and property. These efforts included search and rescue operations, opening shelters, clearing roadways, directing traffic, and restoring power; and

**WHEREAS**, the State and its local partners continue to coordinate the sharing and dissemination of information amongst one another to identify community and individual needs in order to provide assistance to the most vulnerable, as well as to ensure the public receives timely and accurate information; and

**WHEREAS**, available local resources are exhausted and ongoing services will be necessary from State departments and agencies to assist the impacted counties in alleviating the consequences of this incident as it moves into the recovery phase; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Ohio Constitution Article III Section 5 "[t]he supreme executive power of this state shall be vested in the governor" and pursuant to Section 6 the Governor "...shall see that the laws are faithfully executed"; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code sections 5502.22 and 5502.28, this proclamation is necessary to authorize previously alerted State departments and agencies to prepare and respond as needed.



**NOW, THEREFORE**, on March 17, 2024, I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the United States, specifically the implied police powers of the Tenth Amendment, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, Article III, Section 5, and the laws of this State declare that due to the damaging and dangerous conditions resulting from this severe weather system, a state of emergency and disaster exists for Auglaize, Crawford, Darke, Delaware, Hancock, Licking, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Richland, and Union counties. I hereby direct all State departments and agencies to lend their services, equipment, supplies, and personnel as necessary to assist in the response and recovery effort from these events.

**FURTHER**, I direct the Ohio Emergency Management Agency to coordinate the State and any needed federal response to assist in protecting the lives, safety, health, and property of the citizens of Ohio.


**FURTHER**, I hereby direct the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and other departments and agencies of the State to suspend purchasing and contracting requirements contained in Chapters 125 and 153 of the Revised Code, pursuant to Section 125.061 of the Revised Code, during the period of the emergency for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and any other State agency participating in emergency assistance under this declaration, in order to procure any necessary resources or supplies to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the above listed counties and any other counties that are subsequently declared in a state of emergency and disaster due to the above described event.

**FURTHER**, this Proclamation does not require the implementation of the Department of Administrative Services Directive HR-D-11 or the Department of Administrative Services' "Weather (Public Safety) Procedure." Accordingly, State employees' obligation to travel to and from work is not to be limited as a result of this proclamation.

**FURTHER**, this Proclamation shall take effect immediately. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 107.42, it shall remain in full force and effect for ninety days from the date of this order, unless otherwise extended by division of (C) of Revised Code section 107.42.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto subscribed my name, on  
the 17th day of March 2024.

  
MIKE DEWINE  
Governor