



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, beginning on January 24, 2026, Winter Storm Fern is expected to move through the State of Ohio resulting in extreme cold, wind chills bringing temperatures below zero, and significant amounts of snow, sleet, and freezing rain. It is anticipated that portions of the State may receive up to 12 inches of snow within 36 hours; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2026, in accordance with the State's Emergency Operations Plan, the State Emergency Operations Center transitioned from the status of "Daily Operations" to "Assessment & Monitoring" in preparation for any needed response to Winter Storm Fern; and

WHEREAS, local officials have taken actions to preserve the life, health, and safety of impacted individuals and property; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Ohio to assist State and local authorities by having all State agencies and departments be ready and prepared to use their personnel and resources as necessary to protect the lives, safety, health, and property of the citizens of Ohio and all those traveling to or through the State; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the State of Ohio's Emergency Operations Plan, the State, through its emergency operations center and regional representatives, are engaged with the counties expected to be impacted to assess needs and provide assistance as necessary; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has determined that Winter Storm Fern will reasonably impact the life, health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, it is foreseeable that a reasonable possibility exists that available local resources will be exhausted and ongoing services will be necessary from State agencies and departments to assist the impacted counties in alleviating the impacts of Winter Storm Fern; 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 agencies and departments to prepare and respond as needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, on January 24, 2026, 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 anticipated damaging and dangerous conditions resulting from Winter Storm Fern, a state of emergency and disaster exists for Ohio. I hereby direct all State agencies and departments to lend their services, equipment, supplies, and

personnel as necessary and appropriate and within reason 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 as necessary and appropriate in protecting the lives, safety, health, and property of the citizens of Ohio.

FURTHER, I hereby direct the 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 Ohio 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 or terminated by me or my designee on an earlier date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto subscribed my name at Cedarville
Township, Ohio, on the 24th day of January,
2026.



MIKE DEWINE
Governor