



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2021, an ice and snow event came through Ohio resulting in power outages. This winter weather event was then followed by severe winter ice storms that moved through Ohio beginning on Sunday February 14, 2021, and lasting through Monday February 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, work crews were already working to clear roads and restore power when the second severe winter ice storm hit, further impacting icy roads and increasing the amount of downed trees and widespread power outages. The impact of these events is affecting the life, health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ohio, particularly in Lawrence County where ice, snow, and debris on the roadways are impeding the ability to restore utilities and access emergency services, including the loss of power at a local water treatment plant; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County declared a state of emergency on February 16, 2021, and is in need of services from State departments and agencies to assist in alleviating the consequences of this incident, as it has exhausted its available local resources; and

WHEREAS, forecasts predict another 3-4 inches of heavy snow falling between February 17, 2021 and February 18, 2021.

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 February 17, 2021, 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 a state of emergency exists for Lawrence County due to dangerous and damaging conditions resulting from this severe winter ice storm, justifying the authorization of personnel of State departments and agencies as are necessary, to coordinate the State and federal response and to assist in protecting the lives, safety, health, and property of the citizens of Ohio.

FURTHER, I hereby request 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 the above listed counties and any other counties that subsequently declare a state of emergency 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 took effect immediately and it shall remain in full force and effect until the emergency no longer exists, such time to be determined by the Executive Director of the Emergency Management Agency in consultation with the Governor, who will coordinate State response efforts and terminate the emergency upon the recommendation of appropriate officials of the other responding State department/ agencies.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name at Cedarville, Ohio, on the 17th day of February, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

MIKE DEWINE
Governor