



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

JOHN KASICH, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL DEBORAH A. ASHENHURST, ADJUTANT GENERAL

Dec. 17, 2013
Log # 13-38

For Immediate Release

MEDIA ADVISORY

Ohio Emergency Operations Center to host severe weather demonstration; event highlights new *Safer Ohio Initiative*

- What:** The Ohio National Guard, Ohio Department of Public Safety and Ohio Emergency Management Agency will conduct a severe winter weather response exercise. This event will feature a rare, behind-the-scenes, all-access look at the partnership needed to respond during a critical incident, including the new *Safer Ohio Initiative*, which involves the collaborative *SafeOhio Teams*.
- Who:** Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenurst, Ohio adjutant general
John Born, director, Ohio Department of Public Safety
Nancy Dragani, executive director, Ohio Emergency Management Agency
- Where:** Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Emergency Operations Center
2855 West Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235
- When:** 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec.19
- Background:** The *Safer Ohio Initiative* incorporates a comprehensive strategy of emergency preparedness to enhance the state's readiness before an incident happens, during an incident and after an incident occurs. This new approach now includes planned pre-positioning of equipment, supplies and resources across the state to ensure emergency response readiness. As an example, generators are being deployed around the state to augment current emergency response capabilities.

SafeOhio Teams are a new collaborative state asset to focus on safety, service and protection by utilizing existing resources and personnel to focus on reducing the impact of tragedy and improving quality of life before, during and after an incident.

A *SafeOhio Team* consists of professional subject matter experts assembled to respond to assist in a critical incident. Through this new approach, the state is leveraging existing partnership at a higher level to be more proactive and available when communities are most in need of assistance. *SafeOhio Team* members will be comprised of public employees who have been trained to respond in order to reduce the impact of events on citizens. Core team members will be from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Homeland Security, Ohio State Highway Patrol and Ohio National Guard.

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NEWSROOM NOTE: News media planning to attend the event should coordinate beforehand with the point of contact listed below. Media are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes in advance of the scheduled event start time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: James Sims at 614-336-7126 or james.a.sims20.nfg@mail.mil.

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