



# MEDIA ADVISORY

## Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • John Born, Director  
[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov)



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John R. Kasich, Governor

### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2013

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## Ohio Emergency Operations Center to Conduct Severe Weather Demonstration *-Announcement of Safer Ohio Initiative-*

- What:** Ohio Department of Public Safety's Emergency Operations Center will be conducting a severe winter weather demonstration. This scenario 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:** 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:** Thursday, December 19 at 10 a.m.

**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.

Please RSVP to [Communications@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:Communications@dps.state.oh.us) by close of business Tuesday, December 17.

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