

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY JOSEPH E. WAINSCOTT, JR., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Victims of Severe Weather Urged to Report Damage

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is gathering damage reports from Hoosier citizens, governmental entities and certain private non-profit organizations that sustained damage caused by severe weather beginning January 26.

Hoosier citizens can report damage online at <u>https://oas.in.gov/hs/damage</u> until February 17, 2009. Citizens will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number, damage to property and type of damage the property sustained. Losses can include structural damage to businesses, homes and loss of personal property.

Government and Private non-profits should contact their local emergency management agency. To find the contact information for your local agency, go to <u>www.in.gov/dhs/files/Sanitized_Compact_Directory.pdf</u>.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will use the information to help quantify losses from severe weather that resulted in ice, snow and flooding to determine if federal assistance should be requested.

Individuals will <u>not</u> be in contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Information will be used to help local emergency management agencies and IDHS determine if federal assistance can be pursued.

IDHS, other State of Indiana agencies and partner organizations have been working closely with local emergency management agencies to determine needs that would require support beyond the county level. All local requests have been fulfilled, and no federal assistance has been required to date.

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Contact John Erickson or Rachel Meyer, (317) 234-6713, pio@dhs.in.gov