



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

County Auditor Urges Residents to Report Storm Damage

Lancaster, Ohio – Following the recent severe storms that impacted our community, the County Auditor’s Office is asking residents and property owners to report any storm-related damage to help ensure accurate property records and support potential relief efforts.

The office understands that this has been a difficult time for many families. We are committed to making the reporting process as simple and supportive as possible while working to assess the overall impact across the county.

All property owners who experienced damage to homes, buildings, or other structures are encouraged to submit a report. This includes:

- Structural damage (roof, walls, foundation)
- Flooding or water damage
- Damage to outbuildings (garages, barns, sheds)
- Destroyed or significantly impacted property improvements

Residents can report damage by providing a completed form DTE 26. The form is attached and can also be found online at <https://bit.ly/OhioDTE26>. A factsheet is included with this release.

Damage reports play a critical role in ensuring property value assessments are accurate.

Our team is here to support you through the recovery process. If you need assistance completing your report or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Fairfield County Auditor’s Office at (740) 652-7030.

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Reporting Destroyed or Damaged Property for Real Property Value Deductions

Overview of DTE 26

The DTE 26 form is used by property owners in Ohio to request a valuation deduction for property that has been damaged or destroyed due to various causes, such as storms, fires, or floods. This form is essential for obtaining tax relief based on the reduction in property value caused by the damage.

Filing Instructions

Complete the DTE 26 – Fill out the required information, including details about the property, the nature of the damage, and the estimated reduction value. Print the form here:

<https://bit.ly/OhioDTE26>.

Submit the Form – Completed forms can be mailed to:

Fairfield County Auditor's Office
108 North High Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Filing Deadlines

- **For property damaged in the first nine months of the year**, the application must be filed by **December 31st of the current year**.
- **For property damaged in the last three months of the year**, the application must be filed by **January 31st of the following year**.

Important Considerations

The amount of deduction is based on the percentage of the reduction in value caused by the damage.

It is crucial to file the application as soon as possible to ensure that any approved deductions will affect the tax bills the following year.

CONTACT US!

Settlements/Admin – (740) 652-7020 • Real Estate - (740) 652-7030

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