

Ice Storm Forces Many to Shelters in Ohio County

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Power outages are still rising as Kentucky struggles through a massive winter storm that's coating the Commonwealth with snow and ice.

There are continuing efforts to keep Ohio County residents safe from the cold.

Three shelters have been set up where residents without power ranging in ages from one to 98 are taking refuge.

Emergency officials at the shelter we went to say their cots have been full--something that's expected to last at least a few more days.

"It's been pretty wild. I don't remember this happening in a long time," long-time Ohio County resident, Robert Dockery said.

In 41 years, Dockery can't recall any **weather** worse than this.

"My house has trees all around it, limbs all around it, power lines all around it--it's just dangerous to live in," Dockery added.

He and his family decided to stay at the shelter in Beaver Dam last night, to seek shelter from the cold.

"We've been taken care of. We've met a lot of people that we haven't met before in the county and gotten to know each other," he said.

They're leaving, headed to Alabama to stay with family until the winter weather here lets up a bit.

But others aren't so lucky.

"I'm okay. God's taking care of us," assured Betty Pirtle, an Ohio County resident.

Betty Pirtle's been at the shelter since noon yesterday.

With no power at her home, she's thankful for all the help she's been given.

"Places like this, people don't understand how much it means. People need to give, as well as take. These people are here for us," she said.

And even with the destruction and displacement, those at the shelter say there's always some good when times are so bad.

"Things like this kind of bring counties together," Dockery said.

Shelters in Ohio County are open in Beaver Dam, Hartford and Fordsville.

Emergency officials say registered nurses are on hand to take care of those who need it.

And here in Warren County, the Red Dross is closing the Smiths Grove shelter and taking over the Morgantown Elementary shelter on Jan. 29th.