

The Columbus Dispatch

High 45 | Low 29
Details B8



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75 CENTS



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

BUSINESS

Coming Saturday
CHEAP AND FILLING
Pasta's popular again



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FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 13, 2009

C10

DOW
7,932.76



-6.77

NASDAQ
1,541.71



+11.21

S&P 500
835.19



+1.45

6-MO T-BILLS
0.42%



-0.02

30-YR T-BONDS
3.46%



+0.01

GOLD
\$948.50



+\$4.70

OIL
\$33.98



-\$1.96

DAMAGE BRINGS OUT CHAIN SAWS, LADDERS



DORAL CHENOWETH III | DISPATCH

Roofers Chad Chambers, left, and Richard Cly of Durable Slate Co. repair a storm-damaged tile roof on Franklin Park South on the Near East Side.

Same old song: up on the roof

Winds rip off some shingles just installed after September storm

By Tracy Turner
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The blue tarp that had been on Keena Smith's house since September's windstorm finally had been replaced by a new roof. Then new winds arrived.

Shingles are scattered in her yard in Gahanna again, thanks to Wednesday night's 65-mph winds. And so the process of waiting for her roof to be repaired begins again.

"I heard the roof coming apart and looked out the window to see shingles on the ground," she said. "It's really frustrating."

Hundreds of central Ohioans are dealing with a new round of blue tarps, downed trees and other storm damage as roofing companies, tree trimmers and insurance adjusters faced a surge of new business across the region yesterday.

The storm damaged hundreds of homes and businesses, and about 167,500 American Electric Power customers were without power at the height of the storm.

Durable Slate Co. officials still had September's storm on their minds when the winds started roaring Wednesday.

The roofing business was inundated with calls from this latest storm, receiving more than 40 before 8 a.m. yesterday, spokeswoman Amber Gallihar said. The company has about five calls before lunch on a normal day, she said.

"Our priority is to handle those people with holes in their roofs, to do emergency dry-ins until we can get them repaired," Gallihar said. "We'll do a lot of them over the next few days. The sooner people

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Still without power?

Things to consider while your electricity is being restored:

SAFETY FIRST

- Dress in layers to stay warm, even indoors, and be sure to keep your head covered.
- Don't try to move downed power lines. Call the local utility or police.
- Avoid using candles, particularly near flammable materials. Never leave them unattended.
- If you use a generator, be aware that it should never be used in a house or garage because it produces carbon-monoxide exhaust. Shut it down and let it cool before refueling.

FOOD SAFETY

- Food in a refrigerator generally is safe to use for about four hours after the power goes out, if you keep the door closed. Perishable items such as meat, soft cheese, milk, eggs, leftovers and deli items should be pitched if the temperature inside

rises above 40 degrees.

- If the freezer is full, food probably is safe for 48 hours. If it isn't, food probably is safe for about 24 hours. Food can be refrozen safely if ice crystals remain. When in doubt, throw it out.

PROTECT YOUR PIPES

- To help keep pipes from freezing, keep a trickle of water running in bathroom and kitchen sinks. Opening cabinets, especially those along outside walls, can allow residual heat in the house to reach vulnerable pipes.
- If the house is nearing 40 degrees, it might be best to drain the pipes. To do so, turn off the water heater and main water supply, open all faucets in the house and drain the system by keeping the valves open. Drain all toilets by holding the lever down until the tank empties.

GETTING IN AND OUT

- If you have an electric garage-door opener, use the manual release lever to allow the door to be opened and closed manually.
- Keep your vehicle's fuel tank at least half full because gas-station pumps run on electricity.

NEXT TIME

- Did you have an emergency kit when your power went out? Make sure you have these supplies on hand before the next outage:
Battery-operated radio; flashlight; matches; extra batteries; wood for the fireplace, if you have one; nonperishable food; bottled water and juice; extra prescription medications; and items for babies and those with special needs.

Sources: Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness; OSU Extension; Ohio Department of Insurance

ROOFTOP

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call, the sooner they can get on the list for inspection and repair."

One reason this latest storm caused repeat damage is that much of the repair work from the September windstorm was done late in the year, delayed by the volume of work, said Brett Rubin of Universal Energy Inc., a Northwest Columbus roofing, window and siding company. As a result, many shingles didn't have

time to properly seal, and the new storm blew them off, he said.

"Tens of thousands of homes are damaged now," Rubin said. "Until you have enough heat and sunshine days to bake the shingles to ensure a proper seal, you'll have some shingles blowing off."

Central Ohio Tree & Stump Removal also received frantic calls before dawn, spokeswoman Karen Rose said. Many were from people reporting fallen trees on their homes or vehicles or in their yards;

others reported trees blocking roads or driveways, she said.

"They want to know how quickly we can get out to their homes," Rose said. "We'll work until dark for the next several nights. We've got enough work to keep us busy for the next week or so."

"We're not turning anyone away."

Damage was widespread, with insurance adjusters reporting claims from all parts of the state, said Mary Bonelli, spokeswoman for the Ohio Insurance Institute. Because pockets of areas remained

without power, it was too early to tell the full extent of the damage, she said.

"Companies are unable to project expected claims or insured losses associated (with the storm) at this point, but those who have reported in to us expect losses to be much less than those from the September windstorm," Bonelli said. "Ohio's insured losses from that storm were about \$1.2 billion."

Storms like this often bring out shady contractors, so the Ohio attorney general's office is warning consumers to be

careful when hiring someone to make repairs.

Historically, significantly more people file contractor complaints following damaging storms, Attorney General Richard Cordray said in a statement.

Cordray advises consumers to shop around before agreeing to repairs, know their rights regarding canceling a service, and above all, get everything in writing.

"During this time, it's extremely important to do your homework," he said.

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