

HIGH WINDS STRIKE OHIO COMMUNITIES

By Gene Post—AMP mutual aid committee chairman

Strong storms that raced across sections of Ohio June 23rd afternoon and evening brought calls for mutual aid from Cuyahoga Falls in the northeastern part of the state and Edgerton in the northwest corner.

Storms with straight-line winds moved through northeast Ohio around 3:30 p.m., causing damage in many public power communities, but with the heaviest concentration in Cuyahoga Falls. Crews from Orrville, Wadsworth and Westerville were the first to respond, and were later joined by crews from Hamilton and Piqua. With the aid of those crews and its own workforce, the city had power restored to customers by late Thursday. Edgerton sustained less extensive, but more severe, damage when a micro-burst over the center of the village produced winds estimated at 100 miles per hour by the National Weather Service. The winds destroyed the former Town Hall, a 126-year structure that had its roof lifted off and holes punched through the west and east walls, and took down trees throughout the village of 2,000 residents. Unlike in Cuyahoga Falls, nearby communities were not as effected and mutual aid crews from neighboring Bryan and Montpelier responded. Power was restored to Edgerton customers by Thursday evening.