



This Week in Ohio EMA

A publication of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety

Bob Taft, Governor ♦ Nancy Dragani, Executive Director, Ohio EMA ♦ Kenneth L. Morckel, Director, ODPS
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President Grants Federal Disaster Assistance for Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake Counties Northeastern Ohio Slammed Again with Torrential Rains and Severe Flooding

Problems began in northeastern Ohio on July 22, when heavy rains flooded Ashtabula County and soaked the land in Geauga and Lake counties. On the evening of July 27, severe storms and torrential rain pummeled the northeast again with more than nine inches of rain within a 12-hour period.

The National Weather Service confirmed that a new flood record was established for the Grand River in Lake County. Preliminary damage assessments in Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake counties concluded that a total of 113 buildings were destroyed; 73 sustained major damage; 229 sustained minor damage; and 714 were affected, with the majority of damage in Lake County.

Governor Bob Taft declared a State of Emergency for Lake County on Friday, July 28; requested federal assistance for Lake County on July 29; added Ashtabula and Geauga counties to the state declaration and federal request on July 31; announced the president's approval of federal disaster assistance for all three counties on Tuesday, August 1.

"I appreciate President Bush's quick response to Ohio's request for federal assistance," said Taft. "This new aid will supplement state and local recovery efforts, helping those who have suffered as a result of last week's flooding to get their lives back to normal."

Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake county residents and business owners are now eligible to apply for federal disaster assistance. Affected people can register by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) toll-free at 1-800-621-3362 or register on line at www.fema.gov.

Governor Taft toured many of the affected communities with local, state and federal officials on Sunday, July 30. President Bush met with the governor and other state and local officials at the Lake County Emergency Operations Center in Mentor, Ohio on Wednesday, August 2, to receive an update on response and recovery efforts.



Painesville, Ohio - These homes and streets are a couple of hundreds that were severely flooded after more than nine inches of rain fell in Lake County. The president granted federal disaster assistance for Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake counties on August 1. (Ohio EMA photos by Vikki Bunting.)

Taft Encourages Ohioans to Conserve Electricity

With temperatures reaching record highs over the past week, Governor Bob Taft encourages Ohioans to take steps to conserve electricity usage and reduce demand on the electrical system. The following are energy conservation tips that homes and businesses can practice:

- During the day, block the heat from the sun by closing windows, doors and curtains.
- To save money on cooling costs, turn the thermostat to 78 degrees and use fans to help circulate the cool air.
- Avoid creating unnecessary heat and humidity in the house during summer days. Plan to do heat and moisture-creating activities such as using the dishwasher, doing laundry and bathing before noon or past 8 p.m.
- If using a window air conditioning unit, ensure it fits correctly in the window to reduce the amount of cool air lost.
- Use weather stripping on doors and windows to prevent air leaks, and make sure all windows and doors are closed when the air conditioner is on.
- Have air conditioning equipment inspected and serviced annually by a licensed contractor to ensure maximum efficiency.

For additional information on electricity conservation tips, visit the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Web Site at www.PUCO.ohio.gov.

TIPS TO BEAT THE HEAT



Summer is officially here, and so are the hot and humid days. Here are some helpful tips to protect yourself from extreme heat and heat-related illnesses.



Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity. Reduce, eliminate or reschedule strenuous activities. Get plenty of rest to allow your natural “cooling system” to work. If you must do strenuous work, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually early morning before 10 a.m. and in the evening, after 7 p.m.



Avoid too much sunshine. Sunburn slows the skin’s ability to cool itself. The sun will also heat the inner core of your body, resulting in dehydration. Use a sunscreen lotion with a high sun protection factor rating.



Stay indoors as much as possible. If air conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor, out of the sunshine. Even in the warmest weather, staying indoors, out of sunshine, is safer than long periods of exposure to the sun.



Dress appropriately. Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing that will cover as much skin as possible. Lightweight, light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight and helps maintain normal body temperature. Cover as much skin as possible to avoid sunburn and over-warming effects of sunlight on your body.



Drink plenty of fluids, even if you do not feel thirsty. Injury and death can occur from dehydration, which can happen quickly and unnoticed. Water is the safest liquid to drink during heat emergencies. Your body needs water to keep cool. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which dehydrate the body.

NEVER leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles. Temperatures inside a closed vehicle can reach over 140 degrees within minutes. Exposure to such high temperatures can kill in minutes.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT



NIMCAST Reminder

FEMA DR-1656 - Declared: August 1, 2006

Federal Individual Assistance (IA) disaster assistance available for Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake counties for damages incurred by severe storms, straight line winds and flooding that started on July 27, 2006.

Registrations for IA (as of August 2): **273**
(FEMA to determine eligibility)

As of August 2 - Disaster Recovery Centers are being identified and inspected. Anticipate DRCs to open by Saturday, August 5.

FEMA DR-1651 - Declared: July 2, 2006

Federal IA disaster assistance available for Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas, Sandusky and Stark counties.

State Disaster Relief Program (SDRP)

Available for local governments and certain eligible private nonprofit organizations for infrastructure damages from local flooding and wind events of June 27 and prior to July 22 (Ashland, Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Knox, Lucas, Mahoning, Sandusky, Stark and Van Wert counties).

August 25, 2006 is the deadline for Ohio counties to submit input of National Incident Management System Capability Assessment Support Tool (NIMCAST) updates for federal fiscal year 2006.

The Ohio EMA Plans Branch is available to county emergency managers for technical assistance, if needed.

NIMCAST is a web-based self-assessment tool that is designed to aid state, local and tribal organizations and jurisdictions in determining their capabilities and compliance against the requirements established in the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMCAST allows incident and resource managers to assess the current status/level of their respective jurisdiction or organization's incident preparedness against the requirements outlined in NIMS.

As a self-assessment support tool, the NIMCAST not only aids users in becoming NIMS-compliant, but also supports incident and resource managers seeking to enhance and maximize the effectiveness of their incident preparedness as a central point for identifying and acquiring resources.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 30	31	August 1	2 <i>1st day of the 2006 Ohio State Fair</i> Communications TAC Ohio EMA	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>OCSWA Poster Contest Awards Ceremony at State Fair - Noon</i>
13 <i>Last day of Ohio State Fair</i>	14	15	16 Ohio Fire Chiefs Association DRILL	17	18	19 Cleveland UASI/ODHR - FS (TICP Validation)
20	21 Medical TAC Ohio EMA	22 HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	23	24 Water TAC Ohio EMA	25	26

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>

UASI - Urban Area Security Initiative

TICP - Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan

FS - Full Scale Exercise