



# This Week in Ohio EMA



Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director  
Ohio EMA Public Affairs (614) 799-3695 [www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)

September 14, 2007

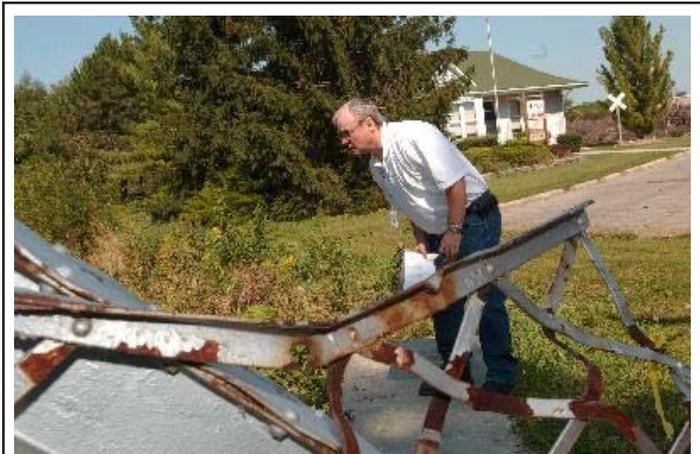
Volume IV, No. 26

## Ohio's Federal and State Disaster Assistance Reaches \$15 Million

Federal and state disaster recovery officials announced on September 13 that more than \$15 million in grants and loans have been approved for homeowners, renters and business owners in the eight Ohio counties declared eligible for federal disaster assistance.

On August 27, the president granted a federal declaration for Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Putnam, Richland and Wyandot counties. Hardin and Seneca counties were added on September 4.

Most of the disaster recovery grants are issued under FEMA's Disaster Housing Program. Altogether, 3,551 households have been approved for \$11.7 million as of September 12. Other approved grants are through the FEMA and Ohio Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program. As of September 12, 1,420 households have been approved for \$2.1 million with the ONA program. Affected individuals can apply for ONA grants if their loan applications were denied by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The ONA program can provide grant money for medical, dental and funeral costs, and for personal property, transportation, moving and storage expenses, and other necessary expenses or serious needs as determined by FEMA.



*Bluffton, OH (Sept. 5, 2007) - Paul Ogiba, a FEMA representative, examines damage to a local bridge after flash floods swept through the town. FEMA conducts preliminary damage assessments to communities affected by disasters. FEMA photo/John Ficara.*

More than 6,800 people have registered for disaster assistance with FEMA (see page 3 for county break downs).

People in the declared counties who have been affected by the August floods are strongly encouraged to register with FEMA online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA** (3362) or **1-800-462-7585** (TTY).

Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Richland and Wyandot counties were granted federal public assistance on September 11. Eligible agencies can receive funding on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged from the August 20-28 floods. Eligible services include debris removal; emergency services related to the disaster; repair or replacement of damaged public facilities such as roads, buildings and utilities; and recreational facilities such as parks or playgrounds. Applicants' briefings are scheduled for September 19 and 20.



# September is... National Preparedness Month

## State and Local Officials Observe National Patriots' Day and National Preparedness Month *Franklin County EMA hosts NPM second week of recognition: Ready Business*

*(From ODPS Media Release dated September 11, 2007)*

The Ohio Department of Public Safety, Franklin County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and its audience of state and local officials and volunteer agencies paused to remember America's patriots who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 during Ohio's National Patriots' Day observance ceremony on Capitol Square.

"There is no greater reminder than that of September 11 that disaster can strike when we least expect it. And the tragedy that can surround it can be devastating," said ODPS Director Henry Guzmán. "The past weeks in Ohio have proven that we can save lives by being prepared. The preparedness efforts, cooperation and response I have seen in reaction to the flooding in northwest Ohio have been nothing short of heroic. This is the type of response that keeps a disaster from turning into a tragedy."



*Ohio Statehouse, Columbus - The Ohio Citizen Corps placed 2,999 flags on the Statehouse lawn. The open space behind the statue is the shape of the Pentagon. Each flag honors a life lost on September 11, 2001. (Ohio EMA photos)*



*Sgt. Randy Snyder of the Whitehall Police Department sings the National Anthem, kicking off Franklin County's observance of National Patriots' Day and National Preparedness Month. The color guard is represented by the City of Columbus Divisions of Police and Fire.*

September is National Preparedness Month. The Ohio Department of Public Safety is leading a statewide campaign with a diverse group of national, state and local partners to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and to promote community involvement through a wide variety of events and activities.

Director Guzmán and Gary Holland, director of Franklin County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management hosted Tuesday's event at the Vern Riffe Center, Downtown Columbus. They were joined by Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, Franklin County Commission President Mary Jo Kilroy and more than 35 partner organizations. City and state organizations hosted exhibits that highlighted their disaster preparedness planning.

To honor all who died during the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, the Ohio Citizen Corps organized volunteers to place 2,999 flags on the Statehouse lawn. The flags were arranged to represent the two World Trade Center towers; an open, five-sided space represented the Pentagon; the space between the buildings represented the open field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

In addition to the events and activities going on throughout the state during September, Public Safety encourages Ohioans to visit its new Web site: **[www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov)**. It includes information on emergency preparedness for schools, businesses, older citizens, people with disabilities, severe weather preparedness information, and multicultural needs.

## Drought Conditions Continue in Southwest Ohio

(Report from Ohio EMA Weekly Drought Report, Week 27 - National Weather Service, Wilmington, OH)

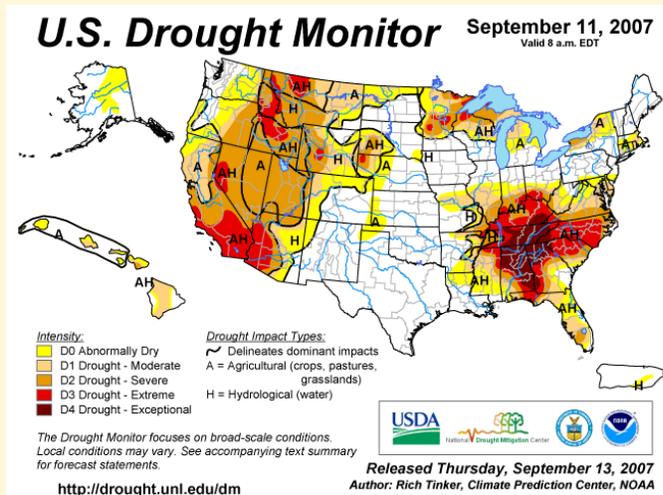
Although the northwest portion of Ohio continues to recover from severe flooding, extreme drought conditions persist over most of southwest Ohio and all of northern Kentucky and far southeast Indiana. According to the National Weather Service in Wilmington, there is very little chance of rain in the forecast.

Areas of far southern Ohio, southeast Indiana and northern Kentucky did not receive as much rain as the central Miami Valley over the past two weeks. Most areas received an inch or less of rain. In Ohio, only northern Butler County and northern Franklin County, Indiana have dropped out of extreme drought conditions.

Rainfall deficits in the extreme drought areas are as much as 12 to 16 inches below normal for the year, with most locations generally between 8 and 12 inches below normal. The NSW notes that if normal rainfall were to occur from now to the end of 2007, the Cincinnati area would still finish within its top 10 driest years on record.

Rainfall values since May 1, 2007 are as follows:

Cincinnati	5.49" rain	12.26" below normal
Dayton	13.97" rain	2.79" below normal
Columbus	12.95" rain	4.62" below normal



## EMA STATUS REPORT

### FEMA-1720-DR-OH

Incident Period: August 20-28, 2007

Individual Assistance for: Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Richland, Seneca and Wyandot counties (declared 08/27/07)

Public Assistance for: Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Richland and Wyandot counties (declared 09/11/07)

Cumulative number of registrations for the eight (IA) declared counties: **6,857** (as of COB Sept. 12). By county:

Allen	230
Crawford	1,363
Hancock	2,353
Hardin	90
Putnam	759
Richland	1,488
Seneca	96
Wyandot	478

**As of September 12**, FEMA processed **5,611** registrations with 3,551 households eligible for **\$13,809,258** in Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance grants.

### Disaster Recovery Centers

DRC #1 (Hancock County) Findlay, OH  
3430 N. Main Street Closing date: TBD

DRC #2 (Wyandot County) Carey OH  
11329 Co. Highway 4 Closing date: **09/15**

DRC #3 (Crawford County) Bucyrus, OH  
112 East Mansfield Closing date: TBD

DRC #4 (Richland County) Shelby, OH  
111 West Smiley Ave. Closing date: TBD

DRC #5 (Allen County) Bluffton, OH  
345 County Lane Road Closing date: **09/15**

DRC #6 (Putnam County) Ottawa, OH  
124 Putnam Parkway Closing date: TBD

DRC #7 (Richland County) Mansfield, OH  
232 North Main St. Open: **Sept. 13-15**

DRC #8 (Seneca County) Tiffin, OH  
126 Hopewell Ave. Closing date: **09/12**

## County EMA Directors Attend Fall Seminar on Emergency Management and Homeland Security

The biannual seminar on Ohio emergency management and homeland security convened at the State Fire Marshal's Office and Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg, on September 13. Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani acknowledged new county EMA directors and recognized those who were elected or named to prestigious state and national positions in the emergency management field. Eighty-two county EMA offices were represented.



Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani addresses county and state EMA updates and changes during the morning portion of the seminar.



Participants of the directors' seminar. The conference was held at the State Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

ODPS Director Henry Guzmán emphasized the importance of emergency preparedness, and on behalf of the governor, complemented state and county EMA response during the August flooding event in northwest Ohio.

Agenda items on the day-long event included:

- 700 Megahertz and MARCS by Dick Miller, Ohio MARCS
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) by Ted Filer, Ohio EMA Plans Branch
- Public Safety Interoperability Communications Grant Program by Ohio EMA Technical Support Division Director Mark Patchen
- Ohio Strategic Plan by Tracy Proud, Ohio Homeland Security
- REAL ID Implementation by Carolyn Williams, Ohio BMV
- Ohio Ethics by Tammy Little, Assistant Attorney General
- Ohio EMA Training Program by Phil Johnson, Ohio EMA Training and Exercise section
- Homeland Security Grant Monitoring, Status and Closeouts by the Ohio EMA Grants Division
- Pre-Event Disaster Mitigation Funding by Chad Berginnis, Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>September 16</b> <i>Week 3: Multi-Cultural Awareness</i>	<b>17</b> Canine TAC <b>CANCELED</b> Medical TAC Ohio EMA	<b>18</b> HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	<b>19</b> Incident Mgmt. TAC Ohio EMA	<b>20</b> Bomb TAC Columbus Police Acad	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <i>Week 4: Home and Family Preparedness &amp; Ready America</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Principles of Emergency Management Ohio EMA	<b>26</b> Water TAC Ohio EMA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Emergency Management Association of Ohio GOLF OUTING</i>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>October 1</b>	<b>2</b> Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program Course (HSEEP) Ohio EMA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b> URSB Meeting Ohio EMA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training> - TAC - Technical Advisory Committee