

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

TAFT'S REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ASSESSMENTS GRANTED
Teams to examine damage to infrastructure in northeast Ohio

COLUMBUS (August 7, 2006) – In response to a request from Governor Bob Taft, staff from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will join local and state officials to assess damages to infrastructure caused by last month's flooding in northeast Ohio. Beginning August 9, Damage Assessment Teams will be working in the counties of Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake as well as in the city of Euclid (Cuyahoga County).

"I have seen first-hand the sheer destructive force that came as a result of the severe flooding in our northeast Ohio counties," said Taft. "We have been able to secure federal assistance for individuals and businesses that were impacted by severe flooding; now we will try to bring that same level of assistance to the local governments."

Governor Taft will review the assessment findings once the teams have completed their reports. Based upon findings, he can make a request for Public Assistance for this disaster. If approved, Public Assistance can fund the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility or infrastructure, that has been damaged or destroyed by a disaster. Public Assistance can also be utilized for debris removal and emergency protective measures. Eligible applicants include local and state governments and certain private nonprofit organizations.

Beginning on July 27, severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding were reported in northeast Ohio. On July 29, Governor Taft toured the impacted area and requested a federal disaster declaration. On August 1, Governor Taft's request for the federal disaster declaration was approved for individuals and businesses in Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake counties.

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