



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **OHIO EMA ESTABLISHES TOLL-FREE DONATION HOTLINE**

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Emergency Management Agency has established a toll-free hotline Ohioans can call to pledge donations of cash, goods and services. The number, 1-888-356-6364 will be operational as of 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 7, 2005.

“One of the biggest challenges to arise when there is an outpouring of support in situations like this is when people simply drop off goods or head into the affected areas the donation might not get where it is needed and could unfortunately go to waste.,” said Nancy Dragani, Executive Director of Ohio EMA. “We’ve established this hotline to make it easier for people to pledge a donation and to make sure that donated goods get where they are needed.”

The hotline will be staffed by trained volunteers from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The volunteers will take contact information and enter a description of the pledged assistance into a database. The database will be shared with relief organizations who will contact the donors once their pledged items are matched with recipients.

The hotline is run in partnership with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, which also includes the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Office Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Emergency Medical Services, the Ohio Homeland Security Division, the Ohio Investigative Unit and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

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