



FEMA

Disaster News

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MORE THAN \$5 MILLION APPROVED IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

CLEVELAND -- More than \$5 million in disaster assistance grants have been approved, according to federal and state recovery officials. A total of 4,128 residents have applied for disaster assistance in **Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake** counties in northern Ohio.

The following is an update of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) recovery activities, as of close of business Thursday, August 10.

- **4,128** individuals (homeowners and renters) have applied for assistance in the three counties designated for Individual Assistance. **The application breakdown by county is Ashtabula, 458; Geauga, 69; and Lake, 3,601.**
- **2179** claims have been approved thus far for the Individuals and Household Program.
- **More than \$5 Million** in grants have been approved through the Individuals and Household Program. (This assistance may be for temporary disaster housing assistance; repairing disaster-damaged, uninsured homes to a safe, sanitary and functional condition; and replacement grants for serious, disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs.)
- **3,359** inspections have been completed.
- **3,700** low-interest disaster loan applications have been issued by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), including 3,366 for homeowners and renters and 334 for business owners. SBA officials encourage anyone who has received an application to turn it in as soon as possible to be eligible for any further assistance.
- **740** people have visited the Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) which opened Saturday, August 5. Recovery officials urge applicants to take advantage of the free services and information.

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DRCs are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the following locations.

- JFK Senior Center, 1580 East 332nd Street, Eastlake, OH
(Also Open Sunday, August 13 from 12 noon to 6 p.m.)
- First Church Congregational United Church of Christ, 22 Liberty Street, Painesville, OH
(Also Open Sunday, August 13 from 12 noon to 6 p.m.)
- DRC Mentor Senior Center (West Entrance), 6313 Center Street, Mentor, OH
(This mobile DRC will be at this location Aug. 14 thru Aug. 17 only.)

Residents should call before visiting a DRC, at 1-800-621-FEMA or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the speech and hearing impaired. Phone lines will be available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week until further notice. People may also register for assistance online at their convenience at www.fema.gov. **The deadline for residents in Ashtabula, Geauga, and Lake counties to apply is Sept. 30, 2006.**

SBA offers disaster loans up to \$200,000 to repair disaster-damaged primary residences. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to replace damaged personal property such as furniture and clothing. Loans to businesses of all sizes and nonprofit organizations up to \$1.5 million are available to repair or replace damaged real estate, machinery and equipment, supplies, and inventory.

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FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA became a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

The Ohio EMA coordinates state assistance and resources during an emergency and prepares the state for all hazards through planning, training, exercises and funding activities at the state and local levels. This includes providing eligible assistance to individuals and governmental entities recovering from disaster-related damage and costs.

County EMA directors must plan, train, and exercise for any possible emergency/disaster, natural or man-made, that may impact the county, with the express intent of saving lives and protecting property. Working with county commissioners, the county EMA directors initiate the issuance of a disaster declaration and, when needed, coordinate response and recovery efforts with the Ohio EMA and FEMA. After the disaster is over, the county EMA director works closely with local, state, and federal officials to identify and implement mitigation efforts, which may limit the occurrence of future disasters.

Temporary housing assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) does not require that an applicant file for an SBA loan. However, an applicant must complete an SBA loan application to be eligible for additional assistance under the part of the Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses. There are other ONA grants such as public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses that do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan to be eligible. FEMA will process applications for housing assistance regardless of whether the applicant has applied for an SBA loan and eligibility determinations for applicants requesting FEMA's temporary housing assistance will not be held up because the applicant has or has not filled out an SBA application.