



# Disaster News

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## **TIME RUNNING OUT FOR DISASTER VICTIMS TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE**

**CLEVELAND** – Residents and businesses in *CUYAHOGA, ERIE, HURON, LUCAS, SANDUSKY, AND STARK* counties have only two more weeks to apply for federal and state disaster assistance to help recover from damages resulting from the severe storms, tornadoes, straight line winds, and flooding from June 21-23.

“We will continue to process existing assistance applications, but the deadline to apply is **Thursday, August 31,**” Jesse Munoz the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) federal coordinating officer, said.

There are two easy ways to begin the application process. Individuals may call FEMA’s toll-free number **1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the speech and hearing impaired. Both numbers are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week until further notice, and multilingual operators are available to answer your calls. Residents with Internet access may also register online through the agency’s website at <http://www.fema.gov> where valuable recovery information is also available.

“We encourage Ohioans affected by this weather event to register,” Nancy Dragani, Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) executive director and state coordinating officer, said. “The help process cannot start until individuals call.”

Even if you have insurance, you may still be eligible for disaster assistance for under-insured losses. However, in order to complete an application, FEMA will need the resident’s insurance settlement information to avoid any duplication of benefits.

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Applications may be updated and will continue to be processed after the August 31 deadline. New applications for assistance will not be accepted. Helpline representatives are available to answer questions about assistance or check the status of an application by calling **1-800-621-3362**.

Assistance available to disaster victims includes grants for temporary disaster housing; repairing disaster-damaged, uninsured homes to a safe and sanitary living condition, and for serious, disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs; and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest loans for individuals and businesses to repair or replace damaged property.

August 31 is the final day to apply for disaster assistance for individuals and businesses affected by the storms and flooding in the disaster-designated counties of **CUYAHOGA, ERIE, HURON, LUCAS, SANDUSKY AND STARK**.

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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 plans, trains, and exercises for any emergency/disaster, natural or man-made that may impact the county. County EMA coordinates the local disaster declaration and, when needed, coordinates response and recovery efforts with the Ohio EMA and FEMA. After the disaster is over, county EMA works 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.*