



FEMA

# Disaster News

August 4, 2006

FEMA-1656-DR-OH-PR004

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## THREE DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS OPENING SATURDAY

**CLEVELAND** – Just days after President Bush signed a new major disaster declaration for Ohio, three joint Disaster Recovery Centers are set to open at noon Saturday, Aug. 5 to help meet the ongoing needs of disaster victims and provide a single location where people are able to talk face-to-face with state and federal recovery specialists.

There are two easy ways to begin the application process **before** visiting one of the centers. Residents may call the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) toll-free number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the hearing and speech impaired. Both numbers are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week until further notice, and multilingual operators also are available to answer calls. Residents with Internet access can register on the agency's Web site at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) where valuable recovery information also is available.

Representatives from local, state and federal agencies will staff the joint centers, operated by FEMA and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA). The centers will be open from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5; noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6 and thereafter, the offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday until further notice. These are temporary offices and the information and services are available at no cost. The Mobile DRCs (listed below) are open for limited days only.

**Ashtabula County - Mobile DRC**  
Northwest Ambulance District (NAD)  
1480 S. Broadway (SR 534), Geneva  
**Sat., Aug. 5 - Tues. Aug. 8 Only**

**Lake County - Mobile DRC**  
Lakeland Community College East  
201 Water Tower, Madison  
**Wed., Aug. 9 - Sat. Aug. 12 Only**

**Lake County**  
J.F.K. Senior Center  
1580 East 332<sup>nd</sup> Street, Eastlake  
**Sat., Aug 5 – until further notice**

First Church Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
22 Liberty St., Painesville  
**Sat., Aug 5 – until further notice**

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“Disaster Recovery Centers serve as one-stop locations for individuals to seek further information or for those who have questions regarding the state and federal disaster recovery process,” said Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA’s executive director and state coordinating officer. “Residents may visit the center closest to their home or work.”

Information provided at these centers is not only useful to those who suffered damages from this summer’s storms. Any residents in the area can visit a center and find out what they can do to reduce future damages from severe storms and flooding.

“At this time in the recovery process, people are beginning to think about putting their lives back together,” said Jesse Munoz, FEMA’s federal coordinating officer. “Right now people want information about the status of their applications for assistance or help filling out their disaster loan application.”

Recovery specialists at the centers can talk with disaster victims about:

- The status of the application they have already made by phone or online;
- Referrals for temporary rental assistance resources;
- Assistance completing U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest loan applications for homeowners, renters, business owners and non-profit organizations;
- Options for repairing or rebuilding in floodplains;
- Cost-effective measures to reduce the impact of future flooding or disaster losses;
- Information and detailed plans how to construct a safe room;
- Federal disaster tax assistance;
- Information about the Individuals and Households Program, which includes Housing and Other Needs Assistance;
- Additional referral information, handouts and contact numbers for other assistance.

Individuals who are unable to visit the centers and have questions about disaster assistance, rebuilding or preventive measures to avoid future damages are urged to call the same toll-free numbers listed above and select the option for “General Information” or go online to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

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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.*