



# Disaster News

August 24, 2006

FEMA-1651-DR-OH-PR014

Contact:

News Desk 216-520-2525

Ohio EMA C.J. Couch 614-799-3695

FEMA Sam Ventura 614-779-3698

SBA Michael Lampton 404-347-3771

## **ONLY ONE WEEK REMAINING TO APPLY FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE** *60-Day Application Period Ends August 31, 2006*

CLEVELAND – Only one week remains for residents and business owners in the disaster-declared counties who sustained damage from the severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding that occurred between June 21 and June 23 to apply for disaster assistance.

The deadline to call and apply for disaster assistance is August 31. The eligible counties are Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas, Sandusky, and Stark.

“For individuals who have already applied, their cases will continue to be processed,” Jesse Munoz, the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) federal coordinating officer, said. “We want people to understand that Thursday, August 31, is merely the end of the 60-day application period, which started June 21 when President Bush issued a major disaster declaration for the state.”

Loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for disaster-related losses to real and personal property and businesses of all sizes **must also be submitted by that date**. SBA officials encourage anyone who has received a disaster loan application to turn it in as soon as possible. Failure to complete and return your SBA loan application will stop consideration for other assistance programs, including additional grants.

To date, **over 12,000** individuals and business owners have applied for disaster assistance in the eligible counties. Nearly **\$8 million in grants** has been approved for individuals impacted by the disaster, and the SBA has approved **439 low-interest loans for \$9.6 million dollars**.

There are two easy ways to begin the application process. Residents may call FEMA’s special 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., Monday through Saturday, and multilingual operators are also available to answer your call. Residents with Internet access may apply on the

**ONLY ONE WEEK TO APPLY FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE, Page 2**

agency's Web site at <http://www.fema.gov>. Valuable recovery information is also available on the Web site.

Disaster officials also stated that residents waiting for a final insurance settlement should contact the FEMA Helpline at the same toll-free above to update their claim information.

The SBA Loan Assistance Centers, that were established to assist residents and business owners with the application process, will close on Thursday, August 31. Individuals who need to visit a center for assistance should do so promptly. They are located at:

<b>Valley View Village Hall</b>	<b>Huron County Emergency Operation Center</b>
6848 Hathaway Road	255B Shady Lane (behind the Sheriff's office)
Valley View, OH 44125	Norwalk, OH 44857
<b>Open: Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</b>	<b>Open: Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>

<b>Lucas County Emergency Services Training Center</b>
2127 Jefferson Avenue
Toledo, OH 43604
<b>Open: Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</b>

###

*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.*

*FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, an applicant must complete an SBA loan application to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.*