



Disaster News

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INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION DEADLINE NEARS

CLEVELAND – In addition to the variety of assistance programs available to help individuals recover from the severe storms, straight line winds and flooding that occurred July 27 through Aug. 4, state and federal disaster assistance for Ashtabula, Geauga, and Lake Counties was expanded to include infrastructure losses for local governments, state agencies and certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations affected by the storms. **The deadline to apply for infrastructure losses is Friday, Sept. 15.**

“These funds serve as a reimbursement to local governments who responded to and are now recovering from the recent disaster,” said Nancy Dragani, Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) state coordinating officer. She urges eligible organizations and government agencies to contact 216-520-2083 promptly.

Federal and state funds may be provided to reimburse eligible costs incurred for emergency protective actions taken during and immediately following a disaster to protect life and property, to conduct debris removal, and to restore disaster-damaged infrastructure. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides 75 percent of the costs of eligible losses, the state provides 12.5 percent, and the local municipality or agency covers the remainder.

“We continue to work with eligible communities to ensure that vital community services are restored quickly and efficiently,” said FEMA’s Federal Coordinating Officer Jesse Munoz. “With these federal funds, both FEMA and Ohio EMA are helping the three affected counties clean up and repair damage from the recent flooding and severe storms.”

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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.