



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

NEWS RELEASE

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Ted Strickland, Governor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RECOVERY EFFORTS CONTINUE IN AFFECTED FLOOD AREAS

COLUMBUS – As floodwaters recede throughout northern Ohio, local and state agencies, in partnership with volunteer organizations, are continuing their efforts to help residents and businesses recover from severe flooding. Since Aug. 20, the state's Emergency Operations Center has been receiving reports from 27 counties affected by storms that have dumped as much as 15 inches of rain throughout central and northern Ohio. Governor Ted Strickland declared a state of emergency for nine northern Ohio counties: Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Richland, Seneca, Van Wert and Wyandot, on Aug. 22.

Yesterday, Governor Strickland joined U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator David Paulison for a tour of flood affected areas in the downtown business district of Findlay. After his visit to Findlay, Governor Strickland joined U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, U.S. Representatives Paul Gilmour, Marcy Kaptur and Jim Jordan; Ohio State Senator Steve Buehrer, Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Henry Guzmán, Ohio Adjutant General Greg Wayt and Ohio EMA Operations Division Director Mel House for a helicopter tour of flood affected areas in Hancock, Wyandot and Crawford counties. The delegation met with residents and business owners in Findlay and Bucyrus, assuring them that local, state and federal agencies will work together to bring comfort and support during these difficult times.

As of Noon today, the state Emergency Operations Center provided the following update:

- County, state and federal emergency management officials will begin to conduct Preliminary Damage Assessments, tomorrow in the following counties: Crawford, Hancock, Putnam, Richland and Wyandot;
- Electricity has been restored throughout the region;
- The American Red Cross and Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) are continuing to provide shelters, service centers and feeding stations in the following counties: Crawford, Hancock, Ottawa and Putnam.

County and state agencies have begun efforts to ensure debris created by the flooding is removed from the impacted areas. Residents need to make certain that debris (damaged household items, carpeting, appliances, furniture, etc) is placed along the curbside or next to roadway within the public right-of-way. Debris teams can not remove items located next to homes/private property.

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