



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

NEWS RELEASE

www.ema.ohio.gov

Ted Strickland, Governor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE RESOURCES DISPATCHED TO AFFECTED FLOOD AREAS *Governor Strickland Declares State of Emergency for Nine Counties*

Columbus, OH (August 22, 2007) – Governor Ted Strickland declared a state of emergency for nine northern Ohio counties earlier today. Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Richland, Seneca, Van Wert and Wyandot counties were severely flooded after more than 9 inches of rain inundated the area since Monday. Rain is forecast for the entire state through the end of the week.

Governor Strickland and Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Henry Guzmán visited with individuals and families impacted by flooding in Hancock County today.

As of 5 p.m. today, the state Emergency Operations Center provided the following update:

- A total of 21 counties have been affected by flooding and wind damage;
- Approximately 2,200 customers in Putnam County (Ottawa) are without power;
- Ohio Department of Transportation reopened Interstate 75 late Tuesday;
- Hancock County officials reported more than 500 people were evacuated and rescued from flooding in the city of Findlay;
- Ohio EMA field liaisons and the Ohio National Guard have been dispatched to Hancock, and Putnam counties;
- Since Monday, more than 1,000 have been displaced from their homes because of flooding;
- County and state emergency management officials have begun assessing damages in the affected counties;
- The American Red Cross and Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) are providing shelters in the following counties: Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Putnam, Richland and Wyandot.

As a reminder, never try to walk, swim, drive or play in flood water. Flood waters may have dangerous hidden debris and may be infected with raw sewage. Remember, it only takes six inches of swiftly moving water to knock an adult down and only two feet of water to float most vehicles.

For additional information on flood safety and emergency preparedness, log onto www.ema.ohio.gov or www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

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