



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center
NEWS RELEASE
www.ema.ohio.gov

Ted Strickland, Governor
2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2007

Contact: Keith Dailey, Governor's Office (614) 506-4949
Tom Hunter, Ohio Department of Public Safety (614) 403-0302

**GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL
OF MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION FOR OHIO**

COLUMBUS – Governor Ted Strickland thanked federal officials this evening for their rapid response in approving federal disaster aid for the State of Ohio to help people and communities recover from the effects of severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes beginning on August 20, 2007, and continuing.

The White House announced the President's approval of a Disaster Declaration for Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Putnam, Richland and Wyandot counties shortly before 6 p.m. today. The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in these counties.

"I appreciate President Bush's swift response to our request for individual assistance," Strickland said. "We will continue to work closely with the administration to ensure we meet the needs of suffering Ohio families, businesses and public sector institutions."

The assistance, to be coordinated by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and FEMA, can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance. Federal funding may also be available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Federal and state officials are continuing damage assessments in other affected areas, and more counties and additional forms of assistance may be designated after these assessments are completed.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance tomorrow by registering online at <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) Monday thru Sunday.

###