



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

Ted Strickland, Governor

2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235

NEWS RELEASE

www.ema.ohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Tamara McBride, Ohio Emergency Management Agency (614) 799-3695

OHIO RESPONDS TO WIND AND FLOOD DAMAGE

COLUMBUS -- The Ohio Emergency Operations Center continues partial activation in response to flooding throughout northwest Ohio.

Seven Ohio counties have declared local emergencies as a result of flooding: Auglaize, Defiance, Putnam, Henry, Hancock, Mercer and Seneca counties. The state EOC assessment room continues 24-hour operations to maintain communications with impacted county EMAs and to monitor the continuing severe weather situation. There are currently no county requests for state assistance.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) reports that all storm-related power outages have been restored. If consumers continue to experience electrical issues, contact PUCO at 1-800-686-7826, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) reports a reduction in the number of road closures caused by the floods. As of this afternoon there were 72 state and U.S. route road closures (down from 87 reported this morning). ODOT encourages drivers to be aware of closures and detours. Visit www.buckeyetraffic.org for up-to-date information. ODOT also cautions people to never drive or wade through flooded roadways. Just six inches of swiftly moving water can knock a person down; two feet of rushing flood water can float and sweep away most vehicles.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health noted that affected residents can call for crisis counseling at the following:

Hancock Cares at 419-306-4176 (until 9 p.m.); ***Hancock County American Red Cross*** at 419-422-9322; ***Crisis Counseling Hotline***: 1-888-936-7116.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, encourages residents who enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) from the August 2007 floods and have been affected by the recent floods to contact the NFIP toll free number at 1-800-638-6620 to determine if they are eligible for additional assistance. Ohio EMA also encourages affected residents to notify their local emergency management agencies.

Activation of the Emergency Operations Center is provided and maintained by Ohio EMA staff. Three EMA field liaisons have been dispatched to support the declared and affected counties.

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