FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COLUMBUS (June 6, 2010) Governor Ted Strickland today activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in response to the major tornado damage that impacted northwest Ohio. The SEOC coordinates response and recovery efforts of state agencies.

Tornado damage occurred in areas of Wood, Fulton, Ottawa and Lucas counties, resulting in county officials declaring a local state of emergency for Wood, Fulton and Ottawa. Governor Ted Strickland also declared a state of emergency early this morning for Wood and Fulton counties.

“Our state emergency responders will remain available to help these communities recover from this destructive storm," Strickland said.

State Departments providing assistance to the impacted area include the Ohio Departments of Transportation, Environmental Protective Agency, Highway Patrol, and Emergency Management Agency.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio reports that more than 1,000 customers remain without power in the impacted area.

Red Cross has opened fixed and mobile feeding sites and has opened a service center in Wood County.

“This community is a resilient one,” says Nancy Dragani, Executive Director of Ohio EMA. “We know how devastating a tornado can be and we are available to help this community respond.”

The SEOC is continuing to monitor the situation and will remain open until no longer needed to assist local officials.

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State Emergency Operations Center Activated in Response to Northwest Ohio Tornado