



# STATE OF OHIO

## Emergency Operations Center

**NEWS ADVISORY**  
[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)

Bob Taft, Governor

2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43235  
614-889-7150

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: C.J. Couch, Chief of Public Affairs  
614-799-3695

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### **JOINT LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL TEAMS TO ASSESS DAMAGES**

**COLUMBUS** (June 27, 2006) – At the request of Governor Bob Taft, damage assessment teams with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Small Business Administration began arriving in Ohio today to survey the damage caused by the widespread flooding earlier this month.

The teams, which are comprised of representatives from county emergency management agencies, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, FEMA and SBA are expected to begin touring the affected areas starting late today. Counties scheduled to have assessments are Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas and Stark. Results of these assessments will be used to determine eligibility for state or federal disaster assistance programs in areas that have incurred damage related to the severe storms, flooding and high winds which impacted the state June 21 and 22, 2006.

“The expertise of these federal teams working closely with the county emergency management directors and Ohio EMA will help us determine whether the federal government will share the costs of the damage from recent flooding,” said Ohio Emergency Management Agency Executive Director Nancy J. Dragani. “This process is important in developing a clear picture of what assistance may be available.”

Depending on the extent and severity of the damage quantified by the teams, federal disaster assistance thresholds may be reached possibly making available low- interest U.S. Small Business Administration loans to individuals and businesses and FEMA disaster assistance for individuals and families.

Since June 24, 2006 Governor Taft has issued Proclamations of Emergency for five counties across northern Ohio including Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas and Stark.

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