



# STATE OF OHIO

## Emergency Operations Center

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **STATE OFFICIALS EXPLAIN DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PROCESS**

**COLUMBUS (June 29, 2006)** - As local and state agencies continue to provide assistance to residents, businesses and the communities impacted by severe storms, flooding and high winds June 21 and 22, 2006, state officials are offering an explanation as to the overall disaster response and recovery process.

“We know that the impacts caused by severe weather are both financially and emotionally difficult for people. As recovery efforts continue we want people to understand the overall process,” said Nancy J. Dragani, executive director for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

The response and recovery process occurs in multiple stages. The timeframe for the completion of each stage is dependent upon a number of factors. The following information details where Ohio is in the process.

**Stage One** - Incident Occurs: Natural or man-made disasters such as floods, tornadoes, mudslides, earthquakes, or utility outages. (Occurred June 21 and 22, 2006)

**Stage Two** – Local and State Response: Search and Rescue missions occur, evacuations occur and shelters opened. County governments issue declarations of emergency. County and state officials conduct preliminary damage assessments. County may request state agency assistance with response efforts. Governor may issue proclamations of emergency for a county. (Occurred June 24 and 27, 2006 for Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas and Stark counties)

**Stage Three** – The governor may request the Federal Emergency Management Agency to send damage assessment teams into the state. Teams of local, state and federal officials assess damages in impacted counties. (Assessments began June 27 and are on going – estimate to complete June 30, 2006)

**Stage Four** – Based upon preliminary damage assessments, governor may request, through the regional office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a federal declaration.

**Stage Five** – FEMA receives the declaration and sends its recommendation to the president. If approved, the president declares a major disaster declaration for Ohio.

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