



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

February 8, 2008

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

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO OHIOANS IMPACTED BY RECENT FLOODS

COLUMBUS –State and federal officials are encouraging families and business owners who experienced damages from the recent flooding and the August 2007 flooding to call FEMA’s **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) toll free number 1-800-638-6620**. Assistance to residents may be covered under flood policy coverage received from the August floods.

“The only way to know is to call,” said Kay Phillips, Recovery Branch Chief, Ohio Emergency Management Agency. “We are working with FEMA to be as clear to our Ohio residents as possible. The important point to remember is that in this case, you **do not** need a federal declaration for the resources to be available.”

Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters in terms of human hardship and economic loss. As much as 90 percent of the damage related to all natural disasters, excluding droughts, is caused by floods and associated debris flows.

Residents in the affected areas are reminded to exercise caution (do not attempt to travel on roadways that are covered by water) and stay off the roads unless it is necessary to travel. Further, if a flood warning is issued for your area, listen to Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages on local television or radio stations for evacuation orders/information.

During any storm warning, be prepared to take immediate safety action.

The Ohio Department of Transportation continues to encourage citizens to visit www.buckeyetraffic.org for up-to-date information on road closures and detours.

###