



For Immediate Release:
Sunday, June 6, 2010

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Governor Issues Declaration of Emergency for Wood, Fulton Counties

Columbus, OH – Governor Ted Strickland today declared a state of emergency for Wood and Fulton counties at 8:40 a.m. to help local agencies respond after a moderate-to-major tornado destroyed several homes and caused extensive damage early this morning. Local officials are reporting at least five deaths related to the tornado.

“My heart goes out to the residents of these communities and our prayers are with the families who have lost loved ones in this devastating storm,” Strickland said. “Our county and state emergency responders have been on the ground assessing the damage since early this morning, and we are doing everything in our power to provide assistance to the people impacted by this tornado as quickly as possible. We want the good people of these communities to know that we are standing with them and will continue to stand with them as they recover from this violent storm.”

Strickland is surveying a heavily damaged area in northern Wood County this afternoon. State agencies continue to provide assistance and to communicate regularly with impacted counties.

The National Weather Service from Cleveland will be touring the damaged area to determine the intensity of the tornado. Initially, approximately 5,000 customers throughout the impacted area are without power.

As a result of the governor’s emergency declaration, local governments will be able to access state agency resources if identified and needed.

