

Lake County Emergency Management Agency

July 24, 2013
News Release # 3
Kenneth R. Gauntner Jr.
Lake County PIO
440-918-5413

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NEWS RELEASE

Kirtland, OH - Due to the "Local Declaration of Emergency" approved yesterday by the Board of Lake County Commissioners in response to the heavy rains and flooding that hit Lake County on July 20th, a conference call updating all the communities affected by the flooding took place this morning. In this morning's update to officials, the American Red Cross continues to do damage assessments of homes that have been flooded by the heavy rains. As of this morning, the Red Cross has done damage assessments on over 1,500 homes mostly in the western end of Lake County. There are still many more homes and businesses yet to be assessed as Emergency Management officials start the process of seeking a "Disaster Declaration" from the State of Ohio and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Lake County Emergency Management Director Larry Greene wanted to stress to the media and the public that "only a Local Declaration of Emergency was declared in Lake County by the Board of Commissioners. At this time Lake County has not been declared a Disaster Area by Governor Kasich or FEMA". Director Greene further said, "Declaring a Local Declaration of Emergency is only the first step in a number of steps involved in hopefully getting a federal disaster declaration. The process for Individual Assistance (IA) to homeowners and businesses has just started and could take weeks to accomplish.

Damage assessment for an event of this type must follow a strict criteria established by FEMA when assessing homes and businesses. A major component in getting the Federal Disaster Declaration is that Lake County must have a minimum of twenty-five (25) primary homes and/or businesses with 40% **"UNINSURED DAMAGE"**. Director Greene stated, "We are aware that we have thousands of homes in Lake County with water in the basements and flood damaged possessions, however FEMA's criteria centers on structural damage such as collapsed basement walls that make the dwellings uninhabitable and un-repairable for more than 30 days".

Director Greene also stated, "Residents or businesses who believe damage to their property meets this requirement should call the "211 Information Line" or their local City Hall so a Damage Assessment Team can inspect the property. Elderly and disabled residents who need assistance in cleaning their flooded basements or homes are urged to call "211" so that "Citizen Corp" volunteers can be dispatched to assist in flood damage cleanup".