

## **News for Immediate Release**

## Sept. 27, 2011

## Lt. Governor Cawley Urges Flood Victims to Use Disaster Recovery Centers

**Pine Grove** – Lt. Governor Jim Cawley is urging residents affected by recent floods to register for assistance at any of the 20 local Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC), like the one he toured today at the Pine Grove Hook and Ladder Co. 1 in Pine Grove, Schuylkill County.

"These centers are one-stop-shops for residents to get the help they need to get back on their feet," Cawley said. "We want to make the process as easy as possible for flood victims, and visiting a center can be a critical first step to getting available help."

DRCs are staffed with representatives from various federal, state and local agencies and are generally open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"Many Pennsylvanians are still in need, but don't know where to turn. I want to get the message out that we are here to help," Cawley added, noting that nearly 30,000 Pennsylvanians have already applied for federal disaster assistance.

In addition to the Pine Grove DRC, centers are also open Bradford, Bucks, Chester, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montgomery, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. Any Pennsylvanian can use any DRC, regardless of where they live.

Cawley said services offered by the centers include financial assistance, disaster unemployment, crisis counseling, and small business and farm disaster loans.

Pennsylvanians can also register for assistance by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), where operators are available from 7 am to 10 p.m. Applicants who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY should call 1-800-462-7585. You can also register online at <u>www.DisasterAssistance.gov</u>.

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