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## News Release

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**Note to reporters: Grand River hydrograph from July 27 to August 7, 2006, is available at [http://oh.water.usgs.gov/images/Painesville\\_flood\\_hydrograph.JPG](http://oh.water.usgs.gov/images/Painesville_flood_hydrograph.JPG). This news release can be viewed online at [http://oh.water.usgs.gov/newsreleases/Grand\\_River\\_flood\\_rpt.pdf](http://oh.water.usgs.gov/newsreleases/Grand_River_flood_rpt.pdf).**

# Extreme rain event led to 500-year flood last July on the Grand River near Painesville, Ohio

In the midst of the dry conditions this summer, it's difficult to remember how different conditions were about a year ago in northeastern Ohio. Thunderstorms at the end of July 2006 caused record flooding on the Grand River near Painesville, Ohio, and resulted in one death, the evacuation of 600 people, and destruction of 100 homes and businesses. Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties were declared Federal and State disaster areas. Last year's storm and flooding are described in a report by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Following two wetter-than-normal months for northeastern Ohio, intense thunderstorms on July 27–28, 2006, caused the largest flood recorded on the Grand River near Painesville, Ohio. More than 11.35 inches of rain fell in Painesville over a 48-hour period, an amount that exceeds the 1,000-year recurrence interval for 48-hour rainfall total. On July 28, 2006, the USGS stream gage at Grand River near Painesville, Ohio, recorded a peak streamflow of 35,000 cubic feet per second, which exceeds the 500-year recurrence interval for peak streamflow. A 500-year flood—the maximum for which the USGS computes statistics—is the peak streamflow that has only a 1 in 500 chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

The report, titled “Flood of July 27–31, 2006, on the Grand River near Painesville, Ohio” by Andrew D. Ebner, James M. Sherwood (USGS), Brian Astifan, and Kirk Lombardy (National Weather Service, Cleveland), is available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2007/1164/pdf/ofr20071164.pdf>.

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