



This Week in Ohio EMA

A publication of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety

Bob Taft, Governor ♦ Nancy Dragani, Executive Director, Ohio EMA ♦ Kenneth L. Morckel, Director, ODPS
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County, State and Federal Officials Participate in Bi-Annual Directors' Seminar

Directors and managers from Ohio's county emergency management agencies attended the Spring Directors' Seminar on Emergency Management and Homeland Security held in Columbus, March 28 and 29. Approximately 20 presentations were given during the two-day event, updating local and state emergency management personnel on specific agency/organization activities involving preparedness, response and recovery efforts over the past year.

Presentations on the first day included: Ohio EMA & Ohio Homeland Security's Year in Review; Legislative update; U.S. Postal Service Emergency Preparedness; County and State Audits; Preparedness - Ohio Department of Health; FEMA, Region V Update; Volunteer Reception Center; Ohio Adjutant General's Brief (Ohio Army National Guard); Buckeye State Sheriffs Association communications vehicles; Ohio EMA Grants Software.

Second day presentations included: Homeland Security and Safe Schools; updates from Ohio Homeland Security Sections; Fiscal Year 2006 State Homeland Security Grant Program; U.S. Army Corps of Engineer; Ohio EMA Division Directors' updates; and Ohio response efforts to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were reviewed.



Richard Rawlings of Ohio Homeland Security, addresses the audience of state and county EMA personnel at the Spring Directors' Seminar.



FEMA, Region V Director Ed Buikema gives an update briefing on the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Governor Approves Revised State Emergency Operations Plan (State EOP)

Governor Bob Taft announced Wednesday that he approved the 2006 edition of Ohio's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), a framework state and local agencies follow in response to a major disaster or terrorist attack.

"Whether in response to a natural or man-made disaster, our ability to protect the health, safety, and welfare of fellow citizens depends directly on our preparedness," Taft said. "As Ohioans participate in the statewide tornado drill today, they should be confident knowing that the state has an Emergency Operations Plan in place for any disaster."

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) coordinates state assistance and resources during an emergency and prepares the state for all hazards through planning, training exercises and funding activities at the state and local level. These activities provide planning assistance and experience in administering state and federal assistance to individuals and governmental entities recovering from disaster-related damage and costs.

The Ohio EOP follows the Emergency Support Function structure as outlined in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Response Plan, and incorporates guidelines set for by the National Incident Management System. Updates and changes to the 2006 edition were made to seven Emergency Support Functions and two annexes.

The 2006 EOP includes the new Human Infectious Disease Annex, which, combined with the Ohio Department of Health's recently revised Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan, will guide the state's response during an influenza pandemic or any other infectious disease emergency. These plans provide the structure and emergency management responsibilities for the various responding agencies.

Ohio EMA Weekly Entries (Ending March 28, 2006)

Mass Fatality Planning Initiative

A core group of agencies and organizations had a pilot meeting on March 20 to discuss initial planning considerations for the creation of the Mass Fatalities Management Annex to the Ohio Emergency Operations Plan.

Ten agencies/organizations make up the core planning group which will meet every two weeks to review the planning progress and drafts of the annex' purpose, situation, assumptions and concept of operations.

The core group formed after the completion of the Ohio Department of Health's Pandemic Flu Mass Fatality Management teamwork on the State Pandemic Flu Plan.

Core Group: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; State Board of Embalmers; American Red Cross; Ohio Department of Health; Ohio Funeral Directors Association; Association of Ohio Health Commissioners; Ohio Department of Administrative Services; and Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

Communications Update

Ohio EMA radio technicians completed repairs to the NOAA Weather Radio transmitter located in Butler, which serves Mansfield and surrounding areas.

Severe Weather Awareness

March 26 marked the kickoff of the 2006 Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week. The Public Affairs Office conducted numerous radio interviews on severe weather preparedness - specifically flood, tornado and thunderstorm safety.

On Wednesday, March 29, Ohio participated in a statewide tornado drill. At 9:50 a.m., warning sirens sounded and the Emergency Alert System broadcasted a test message.

During the week, schools, businesses and homes were encouraged to update their disaster preparedness plans and practice their tornado drills.

National Volunteer Week: April 23-29, 2006



Thanking America's most valuable assets - our volunteers - and calling the public's attention to all that they do to improve our communities.

FEMA Assistance

Registrations for Federal Disaster Assistance:

Hurricane Rita (as of March 28)

Louisiana 365,332
Texas 479,864

Hurricane Katrina (as of March 28)

Louisiana 1,078,432
Mississippi 517,321

Registration deadline for Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi has been extended to April 10th. Registration deadline for Alabama closed on March 11th.

EMAC UPDATE

The Ohio EMA Fiscal Branch continues to work on Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) reimbursements. As of March 28, Ohio EMA processed 84 requests, totaling \$1,830,410.43.

Correction to the March 24, 2006 newsletter:
Page 1: Portfolio Director with the Department of Homeland Security - Nancy **SUSKI**

Held in conjunction with the Intergovernmental Technology Conference (ITC)



Hosted by:

Ohio Department of Public Safety and Homeland Security
Greater Columbus Convention Center
Downtown Columbus
May 10-11, 2006

Advance registration: \$52.00
On-site registration: \$75.00
Register at: www.gov.resources.com/ohsshhomepage.html

SPILL OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE EXERCISE

SONS07

A full-scale exercise to test the National Response System resulting from a New Madrid earthquake.
COMING JUNE 19, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 26	27	28	29	30	31	April 1
		Directors Seminar - Holiday Inn Worthington, Ohio		Debris Management Ohio EMA	Cost Documentation Ohio EMA Agri.Exercise with Case Western Univ.	 Set clocks ahead 1 hour
SPRING SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK (March 26 - April 1) - Wednesday, March 29 - 9:50 a.m. Statewide Tornado Drill						
2 Daylight Saving begins	3	4	5 Communications TAC Teleconference	6	7	8
9	URSB Meeting Ohio EMA	11	12	Senior TAC ODOT Auditorium	14	15
16  Easter	Medical TAC Ohio EMA	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt Ohio EMA Tactical TAC ODOT - B	Water TAC Ohio EMA	CAMEO Course Carlisle Township Fire Department	CAMEO Course Carlisle Township Fire Department
CAMEO Course Carlisle Township Fire Department	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Principles of Emergency Management - Salt Fork State Lodge					

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>