



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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Community Service Council to become primary agency for mass care



The Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC) recently accepted Ohio EMA's invitation to become the primary agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #6 - Mass Care. As the lead agency for ESF-6, OCSC will monitor and report on mass care activities throughout response and recovery. ESF-6 addresses, coordinates and reports on emergency mass care activities of state-level organizations responsible for sheltering, feeding, counseling, providing first aid, and related social services and welfare activities required to assist the victims of an emergency. The primary and support organizations of ESF-6 work as a team in the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center (State EOC) and at the site of a disaster to address the emergency mass care needs of Ohio citizens. The council is partaking in planning and training efforts to take the lead in providing mass care for out-of-state evacuees.

The mission of OCSC is to strengthen Ohio's communities through service and volunteerism. The council was established by Ohio statute in 1994 by the state legislature to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. It funds five major initiatives, with AmeriCorps being its largest.

The other initiatives include:

- Homeland Security - Ohio Citizen Corps
- Ohio Civic Education and Participation
- Supporting Volunteerism and Community Service
- Youth Leadership Development

Support agencies for ESF-6: American Red Cross; Ohio Department of Aging; Ohio Department of Agriculture; Ohio Department of Development; Ohio Department of Education; Ohio Department of Health; Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; Ohio Department of Mental Health; Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; Ohio Emergency Management Agency; Ohio Housing Finance Agency; Rehabilitation Services Commission; and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters.

National Volunteer Week:

April 23-29, 2006

National Volunteer Week began in 1974 when President Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering.

Visit www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/ for more information.



Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED

Ohio EMA Weekly Report Entries (ending April 5, 2006)

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application - Guernsey County

Personnel from Ohio EMA's Public Affairs and Mitigation branches attended a public briefing in Guernsey County, Tuesday, where residents waited to hear if the federal government would buy their property that was ruined during the flooding of September 2004.

FEMA changed the requirements for hazard mitigation applications in December 2005. Applications now require a cost analysis where FEMA states that the benefit must equal or exceed the cost of the project.

"FEMA made a decision to strengthen the requirements for what we have to submit," said Mitigation Branch Chief Chad Berginnis. "Many steps are necessary to finalize the process."

According to the Wednesday Jeffersonian, Ohio EMA is working with the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct the cost analysis, which will include obtaining measurements for flood plains in some areas and elevations of homes included in the mitigation application. The projects includes 81 homes, but EMA officials say funding will be limited to approximately 55 homes, as allowed by the budget.

Contact the Mitigation Branch at (614) 889-7153 for additional information.

The Fifth Plague - Bio-terrorism Conference

Three Ohio EMA officials and three Ohio Department of Agriculture officials participated in a bio-terrorism conference/tabletop exercise at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, on March 31. More than 20 local, state and federal government leaders, law enforcement officials, and media representatives participated and facilitated discussion of a scenario that involved a terrorist group that contaminated a Lorain County dairy farm with the highly contagious foot and mouth disease.

The simulated exercise demonstrated how such a bio-terrorism attack could disrupt public health and safety, devastate Ohio's agricultural economy and create international security concerns.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant Leaks Small Amount of Radioactivity

First Energy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) continues proactive measures with the Perry Nuclear Power Plant (PNPP) after discovering that the plant had been leaking very small amounts of tritium - a radioactive isotope - into Lake Erie.

According to a PNPP official, on March 28, during a routine quarterly sampling of the plant's underdrain system, minimal detectable levels of tritium were detected in an underdraining system manhole. The Perry plant filed a report with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, even though the level of radioactivity was so low that a report was not needed.

Tritium is a radioactive isotope of hydrogen. Tritium is one of the least dangerous radionuclides because its radiation is very weak and cannot be detected by a Geiger counter. Tritium is usually found in water, replacing one of the hydrogen atoms in water. The isotope can be ingested, inhaled or absorbed through the skin, but is usually flushed out soon after. The tritium level in the sewer was measured at 0.05 microcuries per liter, which is less than a 20th of the allowable level for discharging into the environment.

It was determined that the releases had no impact on the health and safety of the public.

Contact the Ohio EMA Radiological Branch at (614) 799-3915 for additional information.

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/ohsshomepage.html



Washington, DC, April 6, 2006 - DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff announces President Bush's appointment of R. David Paulison as the director of FEMA. From left to right: David Maurstad, FEMA's mitigation director; Paulison; Chertoff; Vice Admiral Harvey Johnson, Jr., deputy director and chief operation officer of FEMA; and Deidre Lee, deputy director of operations. (FEMA photo)

FEMA Assistance

Registrations for Federal Disaster Assistance:

Hurricane Rita (as of April 5)

Louisiana 365,577
Texas 479,922

Hurricane Katrina (as of April 5)

Louisiana 1,078,995
Mississippi 517,484

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 April 3, Ohio EMA's Fiscal Branch has only three requests needing processed. Total processed requests equal \$1,937,774.

Ohio EMA personnel attended an EMAC After Action Review in Atlanta, March 27-29. Many participants had been deployed to Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Florida, in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Discussions identified issues that will have EMAC work more efficiently. The Titan Corporation should have the report finalized by June or July.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Communications TAC Teleconference	AMBER Alert Sub-Committee Mtg Ohio EMA		
9	URSB Meeting Ohio EMA	11	12	Senior TAC ODOT Auditorium	14	15
				Passover Begins	Good Friday	
16 Easter	17	18	19	20	21	22
	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>