



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
www.ema.ohio.gov (614) 799-3695 - Ohio EMA Public Affairs

June 30, 2006

Volume III, No. 26

Five Northern Ohio Counties Eligible for State Resources and Assistance

Joint Local, State and Federal Teams Assess Storm Damages



June 28, 2006 - This mobile home park in Brewster, Ohio (Stark County) received extensive damage from the June 21 and 22 storms. Joint damage assessment teams surveyed Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas and Stark counties this week. (Ohio EMA photo.)

After surveying storm-damaged areas in Erie and Huron counties Saturday morning (June 24), Governor Bob Taft issued a state of emergency. On June 21 and 22, severe thunder and lightning storms, hail, tornadoes, heavy rains and strong winds pummeled Ohio, affecting 21 northern counties. By Monday (June 26), Cuyahoga, Lucas and Stark counties were added to the emergency declaration.

People residing in these five counties are now eligible to receive state assistance and, if eligible, apply for disaster assistance through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Joint damage assessment teams consisting of emergency managers from county and state EMAs, the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) began surveying storm-damaged homes Tuesday afternoon. Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas and Stark counties were assessed for damages throughout the week. Results of these assessments will be used to determine their eligibility for state or federal disaster assistance programs.

“The expertise of these federal teams who are working closely with the county emergency management agency directors and Ohio EMA will help us determine whether the federal government will share the costs of the damage from Ohio’s recent flooding,” said Nancy J. Dragani, executive director of Ohio EMA.

If the threshold of severely damaged and destroyed homes is met by the joint assessment teams, then low-interest SBA loans may be available to assist affected individuals and businesses and FEMA disaster assistance may be available to individuals and families.

Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED





After a Flood: The First Steps

Your home and neighborhood has been flooded. Although floodwaters may be down in some areas, many dangers still exist. Here are some safety tips to remember after being flooded:

- Report flood/storm damages to your local emergency management office.
- Roads may still be closed because of flood damage or they are covered by water. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded roadway, go another way. Never attempt to drive through a flooded road. The water may be deeper than it appears.
- Keep listening to the radio for news on what to do, where to go, or places to avoid.

If you must walk or drive in areas that have been flooded ...

- While walking, stay on firm ground. Six inches of moving water can sweep a person off his or her feet. Also, standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- If your vehicle stalls in rapidly rising floodwater, get out immediately and climb to higher ground. It only takes two feet of moving water to float most vehicles.
- Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways. Flood debris can hide animals and broken bottles. Use extreme caution walking or driving.
- Continue to listen to your local news. The weather can bring additional flooding or flash floods.

Staying Healthy

A flood can cause emotional and physical stress. You need to look after yourself and your family as you focus on cleanup and repair.

- Rest often and try to eat well balanced meals.
- Keep a manageable schedule. Make a list and do jobs one at a time.
- Discuss your concerns with others and seek help. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter for information on emotional support available in your area.

Getting Help

- Your local American Red Cross chapter may be able to help by providing vouchers for clothing, groceries, essential medicines and other items to meet emergency needs. Listen to the radio to find out where to go for assistance.
- Contact your insurance agency to discuss claims.
- If you hire contractors for cleanup or repairs, check their references and be sure they are qualified to do the job. Be leery of people who drive through neighborhoods offering their services for fees. Never pay more than half up front before the contractors do any work.

*Have a Safe and Happy
Fourth of July!*



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Deputy Director
Location: Fairfield County EMA
 407 East Main Street
 Lancaster, Ohio 43130



Annual Salary: \$29,000 + benefits

Description: Position is responsible for assisting the county EMA director with planning, organizing and coordinating Fairfield County's emergency management operations, implementing program and operational procedures, and preparing/maintaining fiscal and operational records and reports.

Requirements: Bachelor degree in Business Administration or related field. Also requires three to five years experience with emergency management programs. Strong skills needed in communications, office administration, budgeting, grant application/administration and record keeping. Must have valid Ohio driver's license.

Applications available at:
www.state.oh.us/das/dhr/jobapp.html. Submit completed application, resume and civil service application by **July 21, 2006** to:
 Fairfield County Human Resources Director
 239 West Main Street
 Lancaster, Ohio 43130

EMA Updates

Jonathan "Eric" Larson is leaving his position as Director of Wood County Emergency Management Agency after nearly 12 years of dedicated service. His last day in the office is today (June 30). The agency's new E-mail is: woodcountyema@co.wood.oh.us

Highland County Emergency Management
 E-Mail: ema@co.highland.oh.us



Beaver Valley Power Station Plume and Ingestion Zone Exercise

The Beaver Valley Power Station in Shippingport, Pennsylvania conducted a full-scale, federally graded plume phase and ingestion zone exercise June 27 and 28. The State Emergency Operations Center, Assessment Room, Executive Room and Joint Information Center were operational with key state response agencies participating. Field monitoring and communications activities were demonstrated and graded.

The Department of Homeland Security's Chicago field office held its exercise critique on June 30. Their preliminary report is due within two weeks.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 25	26	27	28	29	30	JULY 1
		Preparedness & Response to Agri-Terrorism (June 27-29) 220 W. Livingston Street, Celina OH 45822				
		Beaver Valley Power Station EXERCISE (Plume Phase 06/27) (Ingestion Phase 06/28)				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Columbus UASI Actual Event (TICP Validation)	 Independence Day	Communications TAC Ohio EMA			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			Ohio Fire Chiefs Association - DRILL			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Medical TAC Ohio EMA	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident MgmtTAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA		

UASI - Urban Area Security Initiative
TICP - Tactical Interoperable Communications Planning
 Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>