



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

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## Cleveland Responders Test Interoperable Communications Plan during Disaster Exercise



August 26, 2006 - Emergency Medical Service paramedics treat multiple exercise victims during Cleveland's Urban Area Security Initiative Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan Full Scale Exercise. Five cities in Cuyahoga County participated. (photo by the Titan Group)

Approximately 800 local, state and federal emergency responders and managers from more than 100 agencies and organizations joined forces with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Cleveland, Saturday, to participate in the largest emergency training drill in the state of Ohio.

The full-scale terrorism exercise took place simultaneously across five cities in Cuyahoga County, testing the Cleveland Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan. Participating cities included Cleveland, Lakewood, North Royalton, Brook Park and Highland Hills.

The scenario: a suicide bomber attacked a passenger boat, "The Goodtime III on Lake Erie;" a poisonous gas bomb detonated on a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) train in Brook Park; and bombs were found on

buses in Highland Hills and North Royalton. The initial outcome: interoperable communications systems tested/worked well; emergency responders worked well together; there's room for improvement in the response plans; overall, Cleveland passed the test.

Participants included the U.S. Coast Guard, county and state emergency management agencies, local emergency medical services, fire and police departments, area hospitals and city officials. Many exercise players were "victims" requiring EMS to respond to mass-casualty incidents.

Lack of communication between police and fire departments was one of the major problems found after the September 11 attacks. Since then, federal officials ordered the country's 77 major urban areas to test their communication capabilities by September 30 of this year.

Cleveland's after action report is expected in about 30 days.

For additional information, contact Darren Price of Ohio EMA's FOT&E Branch, at (614) 799-3660.

Homeland Security Current Threat Level (Domestic & International Flights):

HIGH

## United States / China Disaster Management Conference



An Ohio EMA planner attended an August 24 steering committee meeting in Washington, D.C. for the United States/China Disaster Management Conference - Building Partnerships in Preparedness, which will be held in Beijing in August 2007.

The committee received feedback from China stating that they would like to see the conference's agenda focus on specific types of disasters, to include all-hazards. The conference will include exchanging ideas and interacting with top leaders in the field of disaster management opportunity to establish an institutional/organizational partnership with a like entity in China.

The meeting was hosted by the Electronic Data Systems Corporation. The U.S. Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from the National Fire Protection Association; Ohio EMA; Oklahoma State University's Fire and Emergency Management Administration; International Association of Emergency Management; Electronic Data Systems Corporation; Purdue Homeland Security Institute; and Global Interactions, Inc.

2004 Edition, NFPA 1600 - Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs is the document used for the planning of this conference.

September is ...

# National Preparedness Month

**Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed and Get Involved**

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. National Preparedness Month 2006 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Its goal is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action.

Throughout the month, DHS and the National Preparedness Month Coalition encourage all Americans to take some simple steps to make their families better prepared for emergencies, including:

- Get a Kit** - Get a kit of emergency supplies that will allow you and your family to survive for at least three days in the event an emergency happens. The kit should include basic items like water, food, battery-powered radio, flashlight and a first aid kit.
- Make a Plan** - Plan in advance what you and your family will do in an emergency. Your plan should include a communications plan and address sheltering-in-place and evacuation.
- Be informed** - Learn more about different threats that could affect your community and appropriate responses to them. Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more information about natural disasters and potential threats.
- Get involved** - After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step: get training in first aid and emergency response and get involved in preparing your community. Citizen Corps provides residents with opportunities to prepare, train and support local emergency responders. Visit [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov) for more information.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT

### FEMA DR-1656 - Declared: August 1, 2006

Federal Individual Assistance for Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake counties.

**Incident period: July 27 - August 4, 2006**

Registrations for IA (as of August 29): **5,624**

**Registration Deadline: September 30, 2006**

FEMA Individuals & Household Program:

**3,464** applications approved for **\$7,863,907**

### Small Business Administration (SBA)

Home/Personal Property Loans: **231**

Approved for **\$6,121,200**

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### FEMA DR-1651 - Declared: July 2, 2006

Federal IA disaster assistance available for Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas, Sandusky and Stark counties.

**Registration Deadline: August 31, 2006**

FEMA Individuals & Household Program:

**5,395** applications approved for **\$8,126,659**

### Small Business Administration (SBA)

Home/Personal Property Loans: **463**

Approved for **\$10,042,600**

### EMA Updates

#### New to Ohio EMA

**Rebecca Perkins**, Secretary  
Radiological Branch

## Terrorism Exercise at Grafton Correctional Institution Tests First Responders



**Grafton, OH** - During a chemical weapons full-scale exercise in Lorain County, Thursday, a terrorist attack caused numerous fatalities, injuries and widespread panic after a stolen tanker truck exploded on the Grafton Correctional Institution Farm. The exercise was designed to test more than 20 local, state and federal agencies.

The exercise, coordinated by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and Ohio EMA, required first responders to perform actions associated with initial response to chemical terrorist incidents. Actions included victim rescue; triage; treatment and decontamination; site security; crowd control; device recovery; packaging; and emergency public information. Ohio Homeland Security Grant Exercise Program sponsored this event. *(Ohio EMA photo by Julie Hinds.)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>August 27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> ODRC - FS Exercise FADRC - AG 100 Ross County	<b>September 1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> FADRC - AG 100.3 Delaware County Tactical TAC ODOT-A	<b>6</b> Behavioral Health TAC Ohio EMA Communications TAC Ohio EMA	<b>7</b> Animal Health Emergency TAC ODOT-A	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> EMA Directors' Seminar Clarion Hotel, Dublin	<b>15</b> Foreign Animal Disease Responder Course - AG 100.4 Butler County	<b>16</b> Toledo UASI/FS Exercise (TICP Validation)
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Medical TAC Ohio EMA	<b>19</b> HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	<b>20</b> Damage Assessment Ohio EMA Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	<b>21</b> Debris Management Ohio EMA Water TAC Ohio EMA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Autumn Begins

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

UASI: Urban Area Security Initiative - TICP: Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan - FS: Full Scale Exercise