



This Week in Ohio EMA

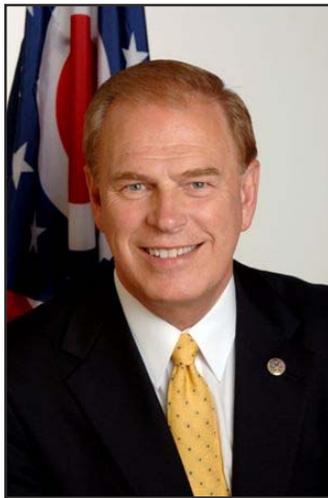
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Bob Taft, Governor ♦ Nancy Dragani, Executive Director, Ohio EMA ♦ Kenneth L. Morckel, Director, ODPS
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Governor-elect Strickland attends Ohio Homeland Security Briefing at State EOC Facility



Governor-elect Ted Strickland participated in a briefing at the State Emergency Operations Center/Joint Dispatch Facility on November 22, regarding the status of emergency management, preparedness and homeland security initiatives and issues affecting Ohio's local and state government agencies, as well as Ohio's citizens.

State agencies and associations invited to brief the governor-elect included: Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Attorney General, Ohio National Guard, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, and the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) Program Office.

Based upon his experiences in Washington, Strickland's knowledge of issues impacting eastern Ohio and following a recent meeting hosted by the National Governors' Association, Governor-elect Strickland posed questions and sought clarification on a number of issues related to Ohio's homeland security and emergency management capabilities. The governor-elect thanked the officials for their remarks and expressed his desire to begin discussions and continue important preparedness initiatives.



Ohio's SBA Declaration #10674/ State IA Program #102506 Update

As of November 20, the Small Business Administration (SBA) Home Property and Business Loan program has approved 18 Ohio loans in the total of \$495,000 for the SBA/State Individual Assistance declaration granted on October 26. Pike County residents (and residents in contiguous counties) who sustained damages from October 4 severe storms and flooding are eligible to apply for long-term, low-interest SBA loans through December 26.

Residents who do not meet SBA's loan criteria are eligible to apply for grants through the State of Ohio Individual Assistance (IA) Program. The Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch will continue to take State IA applications as additional referrals are received from SBA. As of November 24, the State IA Program has received 32 applications and approved 25 for a total of \$178,728, which includes four maximum grant approvals for \$16,800, each.

For additional information, contact the Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch at 614-889-7171.

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

HIGH

Ohio Executives Participate in Discussion on Pandemic Influenza Continuity of Operations



Governor Bob Taft (pictured right of center), Governor-elect Strickland's staff, and state agency directors met at the State Emergency Operations Center/Joint Dispatch Facility Thursday, to participate in a facilitated discussion on the Pandemic Influenza Continuity of Operations (COOP).

During the six-hour event Ohio executives discussed how each state agency will be able to continue to provide uninterrupted essential services to the public and perform their essential functions during a pandemic influenza event. Other topics of discussion included:

Identifying opportunities, strategies and plans for collaboration and resource-sharing among state agencies to provide essential services and to protect essential facilities, equipment, vital records and other assets.

Discussing how to achieve a timely and orderly reconstitution from a pandemic influenza emergency and resume full service to internal and external customers.

State agency directors and COOP coordinators from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Board of Regents, Ohio National Guard, Ohio State Highway Patrol and Ohio departments of Administrative Services; Education; Health; Job and Family Services; Mental Health; Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; Natural Resources; Public Safety; Rehabilitation and Corrections; and Youth Services participated in the day's event.

Ohio EMA and the National Organization on Disabilities Partner to Address Emergency Preparedness for Special Needs Populations



The Ohio EMA Plans Branch is coordinating an orientation seminar on addressing the functional needs of individuals with disabilities. The seminar will take place at the Columbus State University on December 7.

National Organization on Disability Director of Emergency Preparedness Initiative (EPI) Hilary Styron will give a presentation about her organization and the emergency preparedness initiative. The initiative is to ensure that emergency managers address special needs concerns and that people with disabilities are included in all levels of emergency preparedness planning, response and recovery.

EPI continues its national outreach, education and awareness efforts to ensure -

- that people with disabilities take measures to prepare themselves for emergencies;
- that preparedness officials across the country are including people with disabilities in the planning, training and exercises, and response activities being undertaken at the community level, and;
- that people with disabilities are, themselves, taking an active role in participating alongside preparedness officials before, during and after an emergency.

EMA Updates

Rob Stone, Radiological Instrument Service Manager
Ohio EMA, RI/M&C Facility
Office: (614) 688-3363

Melissa Rodrigo, Director
Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Administration
1255 Euclid Avenue, Suite 102
Cleveland, OH 44115
Office: 216-443-3155
Cell: 216-219-0338
E-Mail: esmar@cuyahogacounty.us

Paula Fairchild, Administrative Assistant
Defiance County Public Safety Services
Office: (419) 782-3714

*Congratulations to Ohio EMA's **Pam Gibson!** On December 5, 2006 Pam will be recognized as Governor Bob Taft's Statewide Employee of the Month (July) for her outstanding performance and efforts as Training Officer during the 2006 second quarter.*

University of Houston Architecture Student Seeks Survey Response for Thesis

Michael Rudis, a graduate student at the University of Houston, Sasakawa International Center for Space Architecture (SICSA) extreme architecture program is asking emergency managers to participate in an academic survey regarding emergency habitation/shelter provision preparedness for his thesis project.

The survey will be posted through December 7, so please view it as soon as possible. If you wish to contact Rudis directly with any questions regarding this survey, you may do so at (503) 516-6767 or e-mail him at michaelrudis@comcast.net.

The 20 question survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete. The survey link is: <http://habdesign.com/Surveys.aspx>. Go to the second prompt: "Emergency Habitation/Shelter Provision Preparedness Survey."

For further information regarding his project and the graduate program, you can visit his Web site: www.habdesign.com as well as the University of Houston's SICSA site: www.sicsa.uh.edu.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 26	27	28	29	30	December 1	2
			Behavioral Health TAC - Ohio EMA	Executive Level State Agency Pandemic Influenza COOP Discussion - Oio EMA		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			Communications TAC Ohio EMA			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
						 Hanukkah Begins
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Medical TAC Ohio EMA	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA	Winter Begins	Hanukkah Ends

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

TAC: Technical Advisory Committee