



# This Week in Ohio EMA

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

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## U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Resolve to be Ready in 2007

As the world counts down to a new year, nearly half of all adults in this country will make at least one New Year's resolution. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is urging Americans to make a resolution that is both important and easy to keep: to prepare themselves, their families and their businesses for emergencies. The *Ready Campaign* Web site at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) provides individuals, families and businesses with a variety of tools and checklists to help them get started.



A national survey conducted by The Advertising Council found that 91 percent of individuals agreed that it is important for all Americans to be prepared for emergencies, but only 55 percent said that they had taken any steps to prepare. A survey of small businesses found more than 90 percent recognized the importance of business emergency preparedness, but less than 40

percent said their company had an emergency plan in place.

Through its *Ready Campaign* and *Citizen Corps* program, DHS educates and empowers Americans to prepare for all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. Last month, the department and the Ad Council released new television, radio, print, outdoor and Internet public service advertisements (PSAs) for the *Ready Campaign*. The PSAs highlight the fact that many families have not yet taken the steps needed to prepare for disasters or emergencies.

By visiting [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or calling 1-800-BE-READY, Americans can learn how to prepare themselves, their families, homes and businesses for emergencies. People can also get involved in preparing their community by visiting [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov) and contacting their nearest Citizen Corps Council. Through these resources, individuals can access free materials that will help them make a New Year's resolution that will bring peace of mind.

### Ohio EMA hosts DHS Investment Justification Technical Assistance Meeting

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency's Grants Division facilitated the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Grants and Training's Investment Justification Technical Assistance meeting at the State Emergency Operations Center on December 9. The technical assistance is to help urban areas and states prepare for the fiscal year 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program application process.

The general qualifications for cities to receive Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding are based on population density, overall threat assessment and potential targets. According to the Department of Homeland Security, the governor of each state designates a State Administrative Agency (SAA) to apply for and administer the funds under the UASI program. Ohio EMA is Ohio's SAA and the only agency eligible to apply for Office of Domestic Preparedness funds.

Meeting participants included representatives from DHS Urban Area Security Initiative, the Security Division of Ohio Homeland Security, and Ohio EMA's Operations Division.

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

HIGH

**Ohio EMA Weekly Report Entries**

*(Dated December 12)*

**Cuyahoga County Hosts CERT Course**

A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Instructor course was conducted in Cuyahoga County on December 9 and 10. The course was held at the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NORS) Environmental Maintenance Building in Cuyahoga Heights. The majority of the 22 students who participated in the training were from Northeast Ohio, others traveled from as far away as Darke and Clermont counties.



The CERT program is administered by DHS and educates individuals on disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community.

CERT is a Citizen Corps program whose mission is to harness the power of every individual through education, training and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds.

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**SBA Declaration and State IA Program Update**

*(from October 4-5, 2006 Severe Storms and Flooding)*



The Small Business Administration (SBA) Home/Personal Property and Business Loan Program has approved 18 loans for a total of \$495,000. The Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch (DRB) completed registrations for all referrals from SBA. However, DRB will continue to take State Individual Assistance (IA) program applications as additional referrals are received.

As of December 8, the State IA program has received 32 applications and has approved 26 for a total of \$188,426 (which includes four maximum grant approvals for \$16,800 each).

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**Governor Applauds State Employees for Contribution to Combined Charitable Campaign**



Governor Bob Taft applauds state employees at a luncheon on December 6, thanking them for their work and contributions to the 2006 Combined Charitable Campaign. The campaign is a statewide effort that brings together government agencies to raise money for charitable organizations across the state.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) collected a total of \$346,624.64 for CCC, exceeding its goal of \$290,433 by \$56,191. (Office of the Governor Photo by Steve Harrison)

**2006 Holiday Food Basket Campaign** - For the fourth consecutive year, ODPS has won the Governor's Award that goes to the state agency that raises the most meals for the annual Holiday Food Basket campaign. Public Safety employees raised \$8,944 and 16,813 pounds of food, which amounts to 34,701 meals that's donated to the Mid-Ohio FoodBank for central Ohio families.



**Ohio EMA Training Officer Pam Gibson: Recipient of Governor’s Employee of the Month**



*Ohio EMA recognized employees and celebrated the agency’s accomplishment during an ‘All Hands Meeting’ this morning (December 15).*

*Training Officer Pam Gibson receives a round of applause for being recognized as Governor Bob Taft’s Employee of the Month (for July 2006). Pam met with the governor earlier this month to receive her award.*



*Sandra Arnold, Accounts Examiner (right), receives the Ohio EMA Employee of the Quarter (for third quarter) certificate and award from her nominator, Kelli Blackwell, who acknowledged her hard work and dedication during the June floods, FEMA DR-1651.*

**Planner Rudi Blaser, Ohio EMA Employee of the Quarter (Fourth Quarter) and Ohio EMA 2006 Employee of the Year**



*Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani presents certificates and award prizes to Planner Rudi Blaser for his extensive work with the Biennial Strategy Implementation Reporting System and the National Incident Management Capability Assessment Tool Program.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December 10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  <i>Hanukah Begins</i>
	Ohio EMA Week of Training (Ohio EMA & ODPS employees)					
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Medical TAC Ohio EMA	<b>19</b> HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	<b>20</b> Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	<b>21</b> Water TAC Ohio EMA	<b>22</b> <i>Winter Begins</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Hanukah Ends</i>
<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	<b>25</b>  <i>Christmas</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <i>New Year’s Eve</i>	<b>January 1</b>  <i>New Year’s Day</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

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

UASI: Urban Area Security Initiative - T1CP: Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan - FS: Full Scale Exercise

TAC: Technical Advisory Committee