



This Week in Ohio EMA

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

Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director
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Great Turnout for Directors' Seminar on Emergency Management and Homeland Security

With the 2007 Spring Director's Conference coming to an end this week, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's Training section has been reviewing the evaluations. One thing is clear: The breakout sessions were a hit.

According to the evaluations, the breakout sessions allowed attendees to pick and choose topics that impacted them the most.

The topics covered during the breakout sessions included: grant monitoring process for local EMAs; pandemic influenza planning and exercises; emergency response plan and tactical advisory committee updates; presentations by the National Weather Service; National Guard liaisons; homeland security and critical infrastructure; and interoperable communications plan and interoperable communications strategy.

Evaluations also showed that conference attendees appreciated briefings by Governor Strickland's Office, Department of Public Safety Director Henry Guzmán and Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V Director Ed Buikema.

Other highlights included the orientation to FEMA's Federal Incident Response Support Team and getting a firsthand look at their vehicles' capabilities, and the Emergency Management Association of Ohio's Exhibitor's Show.

The 2007 Fall Director's Conference will be shortened to four hours and will be held at the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center. While the fall conference is getting shorter, the 2008 Spring Director's Conference will be extended to 2.5 days and will include more breakout sessions.



03/27/07 - FEMA Region V Director Ed Buikema speaks to county and state EMA personnel about emergency preparedness and post-Katrina modifications, to include the NRP, NIMS and mobile Disaster Recovery Centers



03/27/07 - Directors' Seminar participants were able to visit more than 40 first responder equipment exhibits. The exhibitor show was sponsored by the Emergency Management Association of Ohio.

Community Emergency Response Team Training



The Ohio EMA Plans Branch coordinated the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Instructor course, held at the Circleville Fire Department on March 24 and 25. The Pickaway County EMA hosted the training. Twenty-five citizen participants were trained in disaster preparedness and learned about the hazards that might impact their area; basic disaster response skills; fire safety; light search and rescue techniques; team organization; and disaster medical operations.

By using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members are trained to assist others after an event, when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members are also encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Federal Executive Association Meeting



Ohio EMA hosted a Federal Executive Association meeting on March 20. The purpose of the association is to improve coordination of federal activity within the Columbus and Central Ohio area. Its purpose includes:

- * providing a forum for the implementaiton of government-wide goals and objectives, and mutually beneficial programs; and
- * increasing the community's awareness of the Columbus area workforce.

Meeting participants were given a tour of the State Emergency Operations Center.

EMPG Information Packets

Ohio EMA Field Liaisons continued to deliver Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) information packets to their counties and were available to offer individual guidance in completing the packets.

The Emergency Management Performance Grant directly supports the nation's emergency management community. The FY 2007 EMPG Program provides \$194 million in critical assistance to sustain and enhance state and local emergency management capabilities. FY 2007 EMPG allowable costs remain consistent with previous fiscal years and have been divided into planning, organization, equipment, training and exercises categories. Management and administration costs are allowable.

Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant

The Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program is a \$1 billion initiative that is a result of an agreement between the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Homeland Security, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. This grant program assists public safety agencies in the acquisition of, deployment of, and training for the use of interoperable communications systems that use or enable interoperability with communications systems that use the 700 megahertz bands. A technician from the Ohio EMA Communications Branch attended the Interoperability Planning Conference in Los Angeles, that provided additional information on the grant and provided guidance for the development of a statewide interoperability plan. Mandated by the Department of Homeland Security, this plan is to be completed by November 2007.

EMA UPDATES

Lawrence County EMA
Don Mootz, Director (retiring 03/31/07)
Mike Boster, Director (effective 04/01/07)
 515 Park Avenue - Rear
 Ironton, Ohio 45638
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NOTE: The Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code will transition from the Anderson Publishing Web site to **<http://codes.ohio.gov>** (effective April 1)



Ohio Revised Code 121.404, a recently enacted Ohio legislation, provides liability protection to Ohio Citizen Corps volunteers (including Ohio Medical Reserve Corps) registered on the Ohio Citizen Corps database during local, state or federally declared emergencies, disasters, drills and trainings. The statute also exempts a registered volunteer's personal information on the Ohio Citizen Corps database from public disclosure.

A legal Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is in the development phase. Ohio Citizen Corps is seeking input to capture those questions that volunteers and volunteer coordinators have most often. Examples of questions include:

Sensitive/Personal Information

- Is any information available to the public?
- Who has access to this information?
- Can information be limited to less sensitive information?
- Does registering involve a background check?

Registration/Requirements

- Is there a minimum age?
- What information do I need to supply to register?
- What do I need to do to remain eligible for this protection?
- What do I have to do to be covered under the liability protection?

Protection Coverage

- Who does this liability protection protect?
- Can I be sued under this protection?
- Am I protected if I self-deploy?
- Will I still be protected if Ohio sends me to volunteer in another state?
- Could you provide examples of how this liability could work?
- Is there a limit to the coverage?
- When does the coverage begin and end?
- Am I covered as non-medical personnel in a medical emergency in which I may take action on my own initiative or at the request of medical personnel?
- What must the county or other disaster-declaring agency do to be sure I am covered?

Workers Compensation

- Will I receive compensation if I am injured working as a volunteer?

Ohio Citizen Corps would like you to submit your questions about liability/legal issues. A group of state agency attorneys will then review the questions and begin development of the FAQ document.

Submit your legal/liability questions by Friday, April 13 to John Poole, Communications Director, OCSC at john.poole@ocsc.state.oh.us

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week ~ Statewide Tornado Drill Wednesday, March 28th, 9:50 a.m.</i>						
CERT-100 T-T-I Pickaway County		Directors' Conf. - Holiday Inn E. Columbus	Tactical TAC - OSHP	USARTAC Ohio EMA Bomb TAC Cols. Police Academy		
April 1	2 <i>Passover Begins</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>Good Friday</i>	7
 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	URSB Meeting Ohio EMA ICS-400 Course ~ Cuyahoga County	Basic Public Information Course ~ Ohio EMA		Sr. Advisory TAC ODOT	13	14
15 <i>Mitigation Progress Reports Due (1st Qtr)</i>	16 Medical TAC Ohio EMA	DBNPS Dry Run Damage Assessment Ohio EMA HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Debris Management Ohio EMA Incident Mgmt. TAC Ohio EMA	19 Cost Documentation Ohio EMA	20	21 Fayette & Highland Counties - Tabletop Exercise

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>
TAC - Technical Advisory Committee