



# Ohio's Emergency Management News



Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Thomas J. Stickrath, ODPS Director ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director

## Cleanup and Recovery Efforts Continue in Tornado-Stricken Counties *SBA surveys Athens County to determine SBA declaration eligibility*

Columbus, OH - The National Weather Service confirmed on Sept. 21 that 11 tornadoes swept through Ohio, Thursday evening, Sept. 16, damaging nearly 100 homes and injuring 16 people. A dozen Ohio counties were affected by last week's tornadoes and severe storms.

Governor Ted Strickland declared a state of emergency for Athens, Meigs and Perry counties Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 22. The governor also identified \$1.6 million in state aid that would be available to uninsured residents in Athens, Meigs and Perry counties, in response to the severe storms and tornadoes. The aid has to be approved by the State Controlling Board and would be distributed by Ohio EMA.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) surveyed storm-damaged areas in Athens County on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to determine whether its private sector meets the SBA criteria for an SBA-only declaration. The criteria states a minimum of 25 residences/ businesses must have at least 40 percent of uninsured or under-insured losses.

If Athens County meets the criteria for an SBA declaration, then residents and small businesses in Athens and its contiguous counties would be eligible to apply for low-interest loans. Contiguous counties include Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Vinton and Washington.



Gov. Strickland and a surveyor from the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (far left) talk with two Athens County residents whose mobile home was toppled and destroyed by the Sept. 16 tornado. (Ohio EMA photo by Tamara McBride)

Ohio EMA opened a support hotline on Sept. 23 to assist residents impacted by last week's storms. 1-800-545-0553 is available daily, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Ohio Emergency Management Agency

Public Affairs Office  
(614) 799-3695

[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attack

HIGH or Orange for Aviation Sector

## September is National Preparedness Month

### *Ohio Volunteers and First Responders Honored at September 11<sup>th</sup> OSU Football Game*

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is a nationwide coordinated effort that encourages all Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies that could affect their homes, businesses and communities. NPM is sponsored by FEMA's Ready Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council.

September 2010 marks the seventh annual NPM. This month's focus is "Teamwork" – the promotion of working together using concrete actions toward emergency preparedness.

In observance of Patriot Day, the Ohio Statehouse Lawn will again display its Field of Flags: 2,999 American flags decorating the west lawn, outlining the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon. Each flag represents an American life lost on that fateful day, September 11, 2001.

Also on September 11, the ReadyOhio campaign teamed up with The Ohio State University during the OSU vs. Miami game and honored five Ohioans who not only encouraged others, but exemplified the ultimate team spirit through leadership and volunteerism.

"These honorees know the importance of emergency preparedness and the teamwork necessary to bring a community back after a disaster," said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Thomas J. Stickrath. "These individuals are being honored for their commitment and work to keep Ohioans safe. They are just a few of the dedicated first responders and volunteers we have throughout Ohio."



Columbus, OH – Ohio volunteers and first responders are acknowledged after the first quarter of the Ohio State vs. Miami University September 11<sup>th</sup> football game. Their recognition was part of The Ohio State University's commemoration of Patriot Day and National Preparedness Month. (Ohio EMA photo)

Volunteers recognized:

- **Chief Joseph Morbitzer** – Police chief and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) manager in the city of Westerville and Ohio Citizen Corps state council member.
- **Jim Ditzler** – Founding member of the Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. Ohio VOAD was established in Ohio in 1991 and was responsible for the mobilization of more than 30 organizations to respond to the 1997-1998 floods.
- **Shirley Brooks-Jones** – Former OSU administrator and community activist who was one of hundreds stranded in Newfoundland's schools, churches and private homes after the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001.
- **Chief Dale Krause** – Retired fire chief of Rocky River, provisional fire chief of Westlake, Ohio and CERT program coordinator for more than 300 volunteer members.
- **Marvin Gilbert** – Committed 50 years of dedicated service to the Union County Office of Emergency Management, beginning his career as a volunteer for Civil Defense in 1959.

For additional information on safety, readiness and preparedness, visit the ReadyOhio site at [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov). To view Ohio's NPM activities, click on: <http://ready.adcouncil.org/EventCalendar.asp>

*ReadyOhio partners include: Ohio Department of Public Safety (Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Medical Services and Homeland Security); Ohio Departments of Education, Health and Transportation; Ohio Citizen Corps; American Red Cross; Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA); HandsOn, Central Ohio; Emergency Management Association of Ohio; and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.*

## Licking County Office of HS & EM conducts Integrated Emergency Management Course at Emergency Management Institute

The Licking County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management recently conducted the Integrated Emergency Management Course at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD.

The August 16-19 course was attended by 58 emergency managers and responders from Licking County. Field Liaison Dan Winningham and Exercise Program Manager Darren Price, both from Ohio EMA, also participated.

The IEMC places an emphasis on community response and short-term recovery issues and is tailored to fit the community, based on a selected hazard type. The course methodologies of classroom instruction, planning sessions, and exercises allow for structured decision-making in a learning, yet realistic, environment. A key outcome of this IEMC was that it provided the participants with the ability to carry out their respective functions related to disaster response and assist with making the transition from response activities to short-term recovery.

The course provided an excellent opportunity for the class to staff a fully operational emergency operations center (EOC). Licking County and course participants should be commended for their involvement in this IEMC. The lessons learned will be applied to a Licking County functional EOC exercise in 2011.

For additional information, contact Licking County EMA Director Jeff Walker at (740) 670-5577; Darren Price at (614) 799-3660; or Dan Winningham at (614) 889-7164.



### Ohio EMA Notables

Ohio EMA's Legal Counsel, Assistant Attorney General **Tamara Little** authored Chapter 13 in the 2010 book, *Homeland Security and Emergency Management – A legal guide for state and local governments*, by Ernest B. Abbott and Otto Hetzel, editors. Her chapter is titled "Donations and Volunteer Management."

Disaster & Preparedness Grants Division Director **Sima Merick** is a 2010 recipient of Midview High School's "Make a Difference" Hall of Honor Award. The mission of the award is to develop positive relationships between alumni and students by recognizing Midview's distinguished alumni, retired staff and volunteers for their contributions as excellent role models to the students and community.

Sima is a 1982 graduate of Midview High School, Grafton, Ohio (Lorain County).

### Darke County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management



In a continued effort to reach more people and inform them of local emergency management and preparedness issues, the Darke County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has created a Facebook page.

With the growing popularity of social media (Twitter, Facebook and YouTube), Darke County HS & EMA is excited to have a new avenue and opportunity to educate the public and build stronger relationships with their citizens.

Check them out! Go to [www.darkecountyema.org](http://www.darkecountyema.org) and become a fan.

## Recovery and Rebuilding Efforts Continue after the June 5-6 NW Ohio Tornadoes and July 21 Lawrence County Flooding

*From August 4-5 EMA and SBS press releases*

On August 5, Governor Ted Strickland announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration granted the state's request for an SBA declaration for Wood and contiguous counties, as a result of the June 5-6 tornadoes that caused extensive damage to homes and businesses and resulted in six deaths and multiple injuries.

The Governor also announced that the state would begin the allocation of more than \$670,000 in State Supplemental Assistance for uninsured homeowners and renters for eligible real property and personal property damages and uninsured funeral expenses.

"Northwest Ohio residents have suffered extensive loss of property and lives as the result of the June tornadoes," Strickland said. "While I am disappointed that we did not receive federal disaster individual or public assistance, this SBA declaration offers critical loans to residents and businesses, which along with state assistance, can provide much needed help to Northwest Ohioans as they make their way through this recovery process."

Northwest Ohio residents have until October 5, 2010 to file a SBA disaster loan application.

State Supplemental Assistance is also available to uninsured residents of Swancreek Township in Fulton County, who had first applied to the 2010 Rebuild Ohio Tornado Relief Program (construction loan) or other financial institutions. Fulton County is not contiguous to Wood County and therefore is not eligible for the SBA declaration.

On July 29, Gov. Strickland requested a SBA disaster declaration for Lawrence County residents and business owners who were impacted by severe storms and flooding on July 20-21. The SBA declaration was granted on August 4, making low-interest loans available to Lawrence County and the contiguous counties of Gallia, Jackson and Scioto in Ohio; Boyd and Greenup counties in Kentucky; and Cabell and Wayne counties in West Virginia.

"Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property," said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA's Field Operations Center East in Atlanta.

Lawrence and contiguous county residents have until October 4, 2010 to file a SBA disaster loan application.



**Cleveland NWS photo** (June 6, 2010) - The storm reaches its peak intensity on the northwest side of Millbury as it crossed Millbury Rd. The storm reach EF4 intensity with estimated winds of 170-175mph. With these wind speeds entire homes are destroyed with nothing left standing.

**Franklin County Citizen Corps Invites Emergency Managers to attend:**

**Disaster Volunteer Appreciation Reception**

*“Please join us as we recognize the amazing volunteers who are always ready when disaster strikes!”*

**When:** Thursday, October 14, 2010  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Where:** Columbus Division of Police  
Training Academy  
1000 North Hague Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43204

Please reserve by Friday, October 8 by calling Jeanette Ross at (614) 221-6766 or e-mail [jross@handsoncentralohio.org](mailto:jross@handsoncentralohio.org).



John Poole, Ohio Citizen Corps Communications Director and Lee Foster, HandsOn, Central Ohio Disaster Preparedness Manager. Both are main organizers of the September 11 Statehouse Flag Display.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept. 26	27	28	29	30	Oct. 1	2
3	4	5	6 Developing & Maintaining Local EOPs – Summit County EMA	7	8	9
10	11	12 Debris Mgmt Workshop – Athens County EMA	13	14 Developing & Maintaining Local EOPs – Belmont County EMA	15 Damage Assessment Refresher – Geauga County EMA	16
17	18	19	Oct. 20 Debris Mgmt. Overview – Jackson County EMA Damage Assmt Refresher – Jackson County EMA Developing & Maintaining Local EOPs – Sandusky EMA		22	23