



State of Ohio's Emergency Management Newsletter

Is Ohio ready to handle a major earthquake?

by Kelli Blackwell

On February 7, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency joined approximately 40 different local government and EMA offices, city schools, non-profit organizations and individuals/families in the state, and participated in the third annual Great Central U.S. ShakeOut.

At 10:15 a.m. more than 2.7 million participants practiced Drop, Cover and Hold On during the earthquake drill.

The ShakeOut not only raised public awareness of earthquake safety and preparedness, but reinforced the importance of readiness for all types of disasters and emergencies.

2012 was a good example. Superstorm Sandy wreaked havoc along the East Coast in late

October, damaging or destroying hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses. It also left the government with a huge clean-up bill, which exceeds into billions of dollars.

Damages extended as far as northern Ohio. On Jan. 3 FEMA approved a public assistance declaration for Cuyahoga County which is requesting reimbursement for \$17 million in damages and costs to public property and infrastructure caused by the storm. Ashtabula County was later added to the declaration with damage estimates at \$3.3 million.

Like hurricanes, earthquakes can severely impact our cities and infrastructure. And like hurricane-

force winds, earthquakes can and do happen in Ohio.

Is Ohio ready to handle a major earthquake? Would Ohio residents know what to do?

For additional information on earthquake safety and preparedness, visit the Great Central US ShakeOut website at: <http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/register/>.

The ShakeOut is organized by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium formed by the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. The state of Ohio is one of 10 associate members of the CUSEC.

Managing 1913: Ohio's Worst Emergency

by Trudy E. Bell, M.A.
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When unprecedented floodwaters had receded by the end of March, 1913, Ohio Governor James M. Cox found himself chief executive of a state in ruins. 428 bodies were recovered but half again that number were never found; 20,000 houses had been swept away or destroyed; another 35,000 had been submerged or moved off their foundations and were regarded as salvageable; more than 220,000 Ohioans were temporarily or permanently homeless and relying on bread lines for food.*

From Tiffin to Marietta, from Cleveland to Cincinnati, from Columbus to Dayton, industries and urban centers were flood-swept. Some cities, such as Dayton, resembled bombed war zones, as whole blocks had been destroyed by fire, as well as flood. Not only was it Ohio's worst calamity, but it was the nation's most

widespread natural disaster, afflicting 15 states.

In 1913, there was no FEMA. But there was the American Red Cross - which had been reorganized under a new Congressional charter in 1905



to be the official disaster relief arm of the Federal government. At that time, the Red Cross was still very small and comparatively little known. But it was fast turning the study of efficient disaster relief into a science. And with thousands of square miles to cover and only 236 Red Cross nurses and several hundred volunteers to do the job, this was what worked in Ohio:

First, Governor Cox turned over complete control of relief and reconstruction to the Red Cross so there was a single point of authority. In the Ohio Statehouse itself, he set up rooms with telephones and other necessities for Red

Cross National Director Ernest P. Bicknell and other personnel, who worked there through the end of August. Cox also held daily briefings with the press so that stories about the Red Cross's work were kept in the newspapers and donations kept flowing to assist flood relief.

Second, the Red Cross itself regarded its fundamental task as having two distinct parts: short-term emergency relief (food, shelter, medical care), and long-term rehabilitation (to reestablish housekeeping). Given its limited

resources and personnel, it developed guidelines for quick and efficient decision-making. The Red Cross regarded each family as the unit to be assisted, and registered each family on index cards with basic information. It provided only enough aid to get each family started on the road to rehabilitation, in proportion to its present need for regaining independence, not in proportion to its overall material loss. The aid was never in cash. It was in the form of vouchers, good with local merchants, that could be redeemed for furniture, pots and pans, tools, or - in the

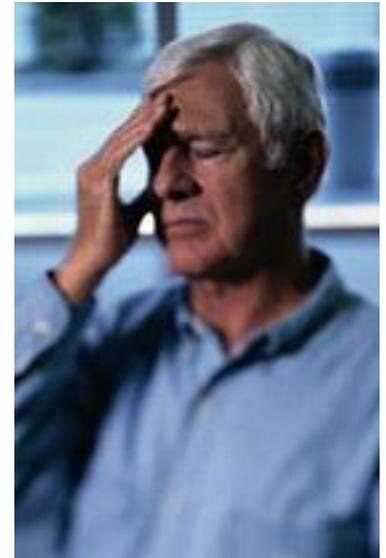
The Flu Season

Flu season in Ohio does not usually go into high gear until January or February but this year the state saw the number of influenza-related hospitalizations almost triple by early December. Currently, Ohio's level of flu activity is at "widespread," which means that there have been outbreaks of influenza and increases in influenza-like illness cases in at least half the regions in the state.

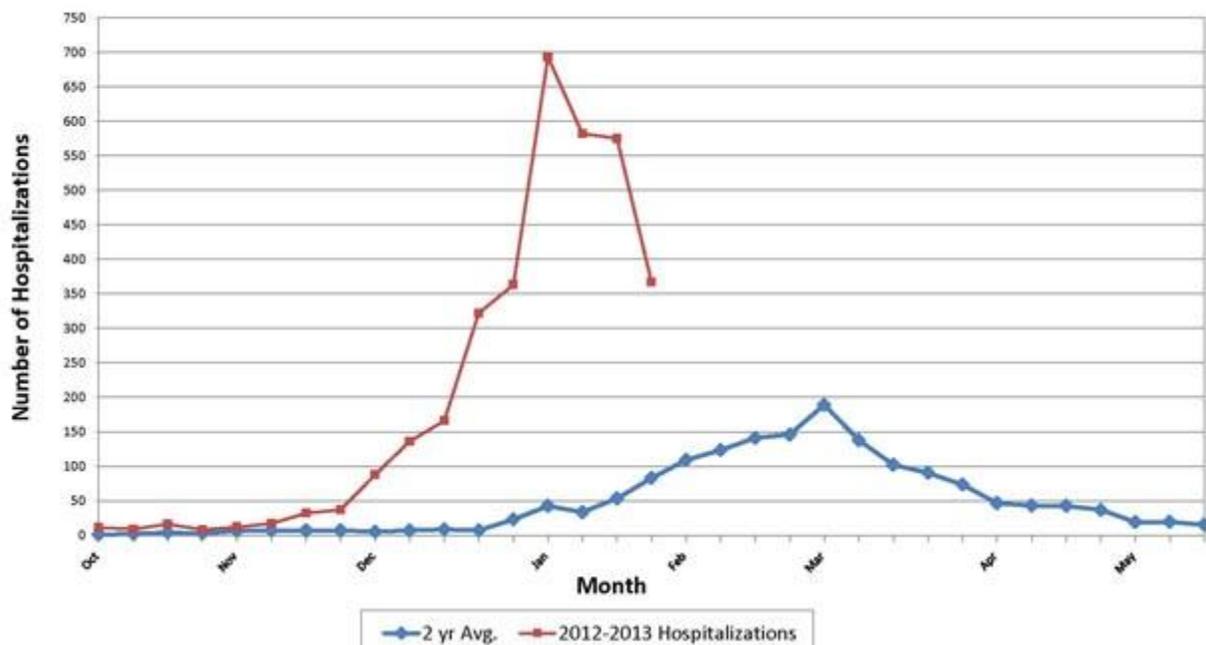
The current flu season started in October of 2012. As of January 30 two influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported. Last season, no pediatric deaths were reported, and one was reported in the 2010-11 season.

Also during the current flu season, 3,434 influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported, as of the week ending January 26. The current number of hospitalizations compares to 111 in the 2011-12 season.

The chart below, which shows the number of confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations reported in Ohio, clearly shows how quickly flu season developed this year. The blue line represents how flu season typically develops in Ohio. In contrast, the red line shows the dramatic and early increase that we have seen this season. Currently, the number of influenza-associated hospitalizations has continued to decrease during the past three weeks. The Ohio Department of Health will continue to monitor hospitalization data along with other data sources to track influenza activity across the state.



Ohio Confirmed Influenza-associated Hospitalizations by Month (n=3434); 2012-2013 Influenza Season



Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is looking for students in first through sixth grades, including specialized instruction classes, to participate in its annual poster contest. The purpose of the severe weather awareness poster contest is to have Ohio's youth demonstrate through illustrations of actions they can take before, during and after severe weather events to protect themselves and others.

Tornadoes, floods, thunder and lightning storms, extreme heat and snow and ice storms are weather conditions that typically affect the state.

"As educators and parents, we are committed to teach safety and preparedness practices to our students," said Nancy Dragani, executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. "With winter storms, severe winds and extreme temperatures impacting Ohio, this poster contest provides the perfect opportunity for students to learn about weather preparedness, be creative, and teach others about severe weather planning and protection."

Ohio schools have until April 16 to send their first-place posters (per grade) to their regional National Weather Service offices. The NWS offices will judge all poster entries and choose their top regional winners per grade. In early May, the Severe Weather Awareness committee will judge the top regional posters to determine the state and overall state winners.

Schools will be notified of their regional winners by the end of May. All regional winners will be invited to attend the poster contest awards ceremony, which will be held at the Ohio State Fair's DiSalle's Creative Arts Center on Saturday, August 3.

The prizes are big and the day's event is fun. All regional winners and their parents will receive four entry passes for the day at the Ohio State Fair. All regional-winning students will receive a host of prizes, certificates and awards. State-level winners will receive additional prizes, and the overall state winner will receive even more prizes, along with a personalized trophy. The overall winner's school will be loaned a "traveling trophy" to display during the school year.

An ideal time for students to participate in the poster contest is during Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, which is March 3-9. This year, the safety campaign coincides with FEMA's and NOAA's National Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

Ohio's statewide tornado drill will be conducted on Wednesday, March 6 at 9:50 a.m. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages schools, businesses and homes to practice their tornado safety drills during this time.

OCSWA encourages county EMA directors to visit some of their neighborhood grade schools to help promote the poster contest and severe weather and emergency preparedness.

For complete rules and forms to participate in the poster contest, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website at: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov. Go to Just for Kids and click on 2013 Poster Contest Rules.

From the Ohio EMA Executive Director

Emergency Management Community:

Welcome to your outlet of communication – the ***State of Ohio's Emergency Management Newsletter***. Communication is defined as a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs or behavior. Whether it's first responders receiving information about state resources being brought to bear, or establishing an interoperable radio system, communication is critical in our field of emergency management.



This quarterly publication is your newsletter. Our goal is to provide information worth learning about; information that promotes networking, conversation, and even action.

It is my hope that this newsletter – this source of communication – is a two-way street. If there is a topic you would like reflected in this publication, be sure to let us know. You can submit ideas and articles to Ohio EMA's Public Affairs staff (e-mail addresses below).

It is our desire to provide information that further supports your role as emergency responders and managers.

Best Regards,

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Executive Director

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IMPORTANT DATES

- National Severe Weather Preparedness Week
March 3-9, 2013
- National Flood Safety Week
March 18-22, 2013
- Observance of The Great Flood of 1913
March 2013
- Statewide Tornado Drill
March 6, 2013 @ 9:50am

