



Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

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TERRORISM EXERCISE TO BE HELD AT GRAFTON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

Federal, state and local agencies respond to chemical explosion full-scale exercise

WHO: Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) along with federal, state and local agencies
WHAT: To test the ability to respond to a terrorist attack along the perimeter of a DRC institution
WHEN: Thursday, August 31, 2006
WHERE: Exercise begins at 9 a.m. and will end at noon
Members of the media will be able to park across the street (South Avon Beldon Road) from the exercise area. DRC and Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) staff will direct media to the appropriate area. A media viewing area will be sectioned off.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), along with other federal, state and local agencies, will be participating in a Chemical Weapons Full-Scale Terrorism Exercise involving the Grafton Correctional Institution. The purpose of the exercise is to ensure state readiness in protecting the public, should a terrorist threat or attack occur. Emergency operations plans will be exercised with the intent that local, state and federal agencies will improve their operational readiness. The exercise will require responders to perform actions associated with initial response to chemical terrorist incidents including, but not limited to, victim rescue; triage; treatment and decontamination; site security and crowd control; and device recovery and packaging.

Sponsored by the State of Ohio Homeland Security Grant Exercise Program under the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA), the exercise will be conducted in a no-fault learning environment as a practical training tool for state emergency responders and support personnel.

Residents living near the Grafton Correctional Institution Farm can expect heavy traffic, unusual noises and activities. Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has electronic boards throughout the area alerting neighbors of the exercise.

Other agencies participating include: Carlisle Fire Department; Columbia Fire Department; Eaton Township Fire Department; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Grafton Police Department; Grafton Fire Department; Grafton Township Fire Department; Life Care Ambulance; Life Flight Helicopter Service; Lorain County Emergency Management Agency; Lorain County EMH – Regional Hospital; Lorain County HazMat Team; Lorain County Sheriff's Office; Ohio EMA; Ohio Department of Agriculture; Ohio Department of Transportation; Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Ohio Homeland Security Division; and the Ohio State Highway Patrol posts located in Ashland, Elyria and Mansfield.

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