



Ohio's Emergency Management News



Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Cathy Collins-Taylor, ODPS Director ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director

Sixteen County Exercise Calls for More than 650 Players, Statewide - County EMAs Participate in HazMat Exercise

Columbus, OH – The state of Ohio participated in a 16-county hazardous material (HazMat) exercise, March 18, which focused on incident command, activation of emergency operations centers, resource management, interoperable communications, and public information.

The exercise called for more than 650 participants, to include local, state and federal agency partners and volunteers. Thursday's exercise was part of a week-long event that stemmed from a late winter severe ice storm that crippled most of the state.

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) mandate training exercises that test coordination and response between state, local and private sector participants. The local HazMat scenarios varied per county, but all exercise activities were initiated by the ice storm.

FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer facilitated a Point of Distribution (POD) exercise on Tuesday. Exercise participants unloaded bottled water from a semi-trailer and loaded cases into vehicles, simulating water distribution after the ice storm. A tabletop exercise took place at Ohio EMA on Wednesday.



State agencies and organizations participate in the State HazMat exercise, March 18. State EOC, Columbus. (Ohio EMA photo)

Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Public Affairs Office
(614) 799-3695

www.ema.ohio.gov

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attack

HIGH or Orange for Aviation Sector

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“These exercises test the complexity of various elements that could be a consequence of one single incident,” said Buck Adams, Medina County EMA director. “A test of this level certainly speaks to the growing realization of a multi-faceted disaster occurring.”

Participating local EMAs included: Allen, Ashland, Auglaize, Clermont, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Fayette, Guernsey, Holmes, Medina, Muskingum, Richland, Wayne, Williams and Wyandot counties. Darke, Fairfield, Franklin and Noble counties were support agencies.

Participating state agencies and organizations included the American Red Cross, Ohio Community Service Council, Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, Ohio National Guard, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Homeland Security, Ohio State Highway Patrol, State Fire Marshal, and Ohio Departments of Administrative Services, Agriculture, Developmental Disabilities, Health, Natural Resources, and Transportation.

Exercise activities took place at command posts, emergency operations centers and field locations throughout the state, to include the State EOC in Columbus.

Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 21-27 Statewide Tornado Drill is Wednesday, March 24

On March 24 at 9:50 a.m., the state of Ohio will participate in a statewide tornado drill. During this time, county emergency management agencies will sound and test their outdoor warning sirens. The Emergency Alert System will activate a test message. Schools, businesses and homes are encouraged to practice their emergency plans and tornado drills.



As part of a coordinated effort with the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, Governor Ted Strickland has proclaimed the week of March 21-27 as Severe Weather Awareness Week for the state of Ohio.

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms, developing from major thunderstorms. According to the National Weather Service, they usually are preceded by very heavy rain and hail storms. In general, the larger the hailstones, the more potential there is for damaging winds or tornadoes. Although tornadoes can occur at any time, during any month, Ohio's peak 'tornado season' is April through July.

“Severe weather awareness week is the perfect time to update and review your emergency plans, restock your disaster supply kits and practice your safety drills,” said Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA executive director. “The best defense when faced with tornadoes or any severe weather event is preparedness. Planning ahead and knowing what to do in the event of severe weather will lower the chances of injury or death or loss of property.”

For additional information on Severe Weather Awareness Week, tornado safety and severe weather preparedness, visit the OCSWA website at: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

Beaver Valley Power Station Exercise



The state of Ohio is participating in the Beaver Valley Power Station functional full-scale exercise, which will test the state's response to a radiological emergency at the nuclear power plant.

The Beaver Valley plant is located in western Pennsylvania. Columbiana County is within its 10-mile emergency planning zone. The dry run is March 24. FEMA-evaluated exercise is April 20.

Midwest Veterinary Conference

Ohio EMA participated in the Midwest Veterinary Conference which was held at the Columbus Convention Center, February 25-28. The conference is an annual event and is hosted by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association.

On February 28, Ohio EMA co-sponsored the session on Public Health: Ohio Veterinary Emergency Responders (OVER) Training. OVER is an organization of voluntary emergency responders for animal health emergencies such as natural disasters, accidents and disease events. OVER is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, with support from Ohio EMA, Veterinary Services, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the US Department of Agriculture.



The seminar was based on the 2007 Northwest Ohio flood which affected Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Richland, Putnam, Seneca, Van Wert and Wyandot counties.

Other topics included: the National Response Framework; Emergency Support Function 11 – Agriculture; preparations for response to animals in disasters; Incident Command System; disease reporting; bio-security; and personal protective equipment during an incident.

State/County Emergency Management Updates

Leaving Ohio EMA

Lloyd Bokman, Radiological Analyst

Retiring April 30 after 25 years of state service

Todd Koah, Planner (last day 2/19)

Joined Columbus Police Training Academy

Raymond Moss, Radiological Analyst

(Lake County) Last day at Ohio EMA 3/26

Welcome to Ohio EMA

Dan Deskins, Planner

Phone: (614) 799-3827

Regina Dudzik, Radiological Secretary

Phone: (614) 799-3822

Jessica Yuzwa, Planner

Phone: (614) 799-3826

New Position

Cathy Deck, Field Liaison

Phone: (614) 799-3684

Leaving County EMAs

Melissa Rodrigo, Director (last day 2/26)

Cuyahoga County Emergency Services

Rick Schuerman, Director – Retired 2/3

Monroe County EMA

James Deal, Director – Retires 3/26

Pickaway County EMA

Welcome to Emergency Management

Jeff Galloway, Director

Butler County EMA

Hugh Shannon, Interim Director

Cuyahoga County Div. of Emergency Services

Rick Lee, Director

Darke County EMA

Justin Thompson, Director

Fulton County EMA

Fred Peterson, Director

Ottawa County EMA

Bill Becker, Director

Warren County Emergency Services Dept.

2010 Spring Directors' Seminar

The theme of this year's seminar is "Back to the Basics, Part II." We are focusing on the basics: the four phases of emergency management. Last year (Part I), seminar participants talked about preventing damage and injury through successful mitigation projects, and the necessary steps toward recovery assistance.

This year's focus will be on Preparedness and Response. Participants will discuss anticipating consequences through planning, training and exercises.

The seminar starts Wednesday, March 31 at 1 p.m. and concludes Thursday, April 1. County EMA offices can register by visiting the Ohio EMA Training site: <http://ema.state.oh.us/training/>

University Plaza Hotel
3110 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio

Seminar topics include: Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC); Patient Tracking/Hospitals; HazMat Team Verification; Chemical Inspection Program

Breakout Session topics include: Ohio National Guard Capabilities Update; Ohio Response System; Ohio Special Response Team; Crisis Leadership; Local EOC Operations; Social Networking; Local Training & Exercise Programs; Drills – the forgotten exercise tool; Animal Response; Disaster Public Information & Public Education

Contact the Ohio EMA Training Section at (614) 799-3680 for additional information.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
March 21	22	23 BVPS Dry Run	24	25	26	27
<i>Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week</i>						
28	29	30	31 Directors' Seminar University Plaza Hotel - Columbus	April 1	2	3
4	5	6 Advanced Incident Management Miami Twp – Milford, OH	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 BVPS Evaluated Exercise	21	22 Utilizing CAMEO in WMD Ohio EMA - Columbus	23	24