



A tornado uproots a grain silo near Cecil, Ohio in Paulding County Aug. 24, 2016 (taken from video from WTOL)

Tornadoes hit NW Ohio; only one minor injury

After a very dry July, August was much wetter for parts of Ohio, but the storms that brought that precipitation also brought some severe weather.

On August 24, a front led to two dozen tornadoes in Indiana and

Ohio, with several touching down in NW Ohio. Tornadoes were verified in Defiance, Henry, Paulding and Van Wert and counties. Despite the large number of late season tornadoes, there was only one minor injury reported.

Fall EM conference set for Oct. 12 at State Fire Academy

On Oct. 12, the fall Ohio Emergency Management Conference will be held at the Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Topics include: Lessons learned from the Republican National Convention, the Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3), a rollout of the new EMPG work plan, and a dam watch report from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. A flyer for the conference accompanied this newsletter.

State Disaster Relief Program for local governments revised

One recovery resource for local governments and eligible non-profit organizations is the State Disaster Relief Program (SDRP). This program offers supplemental financial assistance when all other avenues of assistance have been exhausted. It reimburses the costs associated with debris operations, emergency protective measures and repairs to infrastructure.

There are four required steps before the SDRP is implemented. First, impacted local government/non-profit organizations must

conducted damage assessment (an initial estimate of the cost of the disaster) and provide that assessment information to their county EMA office. Second, the cost of the disaster to the county must exceed a county-wide per capita (adjusted every October 1). Once per capita are met, Ohio EMA evaluates the impacts of the disaster and makes a recommendation to the Governor's office on whether the SDRP should be implemented. Governor's written authorization is the third required step.

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Training opportunities throughout Ohio

AWR-345 Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Disaster Management

Sept. 15, 2016, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, 2855 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43235

Course Description: This free 8-hour classroom course will discuss the wide variety of uses of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in disaster response, recovery, preparedness, and mitigation. The course will also discuss the various types of UAS, as well as the current regulations on UAS use and what the steps are to become authorized to use UAS.

L110 National Emergency Management Basic Academy (TtT)

Sept. 19 - 23, 2016, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, 2855 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43235

Course Description: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the need to tie training programs to an established set of emergency management competencies and to a career development program through a progressive training and education system that includes the foundational-level Basic Academy. The Basic Academy provides a structured and progressive framework for acquiring the knowledge, skills, and abilities to meet the challenges of an ever-changing emergency management environment. The Foundations Course Train-the-Trainer (L110) consists of 1-day of discussion about course objectives, how to set up and facilitate the class, time management, and other general topics. The last 2 days will consist of participant teach-backs that summarize a portion of the Foundations course subject matter and describe activities and exercises in addition to time for critique and questions.

AWR-342 Maturing Public Private Partnerships (OP3)

Nov. 15 - 17, 2016, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, 2855 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43235

Course Description: The Maturing Public-Private Partnerships Workshop is a three-day, in-person instructional training program. Topics covered in this workshop include the historic foundations of public-private partnerships; what makes a successful partnership and typical problem areas; standardized methods to align interests and outcomes and leverage collaboration and communications; procedures to build strong pre-incident partnership teams and shared situational awareness during events; innovative models, legal considerations, and workshop tools. This workshop will require in-person dialogs among stakeholders to explore lessons learned and fully vet best practices. The workshop culminates in the presentation of personal partnership improvement plans that each participant will develop during the three days of training.

G393 Mitigation for Emergency Managers

Sept. 13 - 15, 2016 (Change of Date), Ohio Emergency Management Agency, 2855 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43235

This free course is designed to enable the non-technical emergency worker to acquire skills in the use of Mitigation and provides training in how to perform Mitigation activities fundamental to reducing and eliminating long-term risk from hazards. It addresses the important roles of the Emergency Program Manager (or other local government representative) in Mitigation: Motivator, Coordinator, and Monitor in local implementation of the National Mitigation Strategy. This is a "Required" course in the Advanced Professional Series (APS) program.

G288 Local Volunteer & Donations Management

Sept. 26-27, 2016, Paulding County EMA, 503 Fairground Dr., Paulding, Ohio 45879

This free training event supports local governments and their emergency management partners in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disaster events at the local level. The course is designed to strengthen the abilities of local jurisdictions to successfully prepare for and handle volunteer and donations management issues that may arise. The course content and activities may also serve as a template, thereby enhancing uniformity in addressing areas of donated unsolicited goods, unaffiliated volunteers, and undesignated cash. This training also provides information regarding the state's volunteer and donations management responsibilities, which are designed to help build relationships between government and non-governmental organizations. This is an "Elective" course in the APS program.

G557 Rapid Needs Assessment Planning

Sept. 27, 2016, Franklin County EMA&HS, 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43230

This "free" course provides information and resources to enable participants to develop an effective Damage Assessment Program and conduct rapid and effective needs assessments. A good assessment allows community leaders to prioritize response actions ensuring the greatest life-saving and life sustaining benefits. Since resources are often limited in the first few hours of a disaster or emergency an effective rapid needs assessment allows for the efficient and effective use of those resources. Likewise, it allows local officials to evaluate their needs and request those resources that are not available in their jurisdiction to support life sustaining and life saving measures. This is a "Required" course for the FEMA APS program.

G272 Warning Coordination

Oct. 6-7, 2016, Wayne County EMA EOC, 201 West North Street, Wooster, Ohio 44691

Severe weather is on the way ... how do you effectively work with the National Weather Service and your local media to develop and discriminate effective warnings your community? This 2 day course

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is the latest in the hazardous weather series of courses produced in partnership with the National Weather Service (NWS). This course is intended to help facilitate that process. Course topics include: The Social Dimensions of Warning Response; Developing Effective Warning Messages; Developing an Effective Community Warning Process; and Working with the News Media to Create a Weather Warning Partnership. In addition to lecture and discussion, the course includes case

studies, exercises, and an opportunity for interaction with representatives of the local news media. Target Audience: Emergency management personnel, municipal and corporate, who share some responsibility for or play a role in planning for a disaster. This is an “Elective” course for the FEMA APS program.

G191 ICS/EOC Interface Course

Oct. 19, 2016 Butler County EMA, 1810 Princeton Rd, Hamilton, Ohio 45011

This course is designed for personnel associated with On-Scene Incident Command, EOCs and Multiagency Coordination (MAC) System entities. The goal of the course is to provide

state and local emergency management officials with the knowledge and skills they need to operate an Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and interface it with an Incident Command System (ICS) field operation. It enables the participants to begin developing an ICS/EOC interface for their community by applying Incident Command System (ICS) principles. The course reviews ICS and EOC responsibilities and functions and depends heavily on exercise and group discussions to formulate the interface. This is a “Required” course in the FEMA Advanced Professional Series (APS) program and meets the minimum requirements set forth by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission for eight continuing education course hours.

1	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	September 13 - 15, 2016	Franklin County
2	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	Sept. 13, 14 & 15, 2016	Hamilton County
3	G393 Mitigation for Emergency Managers	September 13 - 15, 2016	Ohio EMA
4	AWR-345 Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Disaster Management	September 15, 2016	Ohio EMA
5	OH-605b IA Damage Assessment Workshop	September 15, 2016	Miami County
6	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	September 15 - 16, 2016	Franklin County
7	L110 National Emergency Management Basic Academy (TtT)	September 19 - 23, 2016	Ohio EMA
8	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	September 24 - 25, 2016	Fairfield County
9	G288 Local Volunteer & Donations Mgmt	September 26 - 27, 2016	Paulding County
10	G557 Rapid Needs Assessment Planning	September 27, 2016	Franklin County
11	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	October 1 - 2, 2016	Fairfield County
12	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	October 3 - 5, 2016	Cuyahoga County
13	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	October 4 - 6, 2016	Belmont County
14	G272 Warning Coordination Course	October 6 - 7, 2016	Wayne County
15	OH-200 Fall Conference	October 12, 2016	Ohio EMA
16	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	October 12 - 13, 2016	Hamilton County
17	G428 CERT Train-the-Trainer Course	October 14-16, 2016	Ohio EMA
18	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	October 17-19, 2016	Lucas County
19	G191 ICS/EOC Interface Course	October 19, 2016	Butler County
20	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	October 19 - 20, 2016	Lucas County
21	OH-429 CERT Program 501c3 Workshop	October 20, 2016	Ohio EMA
22	G393 Mitigation for Emergency Managers	October 25 - 27, 2016	Licking County
23	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	October 25 - 27, 2016	Summit County
24	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	October 26 - 27, 2016	Cuyahoga County
25	G290 & G291 Basic PIO Series	November 1 - 3, 2016	Ohio EMA
26	G289 Public Information Officer (PIO) Awareness Course	November 2, 2016	Wood County
27	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	November 2 - 3, 2016	Summit County
28	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	November 3 - 4, 2016	Belmont County
29	G288 Local Volunteer & Donations Mgmt	November 3 - 4, 2016	Hamilton County
30	G191 ICS/EOC Interface Course	November 7, 2016	Portage County
31	AWR-342 Maturing Public Private Partnerships (OP3)	November 15 - 17, 2016	Ohio EMA
32	OH427 Community Response Team Program Manager	December 2 - 4, 2016	Ohio EMA
33	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	December 14 - 16, 2016	Huron County
34	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS	January 7 - 8, 2017	Ottawa County
35	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	January 12 - 13, 2017	Huron County
36	ICS-400 Advanced ICS	January 14 - 15, 2017	Ottawa County
39	MGT-347 Incident Command Systems Forms Review	February 7, 2017	Ohio EMA
40	ICS-300 Intermediate for Expanding Incidents	February 7 - 9, 2017	Ohio EMA
41	OH-230 Introduction to Emergency Management in Ohio	February 13, 2017	Ohio EMA

SDRP,

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Finally, if authorized funding for the disaster must be approved by the state Controlling Board.

SDRP has been in place in some fashion since 1985 but was formalized in 1999-2000. The Program was revised in June 2016 in order to benefit Ohio communities by simplifying and enhancing the program parameters. A summary of the revisions are:

- ◆ Local Declaration – This requirement has been removed. Governor’s written authorization and Controlling Board approval are still required.
- ◆ Budget impact threshold (1/2 of 1%) – This has been replaced with a county per capita requirement that is in line with what is required when we seek a declaration from the President (FEMA).

Meeting the per capita will not mean an automatic implementation of the SDRP because the Governor will still need to authorize and the Controlling Board still approve funding. Moving to a per capita system could have an impact on small jurisdictions in larger populated counties. However, the budget threshold requirement has been a complicated and contentious way of determining eligibility and the per capita is in line with the federal declaration criteria.

- ◆ Timeline for local and state actions – There is now a formal timeline for damage assessment, program authorization, etc.
- ◆ Cost eligibility – Regular time for completing work in Categories C (Roads), E (Buildings and Equipment) and F (Utilities) is now eligible for reimbursement (at 50%). Work allowed under Categories D (Flood Control Works) and G (Parks and Recreation), have been

removed from eligibility. Finally, the requirement to seek alternate funding prior to requesting funding from the SDRP has been more formalized.

The following links provide more information on this program:

- ◆ State Disaster Relief Program Handbook - http://ema.ohio.gov/Recovery_PAGrantProgram.aspx
- ◆ The Assistance Toolbox provides the tools for conducting damage assessment (Tab B) - http://ema.ohio.gov/Recovery_DAToolbox.aspx
- ◆ Listing of County EMA Offices - https://weboc.ema.state.oh.us/ohiocountyEMADirectorList/countyemalist_web.aspx

If you have any questions regarding the SDRP or other recovery programs administered by the Ohio EMA, please contact Laura Adcock, Disaster Recovery Branch Chief, at 614-799-3667 or ladcock@dps.ohio.gov.

Public AlertNet System to go operational Sept. 28

Almost 10 years ago, the Ohio broadcasters serving on the State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) expressed their concern with FEMA’s decision to rely on the internet for delivery of their new emergency messaging systems.

Since then, issues such as network congestion during emergencies and the collapse of infrastructure during Hurricane Sandy have demonstrated that concern was valid. There was, and is, a need for a secure, alternative but redundant path for delivering critical messaging that does not involve the last-mile, public internet, if only for cyber-security reasons. In response to the need, Ohio’s Public Television Stations proposed a system utilizing secure fiber and TV digital datacast technology to move EAS and the IPAWS/CAP-based messaging from the state EMA to the LP broadcasters who distributed it to the public. However, at that time, there were no funds to support creation of an alternative system.

As the new emergency alerting system programs evolved, the need for a redundant delivery system became even more evident. A funding opportunity finally became available and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting has awarded a total of \$337,000 to Ohio Educational Television Stations, Inc. (OETS) in partnership with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) and the state’s Broadcast Educational Media Commission (BEMC).

The project also has the strong support of the Ohio Association of

Broadcasters (OAB), and the SECC. The funds were designated for the creation of Ohio Digital EAS (OEAS) as an alternative, IP-based system for the dissemination of emergency information bound for the public and, down the road, to first responders. It utilizes the broadcast signals of the 12 Ohio Public Television Stations and their translators to deliver a common, non-public emergency information signal to all of the state’s current EAS Operational Areas.

It is a relatively simple and inexpensive solution that can reach virtually all Ohioans. We selected the name OEAS because that makes the most sense to people familiar with the legacy system, and the legacy EAS and IPAWS content already exists to consolidate into our unified statewide alerting stream. To align it with new projects in other states based on the Ohio system, it’s now formally called the OEAS Public AlertNet.

At this time, the initial focus of the project is to provide an alternative pathway to deliver CAP-based alerts and messaging to broadcasters for distribution to the public. Legacy EAS and National Weather Service messaging will be added in the future. Eventually, OEAS will aggregate all emergency messaging that originates from the Federal Government or inside the state of Ohio into a single 148k data stream, distributed from the state EMA headquarters in

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Preble County officials tour state EOC

On the heels of the 2016 Preble County Functional Exercise conducted June 4, 2016 at the Preble County EOC in conjunction with Lewisburg FD and multiple county stakeholders, Director Dave Anderson and the Preble County LEPC decided to carry the Emergency Management and Resource Management momentum through the summer and gather a group of county responders, commissioners and LEPC partners to take a trip to the State of Ohio EOC and Joint Dispatch Facility.

Emergency Management Specialist Shawn Riley of the Southwest Regional Office led the coordination effort for the Sept. 2 facility tour and branch meetings at Ohio EMA. Director Anderson and his group gathered both new operational ideas for growth of the EOC team as well as inspiration for the EOC model within the county for those whom will be called on to report to the facility in an incident. Director Anderson was accompanied by two of his County Commissioners along with other LEPC members and members of the Dayton area office of the American Red Cross.



Medical Center, EMA hold active shooter exercise

The Southern Ohio Medical Center (SOMC), in partnership with the Scioto County Emergency Management Agency and local first responders, conducted an active shooter exercise on August 22, 2016, at SOMC's new urgent care facility in Portsmouth. The exercise afforded a unique opportunity to provide local first responders with a realistic training environment and an awareness of the building layout of the new facility, while providing a hands-on validation of the hospital's active

shooter plan for SOMC staff. Of particular note was the use of the Portsmouth Fire Department's new Tactical EMS (TEMS) Team, which allows TEMS members to make near simultaneous entry with law enforcement to active police scenes. Strengths and areas for improvement were identified at a post-exercise debriefing that will further increase the ability of the hospital staff and local first responders to respond to potential incidents throughout the SOMC campus.

OEAS

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In Columbus. The content will constitute a single, "channel," encapsulated into a miniature TV transport stream, ready for ATSC broadcast. OEAS will translate and deliver all CAP messages in both English and Spanish with text to speech CAP audio in both languages embedded in the respective text messages.

The system will also debut with multi-lingual Amber Alert capability. When no alerting is taking place, the channel will provide a "heartbeat" signal to demonstrate that the

signal is being maintained. The stream will be delivered from the EMA to the PTV stations through the existing state fiber system. Using datacast technology, the "channel" will be multiplexed into each station's digital broadcast signal. That signal will arrive at your location, be decoded, and provided to your existing EAS equipment in the IPAWS-OPEN format. Your EAS machine (or all of your machines) will poll it, just as with FEMA messages.

OEAS is a new system for delivering messaging, not a new messaging system. Since the content-agnostic architecture can transport any type of digital signal, the OEAS system is also capable of secure delivery of non-public messaging, from simple data up

to live video by expanding the bandwidth. This will allow its use by first responders and other officials as needed in the future, either locally or statewide.

Any standard-format digital signal can be delivered to the TV stations for insertion in their broadcast streams, meaning that even a future transition to ATSC 3.0 will not render it obsolete. The OEAS infrastructure will be available for current alerting systems, but we'll be relying on emergency managers, not vendors, to determine how the system is used beyond providing an overlay of the existing EAS.

While OETS has developed the project and obtained the funding, the Ohio EMA will "co-own" the equipment and has committed to maintaining the structure of the system.

State, Federal Agencies Track Drought Status

By Brad Schwartz, State Planner, Ohio Emergency Management Agency; and Aaron Wilson, Research Associate, State Climate Office of Ohio and Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center

As of the week ending August 26th drought conditions are impacting approximately 58 percent of the state, with more than 20 percent of the state experiencing Moderate Drought conditions (Figure 1). Locally-heavy rainfall over the past two weeks has mitigated drought conditions that worsened from July into early August, when nearly 75% of the state was impacted by drought; with 30% of the state experiencing Moderate Drought conditions and nearly 15% of the state experiencing Severe Drought conditions. Figure 2, below, depicts the 4-week change in drought conditions across Ohio, where the southern half of the state has benefited by recent rains the most (a 1 Class improvement in the drought classification), while dry conditions linger across the northern half of the state.

As of this writing, Ohio was in the 25th week

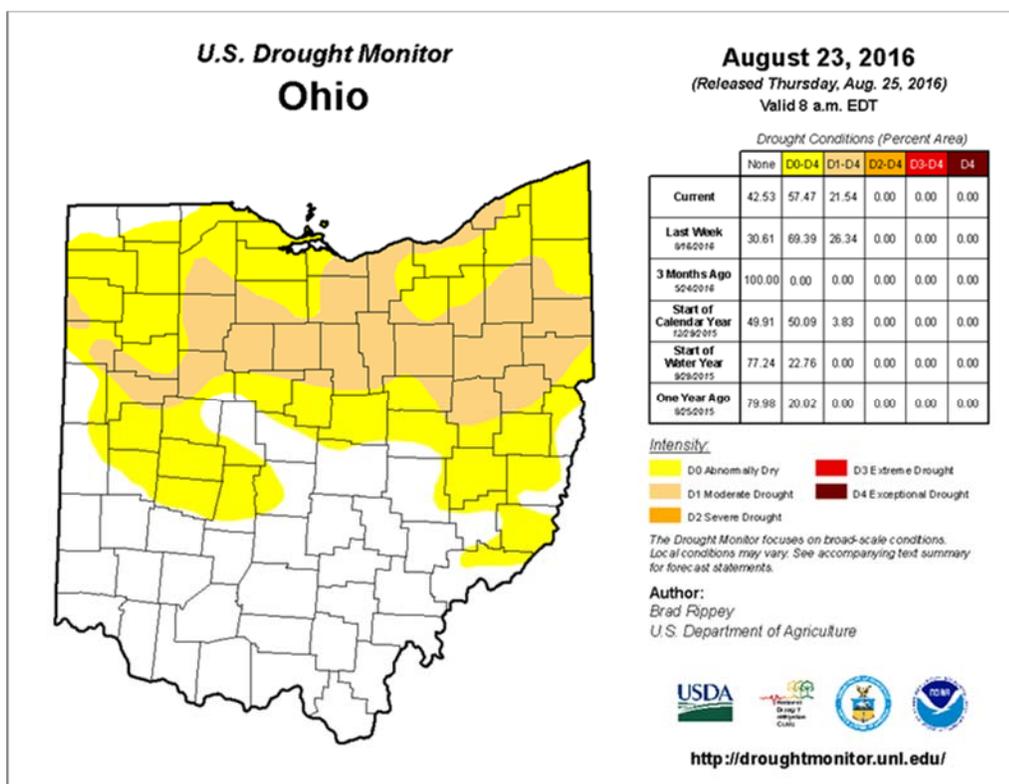


Figure 1

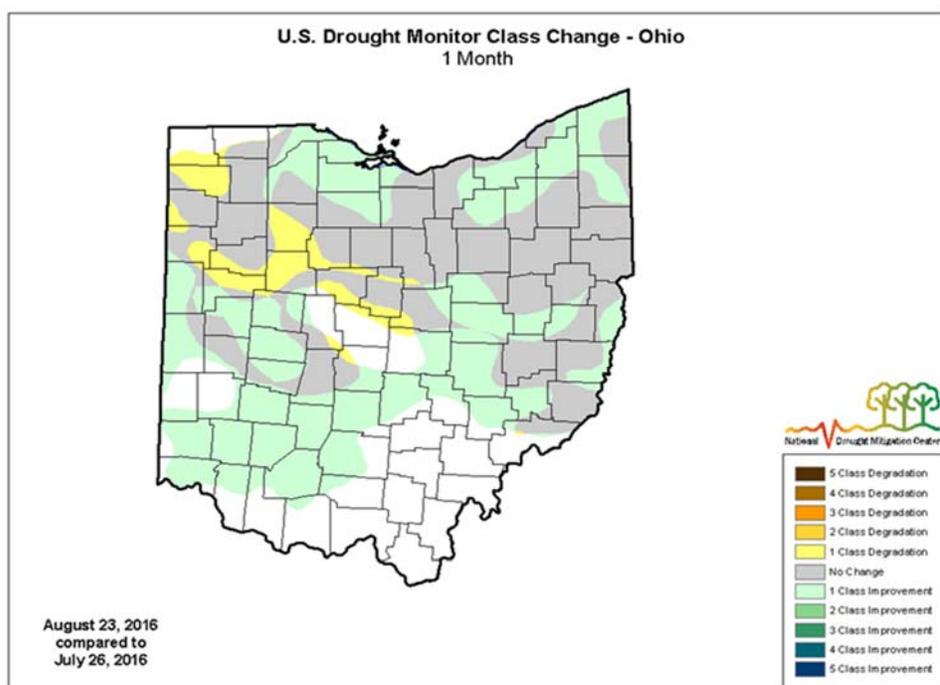


Figure 2

of the 2016 Growing Season, and it can be expected that drought conditions will alternately intensify and lessen over the course of the Growing Season. Ohio's geography combined with the spotty nature of precipitation this growing season has caused this year's drought impacts to be variable, with vastly different impacts on crops varying over short distances. Ohio's 2016 drought is currently classified as a short-term agricultural and meteorological drought, and is not expected to last more than six months. An Agricultural Drought is a moisture deficiency that can be seriously injurious to crops, livestock, or other agricultural commodities. In an Agricultural Drought, moisture deficiency can persist for over a month resulting in a significant shortfall of rain during the growing season. A Meteorological Drought occurs after a dry spell, defined with respect to local climate normals, producing dry soils and stress on crops and vegetation.