



This Week in Ohio EMA

Yellowbud, Ohio - January 2005

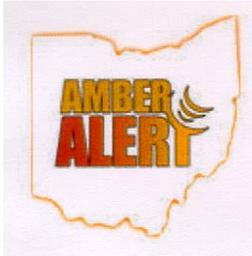
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Bob Taft, Governor ♦ Nancy Dragani, Executive Director, Ohio EMA ♦ Kenneth L. Morckel, Director, ODPS
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Ohio's Amber Alert Conference

America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response

The Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee, chaired by Mark Patchen, Ohio EMA's Technical Support Division Director, held its 2006 Ohio AMBER Alert Conference at the Ohio Department of Transportation Headquarters in Columbus on January 31.

The purpose of the conference was to improve the state's ability to save the life of an abducted child. The target audience was team members of the regional and local AMBER plans in Ohio.

Best practices and resources were available to improve the effectiveness of the state, local and regional AMBER plans, as well as scenario training and break-out sessions by discipline. The conference was also available to county sheriffs' offices that are not involved in a local or regional AMBER plan. Resources in establishing an AMBER plan were available. Participants viewed presentations on child recovery tools available at state and local levels, lessons learned from previous AMBER alerts and reviewed AMBER Alert after-action reporting.

During the conference, discipline-specific groups discussed ways to improve the AMBER Alert process and additional services they would like the state to provide.

Approximately 190 representatives from law enforcement, broadcast, emergency management and transportation participated.

Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee members: Mark Patchen, Ohio EMA; Staff Lt. Rob Jackson, Ohio State Highway Patrol; Brent Currence, Attorney General's Office-Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse; Alan Phillips, Ohio Department of Transportation; Wayne Fick, State Emergency Communications; Ronny Shawber, Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association; Harry Trombitas, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Christine Merritt, Ohio Association of Broadcasters; Michael Rankin, Local or Regional AMBER Alert Plan; Dwight Holcomb, Association of Chiefs of Police; and Linda Maloy, Victims Advocate 2006 Ohio.



1-877-AMBER OH

www.ohioamberplan.org

Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED

Ohio EMA Weekly Report Entries (February 7, 2006)

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Reimbursements

The Ohio EMA Fiscal Branch continues to work on reimbursements to Ohio responders of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact during the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As of February 7, 52 reimbursement checks were mailed, for a total pay out of \$672,638. Sixteen reimbursements are pending approval from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) for a total of \$360,348. (Twenty-one are awaiting additional documentation and two projects are still at the local level, yet to submit their initial packet to Ohio EMA for reimbursement.)

2007 Exercise: Spills of National Significance

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency will participate in the June 2007 Spills of National Significance Exercise. This exercise will be conducted over several days and co-facilitated in Memphis, Tennessee and St. Louis, Missouri. The exercise is in the planning phase. The State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center will participate in the exercise at the functional level. The State Joint Information Center will be activated to produce mock news releases and communicate with other participating joint information centers.

House Bill 130

State Representative Michael Skindell (D) introduced House Bill 130 to have the High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Study Commission review and evaluate issues relating to transportation of high-level radioactive waste in Ohio. The bill is currently at the House Economic Development and Environmental Committee. The Ohio Department of Public Safety Legislative Liaison is working with the Ohio Department of Health legislative liaison to schedule a new meeting with Chairman Tom Collier.

The Ohio State University - Research Reactor Visit

A congressional visit, which will include Senator George Voinovich's staff, is scheduled for February 22 at the OSU research reactor. Topics of discussion include OSU research reactor security issues. Ohio EMA's Radiological Branch Chief will attend this event.



1930 Millfield, Ohio Mine Disaster - On November 5, 1930, 130 miners were working at the Sunday Creek Coal Company's No. 6 mine, when an explosion ripped through the mine, killing 82 men. This incident was Athens County's worse mine catastrophe.

Because of the two deadly mine disasters that occurred in West Virginia last month, Athens County EMA Director Jill Harris made an on-site visit to a coal mining company located in Glouster, Ohio to determine what kind of assistance that would be needed, if a mine disaster were to occur. They agreed that mutual aids, resources and site emergency plans would need to be developed.

Athens County EMA will keep Ohio EMA updated of their progress.

FEMA Assistance

Registrations for Federal Disaster Assistance:

Hurricane Rita (as of Feb. 6)

Louisiana	363,406
Texas	479,124

Hurricane Katrina (as of Feb. 6)

Alabama	114,593
Louisiana	1,074,016
Mississippi	515,070

FEMA has approved more than \$6.1 billion in disaster assistance to individual applicants from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas. In Ohio, there are 4,085 evacuee households that have registered for FEMA assistance.

On February 7, FEMA ceased direct assistance payments to hotels for applicants who failed to receive an authorization code by January 30. There are currently 10 applicants in Ohio who were approved for additional direct assistance payments to hotels.

NOTE: The registration deadline for people affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita has been extended to **MARCH 11th.**

NIMS Alert: 10-Codes versus Plain English

(From The NIMS Integration Center NR: 002-06, February 8, 2006)

WASHINGTON – In Washington, DC, if a police officer says 10-50, he or she is talking about a car accident. Across the line in Montgomery County, Maryland, 10-50 means an officer needs help. And that’s the way it is across much of the country, 10-codes used in one jurisdiction are not the same as those used in another. That’s why it is important that responders and incident managers use common terminology. There simply is no room for misunderstanding in an emergency situation.

The use of plain language in emergency response is matter of public safety, especially the safety of first responders and those affected by the incident. It is critical that all local responders, as well as those coming into the impacted area from other jurisdictions and other states as well as the federal government, know and use commonly established operational structures, terminology, policies and procedures. This is what NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) are all about - achieving interoperability across agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines.

The ability of responders from different jurisdictions and different disciplines to work together depends greatly on their ability to communicate with each other.

It is required that plain English be used for multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction and multi-discipline events, such as major disasters and exercises. Beginning in the fiscal year that starts on Oct. 1, 2006, federal preparedness grant funding is contingent on the use of plain English in incidents requiring assistance from responders from other agencies, jurisdictions and functional disciplines.

Pandemic Influenza Planning Summit Greater Columbus Convention Center February 17, 2006

Governor Bob Taft and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt encourage health officials, first responders and emergency managers to attend Ohio’s Pandemic Influenza Planning Summit next Friday, February 17.

The Secretary, representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other federal and state experts will provide important information on planning for an influenza pandemic.

Because a pandemic is by definition global, local preparedness is essential. Just as each state must plan to meet the needs of its residents, local communities must be prepared to assist their respective constituents with minimal assistance.

February 17, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio

Register at: <http://www2.odh.ohio.gov/fluconf/regform.htm>.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 February	6 FEMA/EMI Intro ArcGIS for HAZUS-MH Users (E190) Emmitsburg, MD	7 Exercise Design & Evaluation - Ohio EMA (Columbus)	8	9	10	11
12	13	14  Valentine's Day	15 EWFE Exercise Ottawa County Basic Public Information Officer Course Ohio EMA (Columbus)	16	17	18 CERT-100 Train-the-Instructor: Mahoning County (Feb. 18-19)
19 CERT-100 Train-the-Instructor: Mahoning County (Feb. 18-19)	20  Presidents' Day	21 HazMat TAC Med TAC (Both at Ohio EMA)	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	March 1 C/EXFE Exercise Butler County Fed Outreach Prog. Ohio EMA, Rm 204	2 FRMAC Training Ohio EMA, Rm 204	3	4
5	6 Damage Assessment Ohio EMA	7	8	9	10 Hazard Mitigation Course Ohio EMA	11