



This Week in Ohio EMA

A publication of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety

Bob Taft, Governor ♦ Nancy Dragani, Executive Director, Ohio EMA ♦ Kenneth L. Morckel, Director, ODPS
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March 26-April 1, 2006
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Lightning Safety Awareness Week:
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Winter Severe Weather Awareness Week:
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Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness

Teaching Ohioans Severe Weather Safety and Preparedness

Be Prepared.

Have a Plan.

Keep Safe.



Information on the natural hazards that typically affects Ohio has been available through a link on the Ohio EMA Web site for a few years. But now, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has its own Web site for safety and preparedness information. Its address is: www.ocswa.ohio.gov.

Information on the site will be updated at least three times a year. The site includes dates of Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, Lightning Safety Awareness Week and Winter Severe Weather Awareness Week. Also included are links to making disaster plans for the home and for pets; making emergency kits for the home and vehicle; and safety tips for tornadoes, floods, thunder and lightning storms, extreme heat, winter storms and home fires.

It is the committee's goal to inform all Ohioans - young and old - of the weather hazards that most affect the state, and to encourage people to plan and know what to do before, during and after severe weather occurs.

For nearly 30 years, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has been dedicated to educating the public on severe weather safety and preparedness. Committee members represent the American Red Cross; National Weather Service; Ohio Emergency Management Agency; Ohio Insurance Institute; Ohio News Network; Emergency Management Association of Ohio; State Fire Marshal; and the Ohio Departments of Aging, Education, Health, Insurance and Natural Resources.

National Flood Safety Week: March 20 - 24, 2006

Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 26 - April 1, 2006

The 2006 Spring Emergency Preparedness Guide is available at:
www.ema.ohio.gov/pdfs/severe_weather/Spring2006.pdf

Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED

Ohio EMA Training Goes International

If you regularly attend classes at Ohio Emergency Management Agency, you may have noticed a new face this year. Hyeong-Taek Kang, Ph.D. began taking classes this winter and will be leaving in April.

Kang is a structural engineer with the South Korea Highway Corporation. The South Korean government has sent him to Ohio EMA to study the content of the courses and how we teach the classes. He is one of 14 individuals sent to various states and one to Japan. Because of the different social system in South Korea, the information from the courses in the U.S. is not being used verbatim, but used as an example of how to do things.

Kang is researching how to protect infrastructure in Korea against natural disasters. Typhoons and flooding are the two major disasters that affect South Korea, however they are concerned with earthquakes as well. National Emergency Management Agency was established in 2004. Kang says there was a form of emergency management in South Korea prior to a devastating 1999 – 2000 typhoon where there was little emergency management experience. With the information gathered from Kang and his counterparts, the Korean government hopes to develop a stronger emergency management structure.

Kang has taken Exercise and Design, Donations Management and the Basic Public Information Officer's course. Over the rest of his time, Kang will be taking other courses offered by Ohio EMA including Debris Management.

"Excellent!" Kang said. "The training I (received) was good. Living here was good. Columbus is a nice place to live."

Kang said he admits he was worried about being in Ohio during the winter, but he is pleased with the unusually warm temperatures we have been experiencing for the most part. However, he did say that the weather changes quickly here.

Don't worry about Kang lugging all the course materials back to Korea. He says he is shipping them back.

While Kang is busy taking classes, his wife and 15 month old daughter wait for him to come home.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Dr. Hyeong-Taek Kang (front) and Ohio EMA Planner Brad Schwartz, take notes during the Basic Instructional Skills course held at the agency, March 14-17.

FEMA Assistance

Registrations for Federal Disaster Assistance:

Hurricane Rita (as of March 15)

Louisiana	364,935
Texas	479,747

Hurricane Katrina (as of March 15)

Alabama	114,981(as of 03/13)
Louisiana	1,077,702
Mississippi	516,984

Registration deadline: March 11th - CLOSED

As of March 14, there were 2,553,846 FEMA Individual Assistance registrations for hurricanes Katrina and Rita. FEMA has approved more than \$6.4 billion in disaster assistance to individual applicants from Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas.

4,039 evacuee households in Ohio have registered for FEMA assistance.

Ohio EMA Weekly Entries (ending March 14, 2006)

Fourth earthquake this year shakes Lake Erie Area

On March 11, Lake County residents experienced their fourth and strongest earthquake this year. The 3.1 magnitude quake started under Lake Erie, three miles north of Mentor-on-the-Lake and approximately 24 miles northeast of Cleveland. Local police said no damage was reported. The Perry Nuclear Power Plant was not impacted by the quake.

Previous earthquakes in the same area occurred on January 5, January 13 and February 10, with magnitudes of 2.0 to 2.6, according to the Ohio Seismic Network.

Salt Fork Lake Dam Update

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources reported that the multi-million dollar repair project at the Salt Fork Lake dam is nearing completion. Water in the 3,000-acre Guernsey County lake will be allowed to rise to its normal level in the next few weeks. Salt Fork is Ohio's largest state park.

The lake's level was maintained about five feet below normal to facilitate repairs on the dam. Repairs were necessary to replace a malfunctioning drainage system discovered early last year in the 1/4-mile long earthen dam. Total cost for the repair project, to include construction, consultants, engineering and materials, totals \$3.2 million.

State Emergency Operations Plan

The updated State of Ohio Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was delivered to the Office of Governor Bob Taft for review and promulgation.



**Spring Directors' Seminar on
Emergency Management and
Homeland Security**

Holiday Inn - Worthington
175 Hutchinson Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43235

March 28 and 29, 2006



Seminar and registration information
available at:
<http://ema.state.oh.us/training>

Held in conjunction with the
Intergovernmental Technology Conference (ITC)



Hosted by:

**Ohio Department of Public Safety
and Homeland Security**

Greater Columbus Convention Center - Downtown Columbus

May 10-11, 2006

The Ohio Homeland Security Symposium will bring together different disciplines and communities critical to the success of homeland security efforts: police, fire, hospitals, healthcare, schools, political leaders, security, banking, insurance, transportation, agriculture, food distribution, and the information technology community.

The goal of the symposium is to promote an exchange of ideas between public and private sector to better coordinate, prepare and educate all that are involved in homeland security efforts.

Advance registration: \$52.00

On-site registration: \$75.00

Register Now! www.gov.resources.com/ohsshomepage.html

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management

451 West Third Street, Dayton, Ohio 45422

E-mail resume to recruiter@mcoho.org, or fax to 937-225-6496

Position: **Emergency Management Operations Officer**

Salary: \$33,363 to \$41,704 annually, depending on qualifications

Responsibilities include: overseeing the emergency management planning program, including revising the county's Emergency Operations Plan, developing ancillary documents, and assisting other county departments and political subdivisions with emergency planning. Will also be cross-trained in managing emergency management grants, supervising testing and maintenance of emergency management equipment and assets, maintaining databases of inventories and assets for Montgomery County and its jurisdictions, and developing/maintaining standard operating procedures for the County EOC.

Requirements: Completion of core course work toward a bachelor degree in emergency management, public administration or related field OR high school diploma (or GED) and 3 years work experience in disaster services, emergency response operations or emergency management.

New to Ohio EMA

Michael White, Radiological Analyst
(Ottawa County - DBNPS)
Radiological Branch

Vikki Bunting, Field Liaison
(Northeast Ohio)
Field Operations, Training & Exercise
Branch

Leaving Ohio EMA

Amy Mangan, Field Liaison
(West Central Ohio)
Returned to California

Brian Galligher, Field Liaison
(Northeast - Central Ohio)
*Taking position with Delaware County
Emergency Management*

Register for Ohio EMA courses and seminars by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 12	13	14	15	16 Water TAC Ohio EMA	17	18 CERT-100 Train-the- Instructor: Licking County (Newark)
		Instructional Skills Course - Ohio EMA				
19 CERT-100 Train-the- Instructor: Licking County (Newark)	20 Medical TAC Ohio EMA	21 HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	22 Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	23	24	25
	NATIONAL FLOOD SAFETY WEEK (March 20-24)					
26	27	28 Directors Seminar - Holiday Inn Worthington, Ohio	29	30 Debris Management Ohio EMA	31 Cost Documentation Ohio EMA Agri.Exercise with Case Western Univ.	April 1
SPRING SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK (March 26 - April 1) - Wednesday, March 29 - 9:50 a.m. Statewide Tornado Drill						
2	3	4	5 Communications TAC Teleconference	6	7	8
9	10 URSB Meeting Ohio EMA	11	12	13 Senior TAC ODOT Auditorium	14	15