





This Week in Ohio EMA

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

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Ohio Emergency Management Participates in Emergency Systems for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals Program

Excerpts from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration

Ohio EMA personnel attended a steering committee meeting of the Emergency Systems for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals Program (ESAR-VHP), which was held at the Ohio Hospital Association offices in Columbus on May 17.

The steering committee’s purpose is to develop a state-based ESAR-VHP system, which is an electronic database of health care personnel who volunteer to provide aid in an emergency. ESAR-VHP systems must be able to perform the following:

- Register health volunteers (medical or healthcare professionals who render aid or perform health services voluntarily, without pay or remuneration).
- Apply emergency credentialing standards to registered volunteers.
- Allow for the verification of the identity, credentials and qualifications of registered volunteers in an emergency.

There is a need for the system because experience has shown that in an emergency many individuals - specifically health and medical providers - are eager and willing to volunteer their services. Immediately after the attacks on September 11, tens of thousands of people spontaneously showed up at ground zero in New York to volunteer their assistance. A large number of these volunteers arrived to provide medical assistance to victims. In most cases, authorities were unable to distinguish between those who were qualified from those who were not.

Similar difficulties have occurred when the country had to respond to hurricanes, earthquakes and other mass casualty events. The goal of the ESAR-VHP program is to eliminate a number of the significant problems encountered when seeking to use medical and healthcare volunteers (first responders) in a complex emergency response situation.

For additional information on the ESAR-VHP Subcommittee, contact the Plans Branch at 614-799-3688.



National Training and Exercise Conference

Ohio EMA Training staff attended the Annual Training and Exercises Conference in Emmitsburg, Maryland, May 15-19. The purpose of the conference was to address training issues and share information concerning FEMA and state training initiatives.

The conference focused on:

- National Incident Management System
- State and Local Disaster - Training and Exercise
- Professional Development

The conference was attended by training and exercise officers from across the nation, and included briefings and workshops on a number of FEMA and Office of Grants and Training initiatives and programs. A number of training and exercise best practices were identified as potentially useful for Ohio.



Sign Up for Ohio CAN on National Missing Children's Day

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, more than 262,000 children in the United States are abducted each year (59,200 are abducted by non-family members, 203,900 are abducted by family members). When a child is abducted, the first three hours are the most critical to recovery efforts, which is why members of the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee are commemorating National Missing Children's Day by encouraging Ohioans to sign up for the Ohio Citizen Alert Network (Ohio CAN).

Ohio CAN allows people to receive AMBER Alerts through cellular telephones and e-mail. The individual can choose which type of alert he or she would like to receive - regional or statewide.

Cell phones assigned to Ohio EMA personnel have also been programmed to receive AMBER Alerts issued both regionally and statewide.

The goal of the AMBER Alert is to promptly involve entire communities to assist in the search for and safe return of abducted children. The public can assist the police by reporting sightings of the abducted children, their perpetrator or other associated information. Citizens can report information by calling **1-877-AMBER-OH (1-877-262-3764)**.

Ohio Department of Health Launches Pandemic Flu Web Site

From: Ohio Department of Health Public Information Office



Ohio residents now have a one-stop Web site for information about the state's pandemic influenza planning efforts.

The site, www.ohiopandemicflu.gov, contains comprehensive, statewide information about what the Ohio Department of Health and other state agencies are doing to prepare, and what Ohioans can do to protect them-selves, their loved ones and others from illness.

The site - launched in late April - contains information from state agencies working on pandemic influenza preparedness, to include the Ohio departments of health, agriculture and natural resources and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Also represented is the State of Ohio Security Task Force Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee.

Schools, businesses, communities, families, faith-based organizations and other groups will find useful information geared toward their specific concerns.

The avian influenza (H5N1), also known as "bird flu," has infected more than 200 humans in nine countries, as of late April, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The virus has killed about half of these patients, WHO reported. Most human cases appear to be the result of contact with sick and dying birds.

There were three different pandemics during the 20th century. Officials believe it is only a matter of time until the first pandemic of the 21st century occurs.

Emergency Management's Annual Golf Outing



Friday, August 25, 2006

Oakhaven Golf Course
2871 U.S. Route 23
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Cost: \$50. Price includes 18 holes, golf cart, unlimited use of driving range, and dinner at the end of play. (What a great deal!)

Individual or Team Registration Form

Names: _____

Amount enclosed (\$50/person): _____
 POC & Phone #: _____
 E-mail Address: _____

*Mail forms and checks to: Dan Winningham
 Golf Outing Coordinator
 2475 Dunswoth Drive
 Columbus, Ohio 43235
 (or deliver to Ohio EMA, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Rd.)*

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Update:

As of May 23, there were more than 2,559,879 FEMA Individual Assistance registrations for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Registration is **CLOSED**.

FEMA has approved more than **\$6,924,232,730** in disaster assistance to individual applicants from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas.

In Ohio, **3,983** evacuee households registered for FEMA assistance.

There are 14 applicants in the Public Assistance Program EM-3250. Project worksheets for 11 of the 14 have been approved by, or are in the process of approval with FEMA.

UPCOMING EVENT



Beaver Valley Power Station Plume / Ingestion Zone

Dry Run: **June 6 and 7, 2006**
 Full-Scale FEMA Evaluated Exercise:
June 27 and 28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 21	22	23	24	25 EMA Directors Teleconference - 1 pm	26	27
G300/400 Intermediate/Advanced Incident Command System - Ohio EMA (Columbus)						
28	29  Memorial Day	30	31	June 1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Incident Mgmt Ohio EMA	8 Communications TAC Teleconference - 10 am	9	10
Beaver Valley Power Station DRY RUN (Plume Phase 06/06) Ingestion Phase 06/07						
11	12	13	14 HazMat TAC Ohio EMA <i>Flag Day</i>	15	16	17

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