



## *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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*Lucas County flooding after the June 21 severe storms  
(Lucas County EMA photo).*

### **Buying Flood Insurance Now Will Save Dollars, Heartache Later**

**CLEVELAND** - People who live near water are not the only ones who experience flooding. Floods can move and spread for miles. Flash floods can begin and end within just hours, cutting a path of major destruction.

One of the ways residents can protect themselves is with flood insurance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers this important insurance coverage through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP was created by Congress in 1968 to provide flood insurance at a reasonable cost in

exchange for careful management by local communities of flood-prone areas.

In the last two years, the NFIP has experienced consistent growth, with the number of policies in force increasing by more than 11 percent and more than five million Americans are now protecting their homes with flood insurance. Still, more needs to be done, according to David Maurstad, FEMA mitigation director and NFIP administrator.

“Americans inside and outside of high-hazard flood zones must recognize that flooding is America’s Number One natural disaster and that everyone faces some level of risk,” Maurstad said.

Flood insurance provides coverage that homeowners or renters insurance does not – coverage for damages caused by floods.

The cost of flood insurance is far cheaper than having to pay thousands of dollars to repair their home or replace contents because a flood caught them off guard.

For more information log onto <http://www.floodsmart.gov>.

**Homeland Security Threat Level:**

**ELEVATED**



### BSSA Vehicle Event - Lucas County

The Lucas County Sheriffs' Department received the Buckeye State Sheriffs Association (BSSA) inter-operability communications vehicle (Unit #8) on Friday, July 14. This vehicle will respond to incidents and provide communications resources to counties in northwest Ohio. Mercer County will receive BSSA Vehicle Unit #9 on July 26.

### NIMS Implementation

Ohio EMA's Field, Training and Exercise Branch mailed the Federal Fiscal Year 2006 National Incident Management System (NIMS) implementation requirement summary and a cover letter that invites state agencies to call the Ohio EMA NIMS Help Desk for questions and concerns relative to fulfilling NIMS requirements for FFY06.

All public safety, emergency responders and emergency management personnel are required to complete the following NIMS courses by the end of September: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100 and ICS-200.

### Ohio State Fair

All of the divisions of the Ohio Department of Public Safety will have information booths set up in the Marketplace Building of the Ohio State Fair. The fair runs from August 2 to August 13.

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### **Ohio National Guard Participates in Ross County Terrorism Exercise**

*By: Specialist Benjamin Cossel, Public Affairs Detachment, Ohio Army National Guard*

Ohio Air and Army National Guard personnel of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Weapons of Mass Destruction, Civil Support Team (WMD/CST) participated in a terrorism training exercise last month in Chillicothe. Representatives of Ross County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Chillicothe Veterans Hospital and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources also participated in the full-scale exercise.

The 22-member, Columbus-based unit must be evaluated and recertified every 18 to 24 months by the Civil Support Readiness Directorate (CSRD), 5<sup>th</sup> Army.

The exercise scenario was as follows: A suspicious trailer was parked at the Great Seal Park. Local campers reported to park services that they heard people inside the trailer using disturbing phrases like, "The Jihad must succeed."

Donned in chemical protective suits and oxygen tanks, the National Guard unit had to investigate the suspicious trailer and find enough clues to lead them to another site, an abandoned building where the potential terrorists were located and setting up a place to make bombs.

The WMD/CST had to set up decontamination stations, medical stations, analysis labs and communications stations as part of their exercise evaluation. The team was exposed to contaminants once they discovered a Saran gas production laboratory and a bomb.

The guardsmen had to disarm the bomb and lab and decontaminate personnel and equipment. They WMD/CST team passed the training exercise and received its recertification.



*June 7, 2006 - Sgt. Dustin Hartman of the 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction, Civil Support Team tests a pool of standing water for chemical or biological reaction (Ohio Army National Guard photo).*

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT

**FEMA DR-1651** - Declared: July 2, 2006

Federal Individual Assistance (IA) disaster assistance available for Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas, Sandusky and Stark counties. The six declared counties plus Van Wert County eligible to apply for Federal Public Assistance (PA), as of July 17.

### Disaster Recovery Centers

**Toledo** (Lucas County)

**Norwalk** (Huron County)

**Brewster** (Stark County) Closed July 19

**Valleyview** (Cuyahoga County) Closes July 22, 6 p.m.

### IHP Registrations

<b>Cuyahoga County</b>	3,522
<b>Erie County</b>	277
<b>Huron County</b>	536
<b>Lucas County</b>	2,880
<b>Sandusky County</b>	209
<b>Stark County</b>	202

Total IHP registrations: **7,566** (as of 7/16)

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**July 18:** Governor Taft declared a State of Emergency for **ASHLAND COUNTY**

## Dealing with Mold and Mildew in your home after a flood



After a flood, excess moisture and standing water contribute to the growth of mold in homes and other buildings. If your home has been flooded, you can assume that it has been contaminated with mold, which can become a health risk for you and your family. FEMA offers suggestions to help control the moisture and growth in your home:

### Stop the Water.

- Fix leaks in pipes and any damp areas around tubs and sinks, so that biological pollutants don't have growing environments.
- Rebuild or retrofit using water-resistant building materials such as tiles, stone, deep-sealed concrete, etc.
- Prevent seepage of water from outdoors into your house. Ensure that rain water from the gutters or roof drain away from the house.

### Keep It Clean.

- Clean fabrics often and keep them dry. Soil promotes mildew growth.
- Consider having air ducts cleaned if you suspect mold exists inside the ducts, or if duct insulation has been wet.

### Keep It Dry.

- Reduce the moisture in the air with dehumidifiers, fans and open windows or air conditioners; especially in hot weather. **DO NOT** use fans if mold already exists.

### Disinfect It.

- Routinely check potential problem spots for moldy odors, and disinfect often using a 10 percent solution of bleach and water (1-1/4 to 1-1/2 cup of bleach to one gallon water), or a commercial disinfectant.

Complete brochure on Dealing with Mold & Mildew is available on the Ohio EMA Web site under "Quick Links." Go to [www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July 16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
	Medical TAC Ohio EMA	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA		
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>August 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
			<i>1st day of the 2006 Ohio State Fair</i> Communications TAC Ohio EMA			
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
						<i>OCSWA Poster Contest Awards Ceremony at State Fair - Noon</i>

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