



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

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www.ema.ohio.gov (614) 799-3695 - Ohio EMA Public Affairs

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Governor Taft Announces Disaster Assistance for October Storms **Residents may apply for low-interest loans and state and federal grants**



*October 4, 2006 - Central Ohio flooding.
(Google search photo)*

Governor Bob Taft announced yesterday that the Small Business Administration (SBA) has granted his request to issue a disaster declaration for Pike County. This declaration will enable individuals and families in Pike County, as well as those in contiguous counties, who incurred uninsured losses resulting from severe storms and flooding on October 4, to apply for long-term, low-interest loans of up to \$240,000. Counties contiguous to Pike are Adams, Highland, Jackson, Ross and Scioto.

“Local and state damage assessment indicated that many homes in Pike County suffered extensive losses,” Taft said. “These grants and low interest loans will ensure that Ohioans impacted by these storms can receive the financial

help they need to begin the recovery process.”

In addition to low-interest loans available from the SBA, Governor Taft announced that residents of Pike and contiguous counties might also be eligible for grants through the State Individual Assistance Program. The State Individual Assistance Program makes available individual cash grants of up to \$16,800 per household for uninsured, unmet, essential needs incurred as a result of declared disasters. This program is available for those individuals who do not meet SBA's loan criteria.

For additional information, contact the Disaster Recovery Branch at (614) 889-7171.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant Graded Exercise

The Perry Nuclear Power Plant, located in Lake County, conducted a partial-participation graded exercise on October 24. Main state agency participants included the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Department of Health-Radiological; and Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake county emergency management agencies.

The scenario involved a radioactive material release from the Perry Nuclear Power Plant that required evacuation of the public and other protective actions per the State of Ohio Radiological Plan. The Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency evaluated the exercise. A critique was conducted today at the Lake County Emergency Operations Center.

Homeland Security Current Threat Level (Domestic & International Flights):

HIGH

**School Preparedness Roundtable Meeting -
House Bill 422: School Safety Drills**

Ohio Homeland Security facilitated a School Preparedness Roundtable meeting October 16, where presenters from the Ohio Department of Health gave overviews of the pandemic flu and school planning for pandemic flu.

A representative from the Ohio Chiefs of Police gave an outline of House Bill 422, which requires all school with 20 or more students (public, private and daycare facilities) to conduct annual school safety or lockdown drills.

All schools must conduct their first safety drill by April 1, 2007; then on an annual basis, a drill must be conducted by December 1. Prior and post notification of this annual drill must be sent to their local law enforcement agency. A copy should also be retained at each school. House Bill 422 also requires all school board and daycare governing authorities to file a copy of their school safety plans with the Ohio Attorney General.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT

FEMA-DR-1656 Declared: August 1, 2006
Federal Individual Assistance for three counties

Registrations for Individual & Household Program (as of Oct. 22): **6,291**
3,993 IHP applications approved for **\$9,127,822**

SBA Home/Personal Property Loans: **595**
Approved for **\$13,141,500**

FEMA-DR-1651 Declared July 2, 2006
Federal IA for six counties

Registrations for Individual & Household Program (as of Oct. 22): **12,623**
5,768 IHP applications approved for **\$8,732,244**

SBA Home/Personal Property Loans: **738**
Approved for **\$13,073,800**

Status Update of FEMA-DR-1656

On August 11, Governor Taft requested FEMA extend the incident period for FEMA-1656 from July 27- August 4 to July 27- August 4. FEMA denied this request on September 28. The state submitted an appeal of this decision on October 4. That appeal was also denied on October 23. Impacted county EMAs were notified by Tuesday.

**CRISIS EMERGENCY
RISK COMMUNICATION
Pandemic Influenza**

The Ohio EMA Chief of Public Affairs attended a two-day course in Chicago: The Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) Pandemic Influenza training. The course combined influenza communication tabletop exercises and informative group discussions.

Preparing for and responding to a pandemic will challenge response officials and the public. The following can be expected during a pandemic:

- Susceptibility to the pandemic influenza virus will be universal.
- Of those who become ill with the flu, 50 percent will seek outpatient medical care.
- The number of hospitalizations and deaths will depend on the virulence of the pandemic virus, with severe pandemic influenza causing nearly 2 million deaths in the United States.
- In an affected community, a pandemic outbreak will last about six to eight weeks.
- Multiple waves (periods during which the community outbreaks occur across the country) of illness could occur with each wave, lasting two to three months.
- The need for fast, accurate and credible information will be vast.

Communicating to concerned members of the community will be a paramount responsibility and the right message delivered at the right time by the right person could save lives. The Pandemic Influenza course gave leaders and communications professionals the best approaches and tools to exercise quality communication before, during and after a pandemic.

The training course was held October 19 and 20. For additional information, visit:
www.bt.cec.gov/erc/panflu/.



Southwest Ohio Participates in River Valley II: Emerging Infectious Disease Functional Exercise



Eight Southwest Ohio counties participated in a functional exercise, October 18, which tested the Southwest Regional Medical Response System first responders during a biomedical disaster, specifically, a pandemic of the H5N1 avian flu virus.

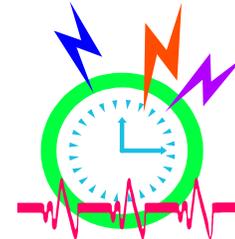
The Southwest Ohio region encompassed eight counties (Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland and Warren) and five cities (Cincinnati, Hamilton, Middletown, Norwood, Sharonville and Springdale). Highland County was unable to participate in the day's exercise.

The exercise was conducted in actual jurisdictional emergency operations centers (EOCs) and department operating centers (DOCs). Each EOC and DOC were setup to function as if this were an actual event. Exercise participants were assigned to various local operations centers and hospitals.

Two Ohio EMA planners served as evaluators for the exercise.

RIM&C Update:

The Ohio EMA Radiological Instrument Maintenance and Calibration facility calibrated and repaired radiological instruments for the following entities: Worthington, Ohio Fire Department; Arrow Tech, Inc., North Dakota; Emergency Management Agency of North Carolina; Michigan State Police; HMPR Consulting Company; and Lucas County Emergency Management Agency.



Remember: Set clocks BACK one hour Saturday night.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program Columbus - Polaris Campus				
		Perry Nuclear Power Plant EXERCISE				
29 Daylight Savings.	30	31 Halloween	November 1 Communications TAC Ohio EMA	2	3	4
5	6	7 Election Day	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day
			Emergency Management Assistance Compact Ohio EMA			
12	13	14	15 Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	16 Water TAC Ohio EMA	17	18
19	20 Medical TAC Ohio EMA	21 HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25

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

UASI: Urban Area Security Initiative - TICP: Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan - FS: Full Scale Exercise