



# This Week in Ohio EMA

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

Ted Strickland, Governor  
www.ema.ohio.gov

Nancy Dragani, Executive Director, Ohio EMA  
(614) 799-3695 - Ohio EMA Public Affairs

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## Acute Care Center in SE Ohio, Topic of Discussion for State and Local Emergency Responders

Staff from the Ohio EMA Operations Division participated in a planning meeting in Athens County last week to discuss a proposed project for an Acute Care Center (ACC) for southeastern Ohio counties. The acute care center would be a 500-bed modular unit stocked with supplies, staffed with physicians, medical residents and nursing support and used an outpatient treatment facility.

The center can be located near a functional trauma center or act as a stand-alone medical facility. Meeting discussions focused on concerns relative to the ability to break the unit down into smaller 50 or 100-bed units that would be able to provide service to larger areas within the southeastern portion of the state.



The acute care center project is funded through the Ohio Department of Health to Wright State University (Greene County).

Meeting participants included representatives from the Ohio Department of Health; local health departments from Southeast Ohio; Wright State University; Ohio Department of Administrative Services; Perry County Emergency Management Agency; Noble County Emergency Management Agency; Ohio Emergency Management Agency; and regional coordinators of the Southeast Regional Medical Response System. The group will later identify committees that will review planning and logistics issues.

## OHIO PANDEMIC FLU [www.ohiopandemicflu.gov](http://www.ohiopandemicflu.gov)

The Ohio Department of Health recently developed a Pandemic Influenza Toolkit of Ohio Schools. The kit contains planning information; guidance on disease surveillance and reporting; infection control measures; sample media releases; and checklists.

According to the toolkit, every school district should have an emergency management plan that:

- Addresses all four phases of emergency management planning (mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery);
- Is flexible enough to address multiple hazards;

- Is practiced on a regular basis;
- Is developed in an interactive, cross-cutting manner, in collaboration with community partners and stakeholders;
- Is based upon sound data and information;
- Includes provisions for being continually reviewed and updated regularly; and
- Is coordinated with community pandemic influenza planning efforts, as well as state policy and planning efforts.

The 55-page document is available on the Ohio Pandemic Flu Web site: [www.ohiopandemicflu.gov](http://www.ohiopandemicflu.gov).

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

**HIGH**

## **State Fire Marshal Urges Ohioans to Heat Homes Safely**

Now that winter (and its freezing temperatures) is officially here, the state fire marshal reminds Ohioans to focus on fire safety when heating their homes and to use extra care if relying on alternative heating sources.

It is important to have the home's heating system checked annually by a qualified professional. Furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves and chimneys should be inspected and cleaned prior to the start of every heating season. If you use alternative heating sources, operate according to their instructions and use with extreme caution.

To avoid falling victim to carbon monoxide poisoning, install at least one carbon monoxide detector near sleeping areas. Call the fire department if the alarm sounds. Also, ensure that you have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home and in every sleeping area.

Safety tips:

### **Fireplaces and Wood-Burning Stoves**

- Allow enough clearance between the stove and combustible materials, such as walls, floors and ceilings.
- A wood-burning stove should be placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and hot coals.
- Make sure the flue is open before lighting a fire and never close the flue while a fire is still smoldering.
- Use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying and igniting nearby objects.
- Never use gasoline or lighter fluid to start a fire.

### **Portable Space Heaters**

- When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.
- Do not use an extension cord with an electrical portable heater. The current from the heater could melt the cord and cause a fire.
- Never leave a heater on when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep; never leave children or pets unattended around any heating source. Unplug when not in use.

### **Kerosene Heaters**

- Make sure the room has proper ventilation.
- Fill kerosene heater with only crystal clear, K-1 kerosene. Do not use any fluid not recommended for your heater. Refuel outside and only after the heater has cooled down.
- Check the wick every couple of weeks during the heating season. If the wick is dirty, clean it according to the manufacturer's instructions.

### **Generators**

- Use portable generator in a well-ventilated area. Read manufacturer's instructions before use.
- Ensure generator fuel is properly and safely stored. Never store fuel or flammable liquids in a basement or near open flames. Always refuel outside and away from ignition sources.

### **Propane**

- If using a propane-fueled heater, ensure it is designed for indoor use and is properly vented. Read all of the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not use propane barbecues indoors.
- If you smell gas, do not operate any switches, appliances or thermostats. A spark from one of these could ignite the gas. Get everyone outside and away from the building. Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.

**EMA Updates**

Lt. John Parker, Director  
 Jefferson County Emergency Management  
**300 Airport Road, P.O. Box 2039**  
**Wintersville, Ohio 43953**  
 Office: **740-264-4646**  
 Fax: **740-264-4679**

Jane Cahall, Director  
 Brown County Emergency Management  
**325 West State Street, Building B**  
 Georgetown, Ohio 45121



The Fiscal Branch of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency was relocated to the Ohio Department of Public Safety on January 29.

Best regards to the entire staff: (Sandra) Sam Arnold, Nancy Boyd, (Roberta) Bobbi Downs, Queen Hopkins, (Mary) Ann Lechner, Pamila Shaloo and Kelvin Williams.

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Check out the Emergency Management Association of Ohio's quarterly newsletter! Visit its Web site: [www.ohioema.org](http://www.ohioema.org).

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

**Director, Knox County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
 Mt. Vernon, Ohio**

The Knox County Board of Commissioners is seeking applications for the full-time director of Homeland Security/EMA. The director is responsible for the administrative operation of the agency and its various functions, including countywide 9-1-1 dispatch and the Local Emergency Planning Committee. The director will formulate and lead the county's response to natural disasters, hazardous materials spills and catastrophic events.

Applicants must have strong leadership, management and communication skills, as well as a comprehensive knowledge of emergency management, emergency response, public administration and public relations. A Bachelor's degree in Emergency Management or equivalent is preferred. Must be willing to become a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM). Salary begins in mid-\$30,000s.

Contact Emily Marth at [epmarth@ecr.net](mailto:epmarth@ecr.net) for additional information and application. Deadline to apply is March 15, 2007.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 28	29	30	31	February 1	2	3
				Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) - Ohio EMA		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		CAMEO Course - Ohio EMA (Feb. 6-9)				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Medical TAC Ohio EMA					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	 Presidents' Day	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	EOC Management & Operations - Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA	
25	26	27	28	March 1	2	3

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  
 TAC: Technical Advisory Committee