



This Week in Ohio EMA

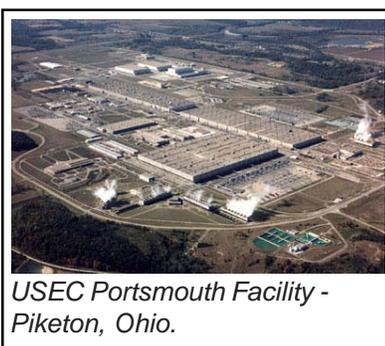
A publication of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety

Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director
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Old Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant to House New Advanced Centrifuge Plant



USEC Portsmouth Facility - Piketon, Ohio.

Personnel from the Ohio EMA Operations Division (Plans and Radiological branches) recently participated in a tour of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) American Centrifuge Plant, formerly called the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The facility, located in Pike County is anticipated to be the new location of a centrifugal enrichment facility. The complex will house multiple USEC facilities.

Once completed, the advanced centrifuge plant will be able to house 11,000 centrifuges, used to enrich uranium for processing into fuel for nuclear power plants.

USEC provided an extensive tour with emphasis on emergency planning efforts and issues applicable to past and present activities.

The Portsmouth site is also building a conversion facility that will have the ability to convert depleted uranium hexafluoride (a by-product of the enrichment process) into chemical products that can be sold for industrial use or waste that can be disposed of more easily.

Department of Homeland Security Modifies Authorized Equipment List

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) modified its Authorized Equipment List (AEL) which is used to identify equipment eligible for purchase using the various DHS grant programs.



In the past, every grant year had its own authorized list. What was allowable during one grant year may not have been allowable in another year. Any additions made to the lists were not retroactively added, making it necessary for the grant applicant to look at multiple lists to determine his eligibility.

In the modification, DHS consolidated the lists so that there is only one comprehensive AEL which applies to all grant year programs. Now, previous and multiple versions of the equipment list are no longer needed.

It is important to note that the AEL still limits what may or may not be purchased in the separate grant programs. The new AEL the ability to "filter out" and display only those items eligible for funding under a given grant program.

For additional information, contact Ohio EMA Grants Administrator Pete Tesner, at (614) 799-3690 or visit the Responder Knowledge Base Web site at www.rkb.mipt.org.

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

Fire Chiefs Association Comes to Columbus to Ready Mutual Aid Response

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) hosted a meeting and field exercise in Columbus, yesterday, for approximately 200 first responders and government officials. The event was to assist emergency responders in preparing their communities for mutual aid response, should a natural or man-made disaster occur that would require significant emergency resources crossing jurisdictional lines.

At the Columbus Police Academy (located on Columbus' west side), the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association initiated a major natural disaster scenario that resulted in the activation of the Ohio Emergency Response Plan. Fire, police and EMS units were mobilized and deployed across jurisdictional lines during this field exercise. A staging area was set up at the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base.



The IAFC felt the need for such an event after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast two years ago and illuminated the need for a coordinated response between cities and states to catastrophic disasters. The IAFC is a network of nearly 13,000 chief fire and emergency officers. Its members are experts in fire fighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public safety legislation. For additional information, visit: www.iafc.org.

National Flood Safety Awareness Week is March 19-23

Turn Around Don't Drown - the National Weather Service Safety Campaign

The National Weather Service (NWS), a component of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, announced that March 19-23 is National Flood Safety Awareness Week. The safety week is intended to highlight some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what citizens can do to save and protect their lives and property.

The NWS also promotes a flood safety campaign called **Turn Around, Don't Drown (TADD)** which warns people of the hazards of walking or driving a vehicle through flood waters.



Every year, more deaths occur because of flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard, mainly because people underestimate the force and power of water. More than half of all flood-related deaths result from vehicles being swept downstream.

Follow these safety rules to avoid the dangers of floods:

- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or television station for vital weather-related information.
- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. **Turn Around, Don't Drown.**
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

To find out more about Turn Around, Don't Drown, visit the NWS Web site at: www.nws.noaa.gov/floodsafety/tadd.shtml.

**Save the Date and Plan to Attend!
May 30-31, 2007**



Conference for Behavioral Health Providers, First Responders and Volunteer Networks

Columbus Marriott North
6500 Doubletree Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43229
Reservations: 1-800-228-3429

(Mention ODMH-Join Force Conference.)

On-line Reservations: www.marriott.com/cmhno

Registration Fees: \$80 per person for two days or \$55 per person for one day. Preregistration is required.

Sponsored by the Ohio Community Service Council, Ohio Department of Mental Health and NEOUCOM (Southeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine).

For additional information about the conference, e-mail: joiningforces@garrisonevents.com or visit the Garrison & Associates, Inc. Web site at www.garrisonevents.com.

Remember: Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 11



Effective this year, the duration of daylight savings time has increased from six months to eight months. Daylight savings time now starts on the second

Sunday in March and lasts until the first Sunday of November (e.g. March 11 - November 4, 2007).

So remember: tomorrow night, set all clocks ahead one hour.

**Ohio Department of Public Safety
Emergency Management Agency
Spring Directors' Conference**

March 27 and 28, 2007
Holiday Inn/Fort Rapids
4560 Hilton Corporate Dr.
Columbus, OH 43232
(614) 868-1380



To register, visit the Ohio EMA Training Site at: <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>, or go to the Ohio EMA site: www.ema.ohio.gov and click on Ohio EMA Training, found under Quick Links.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Incident Command System (ICS-300) Cuyahoga County		Ohio Emergency Response Plan Exer.		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
 Daylight Savings Time Begins		Water TAC Seminar & Awareness Course Ohio Fire Academy		Animal Health Emergency TAC - ODPS		
		Mitigation Planning for Local Gov't Ohio EMA		Evacuation/Re-Entry Planning CANCELED		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	National Flood Safety Awareness Week (March 19-23, 2007)					
	Medical TAC Ohio EMA	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt. TAC Ohio EMA			CERT-100 Train-the-Instructor Pickaway County
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week ~ Statewide Tornado Drill Wednesday, March 28th, 9:50 a.m.						
CERT-100 T-T-I Pickaway County		Spring Directors' Seminar Fort Rapids-Holiday Inn, Columbus		USAR TAC Ohio EMA		

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>
TAC - Technical Advisory Committee