



# This Week in Ohio EMA



Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director  
Ohio EMA Public Affairs (614) 799-3695 [www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)

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## Ohio Now Has 11 **StormReady** Communities *NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE* Mercer County Receives Certification on June 12

Mercer County recently received its certification in becoming a StormReady community, making it better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education and awareness.

StormReady is a program that was developed in 1999 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. StormReady helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property, before and during an event. It also helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs.

Ohio now has 11 StormReady communities located in Allen, Auglaize, Clermont, Huron, Jackson, Mercer, Sandusky, Scioto, Shelby, Union and Van Wert counties.

Ohio also has a StormReady committee that processes all applications for StormReady designations within the state. Certification lasts for three years, then must be reviewed for recognition of an additional term. Committee members represent the National Weather Service, Emergency Management Association of Ohio, and Ohio EMA.

To become StormReady certified, a county or community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Have multiple ways to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings, and have multiple ways to alert the public;
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions;
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan that includes training for severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.



*Mercer County Receives StormReady Certification (June 12, 2007). Pictured from left to right: Rick McCoy, Van Wert County EMA; Robert Bill, Ohio EMA; Jerry Laffin, Mercer County Commissioner; June Mong, Darke County EMA; Wanda Dicke, Mercer County EMA; Joni Palumbo, Ohio EMA; Mary Jo Parker, National Weather Service - Wilmington, Ohio; State Representative James Zehringer; Robert Nuding, Mercer County Commissioner; Jeff Grey, Mercer County Sheriff; and Sharon LaRue, mayor of Celina.*

**Homeland Security Current Threat Level: ELEVATED - Significant risk of Terrorist Attack  
HIGH (or Orange) for Aviation Sector**

**ELEVATED**



## September is... National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide coordinated effort sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

The goal of National Preparedness Month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks, and to encourage individuals to take action to prepared themselves and their families.

The month provides Americans with a variety of opportunities to learn more about emergency preparedness. Events and activities across the nation will encourage people to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses, and get involved in preparing their communities.

In Ohio, week one of September will focus on Back to School and *Ready Kids*. Week two will focus on Business Preparedness and *Ready Business*. Week three will focus on Multicultural Preparedness, and week four on Home/Family Preparedness and *Ready America*. Weekly kickoff events will be conducted in Cuyahoga, Scioto, Franklin, Lucas and Butler counties.

For additional information and promotional suggestions, visit the Ready campaign's Web sites: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov). Click on "**September is National Preparedness Month.**"

### Ohio EMA's RIM&C Lab Receives Improved Instrument Alignment System for Gamma Range



*The yellow and red boxes serve as alignment lasers on the gamma range .*

The Ohio EMA Radiological Instrument Maintenance and Calibration (RIM&C) Laboratory recently received new equipment that improves the instrument alignment system on its National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) gamma range. A gamma range is a calibration device that contains Cesium-137 sealed radioactive sources that are used to emit gamma rays.

The gamma range incorporates a motorized table that rolls on a track. The track allows the table to be moved to various distances away from the Cesium-137 sealed radioactive sources. In order to calibrate instruments using the gamma range, the instrument must be properly positioned on the gamma range table. The table is then moved to various

positions away from the cesium sources and instrument readings are taken via a video camera. Previously, the instrument alignment process was done by using line-of-sight and straightedge rulers to position the instrument at the proper point. Lasers are now used to better align the instruments, which allows for better accuracy in the gamma range calibration method.



*Gamma range table and track (Ohio EMA photos).*

RIM&C personnel calibrate radiation detection instrumentation for numerous clients in Ohio and throughout the country. The RIM&C lab is one of only nine facilities in the United States and Canada accredited to perform calibrations in the field of ionizing radiation measurements.

**FEMA Announces Membership of National Advisory Council**  
**Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani selected by FEMA Administrator**  
*(From FEMA Press Release dated June 19, 2007)*



Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy J. Dragani

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator David Paulison announced on June 19 the membership of the National Advisory Council. Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy J. Dragani is one of 28 individuals who was chosen to serve on this council.

The council will advise the administrator of FEMA on all aspects of preparedness and emergency management in an effort to ensure close coordination with its partners across the country.

“The men and women nominated to serve on the National Advisory Council are recognized experts across the range of emergency management disciplines,” said Administrator Paulison. “Their extensive knowledge and diverse points of view will be a great asset as they advise us on how we can best respond to natural and man-made disasters together.”

The development of the National Advisory Council was set into motion by the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. Members are appointed by the administrator and represent a geographic and significant cross section of officials from emergency management and law enforcement, and include homeland security directors; adjutants general; emergency response providers from state, local and tribal governments; private sector; and nongovernmental organizations.

The council is being instituted to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of the federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. Specifically, the council will focus attention in the development and revision of the national preparedness goal, the national preparedness system, the National Incident Management System, the National Response Plan and other related plans and strategies.

The council intends to hold quarterly meetings each year. Pending final approval of disclosure forms that must, by law, be submitted by certain appointees, the first meeting is expected to take place this fall.

**Ohio Citizen Corps Regional Conferences Conducted in Four Counties**

The Ohio Citizens Corps is hosting four regional conferences throughout the month of June - each conference with a different focus.

- June 4** (Portage County) Focus: Preparedness and advanced registration of volunteer health professionals in disaster response.
- June 19** (Jackson County) Focus: Liability Protection for Ohio Citizen Corps volunteers
- June 21** (Hancock County) Focus: Anti-terrorism in Ohio
- June 26** (Franklin County) Focus: Vulnerable populations and pets in times of disaster

All Citizen Corps charter programs were represented, to include Community Emergency Response Team; Medical Reserve Corps; Neighborhood Watch; Volunteers in Police Service; and Fire Corps.



**National Lightning Safety Awareness Week is June 24-30**



Salty, the NOAA Seagull

**Remember: When thunder roars, go indoors!**

- Watch the skies for developing thunderstorms. If the sky looks threatening, take shelter before the thunder and rain begin.
- Listen to your NOAA Weather Radio or local TV or radio station to receive up-to-date weather reports.

**EMA UPDATES**

**New to Ohio EMA**

**Edward Edwardson**

Telecommunication Technician Coordinator  
Communications Branch

**Michael Rieser**

Radiological Instrument Technician  
Facilities, Logistics & Calibration Branch

Congratulations to **Darren Price**,  
Exercise Program Manager, for receiving  
the **Ohio EMA Employee of the Quarter**  
award for second quarter. Mr. Price is of the  
Ohio EMA Field Operations, Training and  
Exercise Branch

**Total Estimated Funds for All Open Disaster Programs, as of June 11, 2007:**

	Federal Share*	State Share*
FEMA IHP Program	\$152,245,760	\$ 15,869,057
FEMA PA Program	\$204,323,744	\$ 20,832,456
FEMA HMG Program	\$ 21,601,813	\$ 8,057,217**
SBA Loan Programs	\$152,570,600	\$ -0-
State IA Program	\$ -0-	\$ 284,316
State Disaster Relief	\$ -0-	\$ 4,388,313
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$530,741,917</b>	<b>\$ 49,431,359</b>

\* These figures may go up or down, depending on final program approval and closeout.

\*\* The state share of mitigation funds will be determined as soon as FEMA determines the final amount of funds for the programs.

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

**Licking County EMA Director Named President of IAEM, Region V**

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) recently named Jeff Walker, Licking County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management director, as president of IAEM, Region V. As regional president, Walker will also serve on the 19-member national board of directors for IAEM.

Region V represents local emergency managers and homeland security professionals from the states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The IAEM represents more than 3,700 emergency managers.



*IAEM President Jeff Walker, Director, Licking County EMA*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>June 24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Homeland Security Regions 7 & 8 Conf. Grove City, Ohio	<b>27</b> Water TAC Ohio EMA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>National Lightning Safety Awareness Week: June 24-30</b>						
<b>July 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Independence Day</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Senior TAC ODOT Auditorium	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Mitigation Progress Reports Due (2nd Qtr)	<b>16</b> Medical TAC Ohio EMA	<b>17</b> HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	<b>18</b> Incident Mgmt. TAC Ohio EMA	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>

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

7/15 - Mitigation Progress Reports Due (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance and Pre-Disaster Mitigation)

TAC - Technical Advisory Committee