



# 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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## Northeast Ohio Hit with Flash Flooding; Many Roads, Homes and Businesses Under Water



**Parma, Ohio** (August 7, 2007) - At least the ducks appreciated the rain that fell in northeast Ohio last Tuesday. This photo was taken on Brookpark Road in Parma. Governor Ted Strickland declared a state of emergency for Cuyahoga County on August 8. (Photo courtesy of Cuyahoga County Division of Emergency Services.)

Parts of Cuyahoga and Lorain counties were inundated with heavy rainstorms on August 7, receiving between 1.5 to 4.5 inches of rain. According to Ohio EMA situation reports, 38 apartments in Parma reported four feet of flood water on their first floors; 40 apartments in Lorain County reported water/sewer backup in their basements; multiple interstates and roads were flooded; the American Red Cross opened a shelter in Parma Heights.

Cuyahoga County issued an emergency declaration on August 7; Governor Ted Strickland issued a State of Emergency for Cuyahoga County on August 8. On that after-

noon, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) worked with state and local emergency management officials to conduct damage assessments to determine if the county residents and business owners would be eligible to apply for SBA loans.

On Friday, August 10, Gov. Strickland authorized the activation of the Ohio State Individual Assistance (State IA) Program which, upon activation of a SBA disaster declaration, residents of Cuyahoga County affected by the August 7 storms and flooding could apply for additional disaster aid and assistance. Cuyahoga County was approved for a SBA disaster declaration on Tuesday, August 14. Disaster-affected homeowners, renters and business owners of Cuyahoga County and contiguous counties of Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit are now eligible to apply for SBA home/personal property disaster loans.

To be eligible for the State IA Program, affected individuals and families must first be denied or deemed ineligible for a SBA loan. The categories for possible assistance are: Real Property (damage to an owner-occupied residence), Personal Property (damage to essential major appliances and furniture of a homeowner or renter), or other/miscellaneous loss or expense (medical, dental, funeral, transportation, etc.). Not all damages or losses caused by the incident may qualify for assistance. The current maximum grant amount for State IA is \$16,800.

For additional information on the State IA Program, contact the Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch at (614) 889-7171.

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

**ELEVATED**



# ReadyOhio

Prepare... Plan... Stay Informed.  
[www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov)

The Ohio Department of Public Safety and its National Preparedness Month planning committee recently launched their state-focused preparedness Web site, ReadyOhio. ReadyOhio is a one-stop Internet resource that contains information Ohioans need to prepare for all types of emergencies.

Go to [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov) for links to Ready America for families, older individuals, people with special needs, and schools; Ready Business; and weather events (FloodSmart Web site). ReadyOhio was created in part to help promote National Preparedness Month, a nationwide coordinated effort observed during the month of September, that encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. During National Preparedness Month, the Ohio Department of Public Safety will join with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and a diverse group of national, state and local partners in highlighting the importance of emergency preparedness and promoting community involvement through a wide variety of events and activities.

The following lists Ohio's activities for National Preparedness Month:

**Week One:** Back to School and READY Kids - Kickoff events in Cuyahoga and Scioto counties

**Week Two:** Business Preparedness and READY Business - Kickoff event in Franklin County

**Week Three:** Multi-Cultural Awareness - Kickoff event in Lucas County

**Week Four:** Home and Family Preparedness and READY America - Kickoff event in Butler County

ReadyOhio encourages businesses, organizations, townships and schools to promote emergency preparedness during the month of September by organizing preparedness programs at libraries or other community facilities such as recreation centers; creating or revising schools'/ offices' emergency manuals, or offering First Aid/CPR training to students or employees.

The goal of ReadyOhio is to have all Ohioans be prepared for any critical incident or natural disaster, have an emergency preparedness plan and kit, and stay informed.

Partners of ReadyOhio include Ready.Gov; American Red Cross; Citizen Corps; and state agencies such as the Ohio Community Service Council/Ohio Citizen Corps; Ohio Department of Administrative Services; Ohio State Lottery and multiple divisions of the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

County EMA offices are strongly encouraged to register their National Preparedness Month activities on [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov). Register by clicking on **Post Your Event** (fourth button down, on the left).



September is...  
**National Preparedness Month**

## **NIMS/ICS Training Requirements for Ohio Emergency Management Employees**

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was developed so responders and incident managers from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together better to respond to natural disasters and emergencies, to include acts of terrorism. NIMS benefits include a unified approach to incident management; standard command and management structures; and emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid and resource management.

All Ohio EMA employees should have already completed the basic awareness level courses for NIMS, National Response Plan and Incident Command System: IS-700, IS-800, IS-100 and IS-200. All four of these independent study courses are available on-line through the FEMA Independent Study program, which can be accessed at <http://training/fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>.

Prior to the end of federal fiscal year 2008 (September 30, 2008), all Ohio EMA employees who staff, or have the potential to staff, the Emergency Operations Center are required to complete ICS-300, Intermediate ICS course. Planners, field liaisons, supervisors, branch chiefs, division directors, executive staff, and anyone with a potential role in command and general staff positions are required to complete both ICS-300 and ICS-400, Advanced ICS course.

The ICS-300 and 400 courses are classroom-instructed only (not available on-line). The Ohio EMA Training Section will post training opportunities as they become available.

## **Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Installs New Emergency Warning System to Notify Locals of Incidents**

A new emergency alert system was installed at the Auglaize County Administration Building on August 7. The new



selective emergency warning system uses specialized FM radios that can notify specific groups of people about impending emergencies within a few seconds. The radio device an advantageous asset for first responders, local officials and the general public.

Data from the emergency alert system is transmitted over a local radio station, WGLE 90.7 FM. During an emergency the radio sounds an alarm and displays scrolling test messages. Its specialized receiver has a rechargeable battery backup system, supports accessories for people with special needs, and functions as a standard FM radio-alarm clock.

Troy Anderson, director of the Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management said, "This system will help in alerting our residents and facilities to counties emergencies such as hazardous material spills, Amber Alerts and severe weather watches, warnings and incidents."

Auglaize County intends use of the alert system in its schools, health care facilities, first responding agencies and factories.

*For additional information, contact Troy Anderson at e-mail [tanderson@auglaizecounty.org](mailto:tanderson@auglaizecounty.org) or call: (419) 739-6725.*

## **Take Simple Measures at Home to Prevent the Spread of West Nile Virus**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection recommends simple steps residents can take to control mosquitoes in their own yards and to help combat the spread of the West Nile virus. Just remember: Dump It, Drain It, Treat It. Dump it (the container) if there is water in it; drain it if it can be drained; and treat it (with pesticides) if there is standing water. Other tips to eliminate mosquito-breeding sites around the home include:

- Eliminate standing water that collects on your property. Mosquitoes will breed in any puddle that lasts for more than four days.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers, including those overgrown with aquatic vegetation.
- Have clogged roof gutters cleaned annually, especially if fallen leaves tend to block the drains.

For additional information about the West Nile virus, go to [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us).

## Licking County Student Recognized as Overall State Winner in Weather Safety Poster Contest



(From left to right) Kenneth Haydu, National Weather Service - Wilmington; William Comeaux, NWS-Cleveland; Jeff Walker, Licking County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management director; Alexa Day, Overall State Winner, Licking County; Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA executive director; Henry Guzmán, Ohio Department of Public Safety director.

Alexa Day, a Licking County sixth grader during the 2006-07 school year, was recognized as the overall state winner of this year's Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest. The annual awards ceremony acknowledging all regional and state winners was held at the Ohio State Fair on August 11. Alexa's poster depicted the LIFE board game and illustrated tornado safety and preparedness information.

As the overall state winner, Alexa received a variety of awards and prizes from the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness and its partners, to include a \$100 savings bond from the Emergency Management Association of Ohio; a letter of congratulations from Gov. Strickland; a plaque from the National Weather Service; a family First Aid kit from the American Red Cross; prizes from The Weather Channel; her poster framed and a trophy from the Ohio Insurance Institute.

This year, a total of 49 students from 25 Ohio counties were honored as regional winners. The students represented grades first through sixth and individualized education classes from 36 schools.

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is comprised of 13 organizations and state agencies. The committee has sponsored its annual poster contest since 1977, asking Ohio students to design an informative poster on severe weather safety and preparedness. The efforts of these children help the committee to meet its overall goal - to educate Ohioans about the actions they can take to protect themselves and their families before, during and after severe weather occurs.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>August 19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
	Medical TAC <b>CANCELED</b>	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA		Bomb Squad TAC Col. Police Academy		
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>September 1</b>
			Water TAC Ohio EMA			
<b>September is National Preparedness Month.</b> <b>Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed. Visit <a href="http://www.ready.ohio.gov">www.ready.ohio.gov</a>.</b>						
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Week 1: Back to School &amp; Ready Kids</i>	<b>Labor Day</b> 	Damage Assessment Northwest Ohio	Debris Management (1.5 Days) Northwest Ohio		Cost Documenta- tion - NW OH	
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Week 2: Business Preparedness &amp; Ready Business</i>		<i>National Patriot's Day</i>	Perry Nuclear Power Plant Security Drill <b>PNPP</b>	<i>Fall Directors Seminar</i> Ohio Fire Academy Reynoldsburg, Ohio	ICS 700 & 800 ODNR, Athens OH	

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