

Ohio's Emergency Management News

Seneca County, Nov. 2002 Hancock County, Aug. 2007

Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director
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October 24, 2008 *Volume V, No. 18*



Ohio's system for preparedness and response to disasters was recently granted full accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). Emergency management accreditation represents a significant achievement. Currently there are 20 accredited states and three accredited local jurisdictions in the country. To achieve accreditation, Ohio documented how it meets 63 national standards for the state's disaster preparedness and response system and underwent a peer-review assessment by EMAP-trained assessors this summer.

The accreditation process was spearheaded by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Through Ohio EMA, Ohio Department of Public Safety is the state agency responsible for coordinating activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, both natural and man-made.

"Ohio achieved an important step in the accreditation process and we are pleased to see their success," said Tim Manning, chairperson of the EMAP Commission and director of the New Mexico Emergency Management. "States like Ohio that work toward and achieve compliance with these standards are at the forefront in ensuring their residents are served by a comprehensive system to deal with disasters."

Accreditation is valid for five years from the date granted by the EMAP Commission. Accredited programs must maintain compliance with EMAP standards and be reassessed in five years to maintain their status.

"The work of disaster response and recovery is one that requires prompt and accurate allocation of assets and resources," said ODPS Director Henry Guzmán. "The partnership between Ohio EMA, other state agencies and local partners in Ohio that has allowed us to move forward with this accreditation is vital to ensuring that we are doing everything possible to serve and protect Ohioans. It would not be possible without the work and dedication of the employees of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency."

EMAP is a voluntary accreditation process for state, territorial and local government programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters - from tornadoes to terrorist acts. It recognizes the ability of a state or local government to bring together personnel, resources and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation from and in response to an emergency. This forms the foundation of the nation's emergency response system. EMAP is the only accreditation process for state and local emergency management preparedness.



Ohio EMA Director Elected President of the National Emergency Management Association

Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani recently became the 31st president, and the second president from Ohio, to serve the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), a nonpartisan association dedicated to enhancing public safety.



NEMA is the professional association of and for emergency management directors from all 50 states, eight territories and the District of Columbia. They provide national leadership and expertise in comprehensive emergency management; serve as a vital emergency management information and assistance resource; and advance continuous improvement in emergency management through strategic partnerships, innovative programs and collaborative policy positions.

“I am honored to serve as NEMA’s 31st president,” said Dragani. “I look forward to continuing to build relationships among our federal, state, local and private sector partners as we work together to strengthen a national emergency management system.”

The primary purpose of NEMA is to be the source of information, support and expertise for people at all levels of government and the private sector who prepare for, mitigate, respond to, recover from and provide products and services for all emergencies, disasters and threats to the nation’s security.

Ohio Requests Federal Public Assistance for Damages Incurred from Windstorm

On October 14, Governor Ted Strickland requested President George W. Bush to declare a major disaster for the state of Ohio as a result of Category-1 hurricane-force winds that caused extreme damage throughout the state on September 14.

Federal disaster assistance is requested for 33 Ohio counties: Ashland, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Knox, Licking, Madison, Miami, Montgomery, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, Preble, Shelby, Summit, Tuscarawas, Union and Warren.

Joint preliminary damage assessments were conducted by local, state and federal EMA teams during the week of October 6. Results of the PDAs showed total federal and state estimated costs for the FEMA Public Assistance Program exceed \$53.89 million.

According to the Ohio Insurance Institute, the Sept. 14 windstorm caused at least \$553.1 million in insured losses. To date, 132,000 claims have been paid.

If a federal disaster is approved, FEMA could reimburse up to 75 percent for costs incurred for debris removal; emergency protective measures; repair to street signs and traffic signals (roads and bridges); buildings and equipment; utilities; and parks and recreation (Categories A, B, C, E, F and G of Federal Public Assistance under the Stafford Act).

At the height of the incident, more than 1.9 million Ohio customers were without power and a total of seven Ohioans died as a result of the storm. A total of 84 Ohio counties reported damages and/or power outages resulting from the storm.



Winter's on Its Way! It's Not Too Early to Get Ready Now
Winter Safety Awareness Week is November 16-22

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

With issued frost advisories and morning temperatures dipping into the 20s and 30s, Ohioans need no further reminder that winter is on its way. This year, Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week is November 16-22. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages households, schools and businesses to get ready now for severe winter weather.

Modify your disaster preparedness plans. Every home, school and business should have written plans for the different types of disasters that can affect your establishment. Everyone should know what to do in the event of a snow or ice storm, a prolonged power outage, winter flooding or fire. Prepare and practice drills that require sheltering in place and evacuating, using escape routes. Have an emergency contact list and establish a meeting place outside of the home, so others will know where to find or meet you. Invest in a NOAA Weather Radio to stay updated on severe weather watches and warnings.

Prepared winter disaster kits for the home and vehicle. Refresh your stored water and food in your disaster supply kits. Winter kits should include warm clothing, blankets, flashlights, new batteries, outer wear, battery-operated radio, first aid kit, and enough nonperishable food and water to sustain every family member for a minimum of three days. Every home should have properly working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Ensure that vehicles have tune ups/maintenance checks, and ensure all vehicles maintain at least a half tank of fuel to reduce the chance of fuel-line freeze up.



Columbus became a winter wonderland after more than 20 inches fell in March 2008. (photo by Tammy Little, Ohio EMA)

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is an advocate for family emergency preparedness and is comprised of 13 state agencies and organizations.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Oct. 26	27	28	29	30	31 	Nov. 1	
2	3	4	5 Multi-Hazard Planning for Schools (G362) University of Findlay	6	7 Trumbull County Multi-County Tabletop Exercise Vienna, OH	8	
9	10	11 	12 Mitigation Planning Workshop Ohio EMA	13	14	15	
16 	17	18	Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week (Nov. 16-22)				22
	Canine TAC ODOT	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA			

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