



# Ohio's Emergency Management News

Athens County, May 2004

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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## Northern Ohio Floods after Rivers Overflow from Severe Thunderstorms and Heavy Rains National Flood Safety Awareness Week is March 16-20

Flooding is a coast to coast threat to the United States and its territories in all months of the year. National Flood Safety Awareness Week is intended to highlight some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what you can do to save life and property.

Ohio's north and northwest portions are all too familiar with floods. Rivers in Defiance, Hancock, Henry, Lorain, Lucas, Putnam, Williams and Wood counties reached moderate-to-near-major flooding after 3-4 inches of heavy rains inundated the area. Putnam County declared on March 9 due to flooding on the Blanchard River. The National Weather Service confirmed that a tornado touched down in Defiance County on Sunday. Several homes sustained damage. Defiance County declared March 12, because of flooding on the Maumee, Auglaize and Tiffin Rivers. There are no requests for state assistance.



March 11, 2009 - Roads are completely submerged in Holland, OH (Lucas County) / Photo submitted to WTOL by "AutumnS," a Lucas County resident.

The National Weather Service, a member of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, is promoting **National Flood Safety Awareness Week, March 16-20** to bring attention to the different kinds of flooding, the hazards associated with flooding, and what people can do to protect lives and properties.

### **Know the difference between a flood and a flash flood**

A **Flood** occurs when there is prolonged rainfall over several days; intense rainfall over a short period of time; or an ice or debris jam causes a river or stream to overflow and flood surrounding areas. Melting snow can combine with heavy rain to produce flooding as well.

**Flash Flooding** can occur within six hours of a rain event; or after a dam or levee failure; or following a sudden release of water held back by ice or debris jam. Flash floods often catch people unprepared because there may not be a warning that these sudden, potentially deadly floods are coming.

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(Continued from Page 1)

### **Know the different categories of flooding**

- **Minor Flooding** – With minor flooding there is minimal or no property damage, but could create some public threat or inconvenience.
- **Moderate Flooding** – With moderate flooding there is some inundation of structures and roads near streams. Some evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary.
- **Major Flooding** – With major flooding there is extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuation of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary.

Ohio's Spring **Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 22-28** with the Statewide Tornado Drill scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 at 9:50 a.m.

For additional information on severe weather safety and preparedness, visit the [newly redesigned Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness Web site](#) at [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov).

### **Ohio EMA Monthly Report Entries**

(February 3 - March 3, 2009)

The state of Ohio requested a joint preliminary damage assessment (PDA) performed by local, state and federal emergency management personnel in February. The PDA was for public assistance in 19 counties that were impacted by the Jan. 26-28 snow and ice storms.

The purpose of the PA PDA was to determine if the overall uninsured costs and expenses incurred by governmental entities and certain private nonprofit organization met FEMA's state and county per capita thresholds in order to request federal disaster assistance.

The PDA results were \$9.7 million, which is under the required state threshold of \$14.7 million.

Also, there were insufficient uninsured private sector damages to homes and businesses to request a joint individual assistance PDA.

### **Alert from Weather Radio Allows Local Boy Scouts to Safely Weather Summer Storm**

*Article and photo submitted by Michael Swaney, Ohio EMA Radio Technician*

Last July, a Gahanna-area Boy Scout troop was camping at the Chief Logan Reservation, a Boy Scout camp located in a hardwood forest 20 miles southeast of Chillicothe.

At 3 a.m. on July 22, a severe thunder and lightning storm caused by converging 110 mph microbursts ripped through the camp area, leaving behind serious destruction. Fortunately, no one was hurt, thanks to the warning broadcast by the NWS-Wilmington office.

Via a NOAA Tone Alert Weather Radio, Ranger Kerry Campbell received the alert warning in enough time to wake and evacuate Gahanna Troop 317 to a nearby shelter. When the scouts returned to the camp site they discovered that trees were uprooted and their tents were crushed by fallen branches and limbs.

Power company crews and camp staff worked throughout the week to clear debris and restore electrical service.

Parents of Troop 317 got together to present the Chief Logan Reservation with two weather radios.



Boy Scout Troop 317 Scoutmaster Tom Liszkay (right) presents Chief Logan Reservation Ranger Kerry Campbell with an all hazards weather alert radio. Troop 317 is located in Gahanna (Franklin County). Photo by Ohio EMA Radio Technician Michael Swaney, also a scout leader of Troop 317.



## Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

Training Course L-146

*Delivered by Highland County EMA*

*March 31 - April 2*

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) is a capabilities and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized methodology and terminology for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation and improvement planning.

The HSEEP training course is an interactive course that allows participants to share personal lessons learned and best practices while gaining practical experience. In addition to instructor-led course presentations, HSEEP includes small group activities, videos, group discussions, and introductions to HSEEP and capabilities-based planning. This blended approach gives participants hands-on experience that readily translates to real-world exercise responsibilities.

Course Dates: March 31 - April 2, 2009      Application Deadline: March 25

Location:      Highland County Health Department  
 1487 North High Street, Suite 400  
 Hillsboro, Ohio.

POC:      Highland County EMA (937) 393-5880



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
<i>National Flood Safety Week</i>							
		HazMat TAC Ohio EMA <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA		<i>Spring Begins</i>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
<i>Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week ~ Statewide Tornado Drill, March 25th at 9:50 a.m.</i>							
29	30	31	<i>April 1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	
<i>(HSEEP) Homeland Security Exer &amp; Evaluation Program Highland County Health Department</i>							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	URSB Meeting Ohio EMA	<i>Intro to Emergency Management - Ohio EMA</i>				<i>Good Friday</i>	

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

TAC - Technical Advisory Committee, URSB - Utility Radiological Safety Board, HSEEP - Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation