



# 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)

June 5, 2009

Volume VI, No.9

## Remember: When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors! Lightning Safety Week is June 21-27

In a coordinated effort with the National Weather Service and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, Governor Ted Strickland proclaims June 21-27 as "Lightning Safety Awareness Week," and encourages all Ohioans to practice lightning safety and preparedness this week and throughout the summer. The governor's proclamation is in conjunction with the NWS's National Lightning Safety Awareness Week.

NWS records show that 28 people in the United States died in 2008 because of lightning strikes. Ohio had two deaths resulting from lightning strikes last year. Ohio was one of 18 states that had lightning-related fatalities in 2008.

The purpose of Lightning Safety Awareness Week is to help safeguard people from the hazards of thunder and lightning storms. The National Weather Service's lightning safety slogan continues to be: **"When thunder roars, go indoors!"**

According to the NWS, there is no safe place outside during a thunderstorm. If you're outside and hear thunder, you should seek shelter immediately - either inside a substantial building or a hard-topped vehicle. Other safety tips include:

- **Avoid open areas.** Don't be the tallest object in the area.
- **Stay away from isolated tall trees, towers or utility poles.** Lightning tends to strike the taller objects in an area.
- **Stay away from metal conductors such as wires or fences.** Metal does not attract lightning, but lightning can travel long distances through it.
- **Monitor the weather.** Look for signs of a developing thunderstorm such as darkening skies, flashes of lightning or increasing winds. Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV station for up-to-date storm and weather information.



## Ohio's Influenza A (H1N1) Cases - Updated as of 11 a.m., June 5

According to the Centers for Disease Control, as of 11 a.m., June 5, Ohio has a total of 35 confirmed and probably cases of H1N1 (swine flu).

### Breakdown by counties:

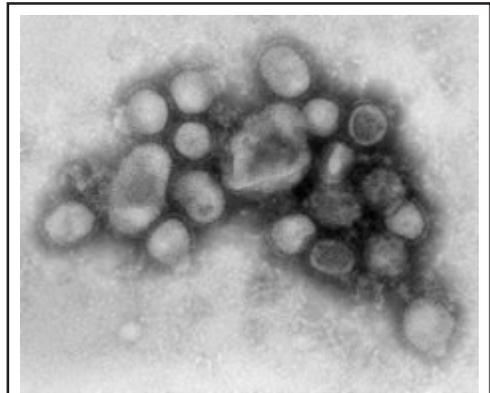
Allen - 1; Butler - 1; Clark - 6; Cuyahoga - 4; Franklin - 13; Fulton - 1; Hamilton - 1; Holmes - 1; Knox - 1; Lawrence - 1; Lorain - 1; Lucas - 1; Mahoning - 1; Montgomery - 1; Portage - 1.

Since the outbreak began in the United States, an increasing number of states have reported cases of novel H1N1 influenza with associated hospitalizations and deaths. By June 3, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were reporting cases of novel H1N1 infection. While nationwide U.S. influenza surveillance systems indicate that overall influenza activity is decreasing in the country, novel H1N1 outbreaks are ongoing in parts of the country, in some cases, with intense activity.

To date, the United States (to include D.C. and Puerto Rico) reports 13,217 H1N1 cases and 27 deaths.

The Ohio Department of Health has a toll-free information line to answer questions about the H1N1 virus at **1-866-800-1404**. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Novel influenza A (H1N1) activity is being detected through CDC's routine influenza surveillance systems and reported weekly in FluView. Additional information is available on the ODH and CDC Web sites at [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov) and [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu).



H1N1 Virus - Photo taken in CDC Influenza Laboratory.



CDC's PCR diagnostic test kit to detect the H1N1 virus.

### EMA Updates:

#### **Drew Whitehair, Disaster Svc Consultant**

Mitigation Branch, Ohio EMA  
Has new employment, private sector  
Last day at EMA - May 29

#### **Christine Hotz, Grants Supervisor**

Preparedness Grants Branch, Ohio EMA  
Moving to California, new employment  
Last day at EMA - June 19

#### **Dan Redman, Chief**

Facilities, Logistics & Calibration Branch  
Retiring after 40 years of dedicated service  
Last day at EMA - June 30

#### **John Wills, Radiological Analyst**

Radiological Branch, Ohio EMA  
Retiring after 30 years of dedicated service  
Last day at EMA - July 31

### Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant Exercise

*(From Ohio EMA Monthly Report, May-June)*

A radiological plume phase evaluated exercise was conducted with the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (Ottawa County) on May 12. The exercise consisted of a partial activation of the State EOC and full activation of Ottawa and Lucas counties' EOCs. A critique was conducted on May 15 with the FEMA evaluators and NRC lead emergency preparedness inspector.

Preliminary results indicate no findings for the state of Ohio; three planning issues for Ottawa County; and one area requiring corrective action for Lucas County that was successfully re-demonstrated at the time of the exercise.

The final exercise report is expected within 90 days of the May 12 demonstration. NRC representatives that conducted the emergency preparedness inspection at Davis-Besse indicated there were no inspection findings for the plant.

# National Preparedness Month | September 2009

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed

Are you ready

Or are you

Ready

Get A Kit

Make A Plan

Be Informed

Get Involved

Are you ready? Or are you **Ready**?  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

**September is National Preparedness Month.** This year, the *Ready* campaign and NPM 2009 are focusing on changing the perceptions about emergency preparedness and are helping Americans understand what it truly means to be *Ready*. NPM 2009 will illustrate how preparedness goes beyond fire alarms, smoke detectors, dead-bolt locks and extra food in the pantry, and help people communicate important preparedness messages to families, businesses and communities.

We, as Ohio first responders and emergency managers, will continue to educate and inform the public on ways to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. We will continue to promote the four key points of the *Ready* campaign.

**Get a Kit.** Homes, schools and businesses need to have Emergency Supply Kits that include essential items such as nonperishable food, bottled water, NOAA Weather Radio, flashlights, extra batteries, first aid kits, important documents and emergency contact numbers. Homes should have food, water and supplies for pets/animals.

**Make a Plan.** Every home, school and business needs to develop an Emergency Plan. Everyone needs to know what types of emergencies or disasters can affect or impact their lives - from severe thunderstorms to fires. Everyone needs to know what to do for each type of emergency. Make a plan. Practice the plan. Conduct safety drills.

**Be Informed.** Residents should know who their county EMA directors are and how to contact them. Residents should learn about the emergency plans established by local governments. Everyone should know the difference between storm watches and storm warnings and stay aware of inclement weather and emergencies by listening to their NOAA Weather Alert/Public Alert Radio or local TV or radio stations.

**Get Involved.** Promote volunteering in the community. Promote the Ohio Community Service Council's **ServeOhio** programs: Ohio Citizen Corps and Ohio Medical Reserve Corps. Get involved in making our communities and our great state safer, stronger and better prepared. Find additional information at [www.serveohio.org](http://www.serveohio.org).

To view the NPM 2009 Calendar and Kickoff Webinar, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).



[Ohio.gov](http://Ohio.gov)



# Sandusky County is StormReady

Information provided by NWS Fact Sheets

Sandusky County renewed its StormReady application to continue weathering the storms and being a StormReady community. StormReady is a National Weather Service (NWS) program that is aimed at preparing cities, counties and towns across the nation with the communication and safety tools necessary to save lives and property.

Sandusky County is one of 16 StormReady Ohio counties. Sandusky County EMA Director Chris Mock said the county renewed its StormReady application in April 2008, since joining in 2004.

According to the NWS, Americans live in the most severe, weather-prone country, averaging 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,000 tornadoes and two land-falling deadly hurricanes a year.

The main goal of StormReady is to prepare communities with an action plan that responds to the threat of all types of severe weather - from tornadoes to tsunamis. StormReady provides clear-cut advice to city leaders, emergency managers and media that would improve their local hazardous weather operations.

Once a community meets preparedness criteria outlined by a partnership between the NWS and state and local emergency managers, it will be pronounced "StormReady." The criteria includes:

- Establishing a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Having more than one method of receiving severe weather forecasts and warnings and alerting the public;
- Creating a system that monitors local weather conditions;
- Promoting the significance of public readiness through community seminars;
- Developing a formal hazardous weather plan which includes training severe weather spotters and holding exercises.

Other Ohio StormReady Counties: Allen, Auglaize, Clermont, Coshocton, Huron, Jackson, Licking, Lucas, Medina, Mercer, Richland, Scioto, Shelby, Union and Van Wert.

For additional information, visit the NOAA NWS Web site: [www.stormready.noaa.gov](http://www.stormready.noaa.gov).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 31	June 1	2	3	4 Ohio Citizen Corps Reg. Conf. (HS 4 & 6) Lebanon, OH	5	6
7	8 Basic OpsCenter Ohio EMA	9 G272 Warning Coordination Ohio EMA	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	17 Basic OpsCenter Ohio EMA	18 Water TAC Ohio EMA	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

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

\* TAC - Technical Advisory Committee