



Ohio's Emergency Management News



Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Cathy Collins-Taylor, ODPS Director ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director

Coming Soon: State of Ohio Disaster Housing Strategy Developed by the Ohio Disaster Housing Taskforce

As mentioned during the Spring Directors' Seminar, Ohio has made great strides in drafting its State Disaster Housing Strategy. The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina (August 2005) showed the nation the dire need to improve disaster housing assistance after catastrophic events.

FEMA developed the *National Disaster Housing Strategy* which outlines a vision for a national housing effort that engages all levels of government and non-governmental organizations to collectively meet urgent housing needs of disaster survivors, and to rebuild and restore their ways of life. The strategy emphasizes a need to coordinate and use all resources available through partnership and collaborative efforts of all stakeholders to provide short and long term housing options.

FEMA recommended that every state establish a state-led disaster housing taskforce. States would be able to better prepare for potential disaster housing events and meet the needs of their disaster survivors by tapping into the expertise of disaster housing experts, advocacy groups, disability support organizations and other stakeholders.

The *Ohio Disaster Housing Taskforce* first convened in October 2009 and subsequently developed the State Disaster Housing Strategy. Its draft will soon be approved by senior staff. The purpose of the strategy is to identify roles and capabilities of disaster housing partners. The strategy is intended to address disaster housing needs following a presidential declaration that includes Individual Assistance programs. *(Continued, next page.)*



FEMA Photos

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attack

HIGH or Orange for Aviation Sector

(Continued)

When activated, the *Taskforce* will implement the strategy, providing subject-matter expertise for housing-related issues.

The *Taskforce* will coordinate with the Federal Joint Housing Taskforce to determine housing needs versus housing resources and viable solutions. The strategy would supplement county capabilities, not supplant or eliminate the need for local capabilities to be identified and/or developed.

Implementation of the State Disaster Housing Strategy will require coordination between federal, state and local emergency management, various other federal and state agencies, local governments, and other non-governmental organizations.

The *Ohio Disaster Housing Taskforce* is comprised of the following primary and support agencies:

- American Red Cross
- Emergency Management Association of Ohio
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Ohio Community Service Council
- Ohio Department of Aging
- Ohio Department of Development
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Mental Health
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Ohio Emergency Management Agency
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Ohio Housing Finance Agency
- Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

For additional information, contact the Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch at (614) 799-3669.



The Ohio EMA Mitigation, Recovery, Fiscal & Preparedness Grants Division has a new name:

Disaster and Preparedness Grants Division

Sima Merick, Division Director



CERT National Newsletter: Fire Safety in Medina, Ohio

Community members in Medina, Ohio were reminded of the importance of fire safety when an apartment fire took the life of a 7-year-old boy in October. The home did not have a working smoke detector, as was the case in 40 percent of home fire deaths in 2008, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The tragedy led the Medina Fire Department to work with the Medina County CERT to distribute smoke detectors, batteries and fire safety education materials door-to-door in the community.

“The fire department has always provided smoke detectors and batteries to residents who needed them,” said Fire Chief Robert Painter. “This tragic loss demonstrated that there is still a need for smoke detectors and fire education.”

On November 8, five CERT members partnered with firefighters, employees of a local manufacturing firm, and other agencies to distribute 200 detectors and 300 batteries. CERT members also assisted residents in installing their devices.

Though this was the first time the Medina CERT has paired with the fire department, Medina County CERT leader Doug McClure believes it is just the beginning of their collaborations.

“A lot of people are not familiar with the CERT program,” said McClure. “But the fire chief has been happy to work with us.”

There are plans to have CERT members more involved with the fire department, to include training to assist with traffic control during fires. The county hazmat team is also interested in CERT assistance.

Ohio Can Also Take Preparedness Steps during the ‘Great Hurricane Blowout’ Campaign Hurricane Season Starts June 1



National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read recently pledged to “Dine in the Dark” on June 1, as he became the first to join the “Great Hurricane Blowout”, a new safety campaign launched by FLASH (Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc.) and Plan It Now. The Blowout, sponsored by Kohler and State Farm, is a layered social media campaign that will promote hurricane preparedness through the Internet and social media channels like Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and YouTube.

On June 1, the first day of the hurricane season, campaign promoters are asking citizens to Dine in the Dark – turn off all power and electricity and prepare a “power-free” meal. Dining in the dark encourages people to test their disaster plans while keeping hurricane (emergency) preparedness in the forefront.

Prepare dinner on the grill. Picnic in the backyard or dine by candlelight indoors. After dinner, have a family game night or share family stories. Or, use the time to gather the family and discuss disaster plans and safety drills.

Although Ohio is not a hurricane state, we still can relate to some of the hazards: strong, damaging winds, heavy rains and prolonged power outages. With this, Ohio shares the same preparedness objectives as the Great Hurricane Blowout. We want all residents to –

- ✓ Make a family disaster plan
- ✓ Make (or update) their disaster supply kit(s)
- ✓ Understand safe cooking and sanitary practices without utility services
- ✓ Pass the time at home without electricity or the families’ ability to safely leave their homes
- ✓ Mitigate the effects of storm damage on residences

For new insight on mitigation and disaster preparedness, visit the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc Web site at www.flash.org.

Darke County Recognizes Local Citizen Corps during National Volunteer Week



National Volunteer Week celebrates ordinary people doing extraordinary things to improve their communities. Darke County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management and the Darke County Citizen Corps Council are acknowledging volunteers and residents who have been generous with their time and skills in supporting the County Citizen Corps program.

Citizen Corps volunteers have assisted Darke County since 2004, helping out at special events, providing administrative support, and providing first responders during emergencies.

Last year, the Darke County Citizen Corps volunteers collectively provided more than \$165,575 worth of services to the county. Remember: Heroes aren’t born. They volunteer!

EMA Updates

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Welcome to Ohio EMA

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Ohio's State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

The State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) is a core assistance program contained within the overarching Federal Homeland Security Grant Program (SHGP). SHSP provides funds to build capabilities at the state and local levels and to implement the goals and objectives included in State Homeland Security Strategies and initiatives in the State Preparedness Report.

Activities implemented under SHSP must support terrorism preparedness by building or enhancing capabilities that relate to the prevention of, protection from, response to, or recovery from terrorism in order to be considered eligible.

The Fiscal Year 2009 SHSP competitive grant applications were recently reviewed by a team of representatives from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Office of Criminal Justice Services and Ohio Homeland Security. \$1.17 million is available in grant award money. Twelve state projects have been requested.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 18	19	20 BVPS Evaluated Exercise Utilizing CAMEO in WMD Ohio EMA - Columbus	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Basic Public Information Officer Course Ohio EMA - Columbus	28	29	30	May 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 HAPPY Mother's DAY	10	11 Hazardous Weather & Flood Preparedness Ohio EMA - Columbus	12	13	14	15 Komen~ Columbus Race for the Cure