



Ohio's Emergency Management News

Aftermath of September 16, 2010 Tornadoes – Meigs County



Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Thomas J. Stickrath, ODPS Director ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director

National Weather Service Confirms 11 Tornadoes Touched Down in Ohio on October 26

After conducting storm damage surveys on the western half of the state, the National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed that 11 tornadoes touched down Tuesday afternoon (Oct. 26) in 12 Ohio counties, when a fast-moving weather system swept across the Midwest.

Cridersville in Auglaize County was the worst hit. The NWS determined that an EF2 tornado with winds up to 135 mph touched down. Damage assessment reports concluded that two homes were destroyed; four had major damage; three had minor damage and 27 were affected.

Ohio counties impacted by either EF0 or EF1 tornadoes: Allen, Auglaize, Clinton, Darke, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Paulding, Pickaway, Preble, Putnam and Van Wert.

Across the state, no injuries or deaths were reported from the Oct. 26 storm system, and there were no requests for state assistance.



Cridersville, OH – (Oct. 27) Debris from tornado-damaged homes and buildings (Ohio EMA photo by Tamara McBride)

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attack

HIGH or **Orange** for Aviation Sector

Ohio EMA and the Ohio Department of Insurance offer the following tips to residents needing home repair after the recent tornadoes, strong winds and severe storms:

- Contact your local emergency management office if officials have not been to your property to assess damages.
- Contact your homeowner's insurance company to verify benefits immediately after a storm/disaster, so they can send an adjustor to assess any potential damage you've occurred.
- Obtain a list of reputable contractors from your insurance carrier, the Better Business Bureau, or a specialized consumer organization.
- Do not allow a contractor to inspect your property when you are not home.
- Contact multiple contractors and obtain more than one estimate.
- Request references from contractors and contact the references to verify their work.
- Avoid signing a contract until the document is reviewed fully and/or discuss the terms of the contract with a legal representative or trusted advisor.
- Do not pay a contractor in full, or sign a completion certificate until all work has been finished.

For additional information on fraudulent insurance practices, click on www.takeaction.ohio.gov.

Ohio Businesses Affected by Grand Lake St. Marys Toxic Algae Bloom Can Apply for SBA Disaster Loans

(From Governor's and SBA Oct. 20 press releases)

Governor Ted Strickland announced on October 20 that the Small Business Administration (SBA) declared a disaster for Auglaize and Mercer counties and the Ohio contiguous counties of Allen, Darke, Hardin, Logan, Shelby and Van Wert that were impacted by the toxic algae bloom at Grand Lake St. Marys this summer.

Strickland requested the assistance on Friday, October 15.

"I appreciate the SBA's quick action to declare a disaster and make these much-needed loans available...." Strickland said. "This assistance will help Grand Lake St. Marys businesses and community as they recover from this economic hardship."

The SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program is now available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private non-profit organizations that were affected.

The presence of toxins in the water resulted in decreased economic activity for some area small businesses, as no-contact advisories were issued for the lake to protect public health and safety. A survey conducted by the Ohio Department of Development in the Grand Lake St. Marys area showed that 12 of the 19 businesses contacted demonstrated a revenue loss of 40 percent or more during the algae bloom period, compared to the same time last year.

Strickland announced an action plan this summer to help restore Grand Lake St. Marys to health, and pledged to continue to work with the community.

Applications for this declaration will be taken via telephone and Internet through July 19, 2011. The SBA offers EIDLs to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Those affected may apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloans.sba.gov/ela/>.



A wet bike rider shows how thick the lake water is with toxic green algae. Photo provided by Mercer County EMA.

NFIP Extended for One Year

(Ohio Dept. of Insurance Press Release)

Columbus, OH – Ohio Department of Insurance Director Mary Jo Hudson announced earlier this month that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has been extended through September 30, 2011.

The bill extending the NFIP was passed by Congress on September 24 and signed into law by President Obama on September 30. The previous extension was due to expire on Sept. 30, 2010.

Standard homeowners' insurance policies do not cover flooding. The NFIP was created in 1968 to help provide a means for property owners to financially protect themselves from floods associated with hurricanes or the overflow of rivers or lakes due to rain storms and winter melt. The NFIP is available to homeowners, renters and business owners, if their communities participate in the NFIP.

Congress is responsible for the continued funding of the program.

For additional information on flood insurance, visit the Flood Smart website at www.floodsmart.gov or the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes website at www.flash.org.



National Level Exercise 2011 (NLE 2011)

(FEMA Fact Sheet)

The National Level Exercise 2011 (NLE 2011) is an operations-based exercise that will encompass four FEMA regions (IV, V, VI and VII) and eight central U.S. earthquake states: Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. Its purpose is to prepare and coordinate a multiple-jurisdictional integrated response to a national catastrophic event.

NLE 2011 will simulate the catastrophic nature of a major earthquake in the central U.S. Region of the New Madrid Seismic Zone. (NMSZ). The year 2011 will be the 200th anniversary of the 1811 New Madrid earthquake. NLE 2011 will be conducted May 16-19.

NLE 2011 will exercise initial incident response and recovery capabilities that will test and validate existing plans, policies and procedures, to include the New Madrid Catastrophic Plan.

During the same time period, Ohio will test its emergency response to a catastrophic event, 'Shaken Horizon.' The State Emergency Operations Center will operate around the clock for 72 hours. Responding ESF participants will work in 12-hour shifts. Shaken Horizon will test response and recovery efforts of city, county and state officials.

When Seconds Count, Ohio's Communities are Prepared.

The National Weather Service's StormReady program helps communities guard against the ravages of natural disasters such as thunderstorms, floods, tornadoes and hurricanes. StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education and awareness.

Ohio currently has 19 StormReady sites, with Knox County as its most recent StormReady Community. Clermont County is being recertified. All Ohio sites include: Allen, Auglaize, Clermont, Coshocton, Huron, Jackson, Knox, Licking, Lucas, Medina, Mercer, Richland, Sandusky, Scioto, Shelby, Union and Van Wert counties; Wright State University (Greene County) and Xavier University (Hamilton County). The Cincinnati Reds Great American Ballpark is a StormReady Supporter.

For additional information about the StormReady program, click on www.weather.gov/stormready/.

11th Annual Ohio Hazmat Teams Conference
 Solon Community Center
 35000 Portz Parkway, Solon, OH
November 5-6, 2010

The 11th Annual Ohio Hazmat Teams Conference is the premier hazardous material and CBRNE conference in the state. More than 250 hazmat technicians and specialists attend this northeast Ohio hazmat conference, annually.

The Hazmat Teams Conference will take place in Solon, just southeast of Cleveland, Nov. 5 and 6.

The conference is designed to encourage networking, allow ample time to visit hazmat vendors, and see the latest in tools, equipment and technologies.

Workshop topics include:

- Managing compressed gas emergencies
- Initial response to terrorist bombings and blast injuries
- Basic radiation instrumentation
- Radiological incident
- Emergency response to highway cargo tank incidents
- Understanding exposure limits
- Managing rail tank car emergencies
- Grounding and Bonding – Best practices
- Clandestine labs – What kind is it?
- Suicide bombing – Israeli phenomenon
- Hazmat TAC update

For more information, click on www.ohiohazmatconference.com

Ohio EMA Notables

Congratulations to **Queen Hopkins**, Ohio EMA fiscal specialist, as she retires from the state of Ohio after 33 years of service. Since 1978, she has worked in the fiscal department with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, the Department of Health, the Adjutant General's Dept. and Ohio EMA.

Ms. Hopkins also retired from the Air National Guard in 2001 as Master Sergeant, after 23 years of service.

Her last day with the agency is December 31.

Keith Leavell, Ohio EMA telecommunications technician, was recently inducted in the Garrard County High School Hall of Fame (KY).

On Oct. 8, Keith was recognized for his high school performance as a two-time, first team all-area performer, all-district, and honorable mention all-state as a senior. Keith is a 1992 graduate of Garrard County High.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct. 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Oct. 27 Debris Mgmt. Overview – Hamilton County EMA Damage Assmt Refresher – Hamilton County EMA			
31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN	Nov. 1	2 ELECTION DAY	3	4	Nov. 5-6 Ohio HazMat Teams Conf. – Solon, OH	
7 Daylight Savings Ends	8	9	Nov. 10 Debris Mgmt. Overview – Shelby County EMA Damage Assmt Refresher – Shelby County EMA		12	13
14	15	16	Nov. 16 Debris Mgmt. Overview – Mahoning County EMA Damage Assmt Refresher – Mahoning County EMA		18 Veteran's Day	
		17	Nov. 16-18 Emergency Planning for Special Needs Populations – Ohio EMA Nov. 16-19 Principles of Emergency Management in Ohio – Ohio EMA, Columbus			20