



Ohio Emergency Management Agency Newsletter

A Safer Ohio

Earlier this month Governor John R. Kasich announced the appointment of Ohio Highway Patrol Superintendent Col. John Born as the director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Tom Charles, former director retired with more than 50 years of public safety service.

For 25 years, Director Born has served the Ohio Highway Patrol, rising through the Patrol ranks from his start as a Trooper in 1987 to his being named Superintendent by Kasich in 2010. During this time, Director Born served in an array of leadership roles, including Agency Spokesman, Squad Leader in the Office of Investigative Services, Strategic Services Commander, Field Operations Commander for the eastern half of Ohio, and most recently, Superintendent of the Patrol.

Governor Kasich was quoted as saying, "John Born has done a great job at the Patrol, he's highly respected throughout the law enforcement community, and he's an outstanding person to carry on the dedicated work of Tom Charles. While Colonel Born has some big shoes to fill, he is more than capable of doing it."

Here is an excerpt from the letter shared with all DPS personnel:

"As the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, it is my honor to work with those who have a mission of safety, service, and protection. I care deeply about my family and for over 25 years of public service, I have approached my job as if I was providing safety, service and protection for them. In fact, each of us is providing an opportunity for a safer and better Ohio for all those we love and care about. But we also can gain great reward by serving others we do not know. When you look back upon your life and your work, this time should be seen as an opportunity you seized.

This is an exciting time to be a part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The pace of our collective efforts will quicken. The urgency and importance of our collective mission for a Safer Ohio through safety, service and protection will become more apparent."

OHIO PARTICIPATES IN VIBRANT RESPONSE EXERCISE

by Kelli Blackwell

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) and 12 support state agencies and organizations participated in the Department of Defense's annual exercise, Vibrant Response 2013, August 9-16. The exercise was conducted at two military installations in southern Indiana, Camp Atterbury and Camp Mascatatuck.

Vibrant Response is an annual military training event that uses large-scale scenarios to assist units in their efforts to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) incidents within the United States, and is the country's largest exercise of this nature.

For Ohio's involvement, the exercise scenario determined that a 10 kiloton nuclear device detonated in Franklin County. Initial indications determined that the explosion killed more than 20,000 and injured tens of thousands. The blast caused massive infrastructure damage, radioactive fallout, and reduced responder capabilities. Continuity of Government at the local, state and federal levels was not compromised. Exercise investigation determined that the bombing was a terrorist attack.

Both the Governor of Ohio and the President issued a state of emergency for all 88 Ohio counties; a federal major disaster declaration was issued for 15 counties.

Those 15 counties were initially under shelter-in-place advisories.

The exercise tested multiple levels of emergency response to include: mass casualties; radiological emergency response; law enforcement; search and rescue; critical mass care and sheltering; evacuation; public messaging; and command and control.



Ohio was the first state to fully participate in the annual military exercise. Almost two years prior, NorthCom and Army North invited Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani and the agency to participate in Vibrant Response.

"I agreed with one caveat. Our responding state, local and federal partners must participate as well," Dragani said. "In order for this exercise to be as realistic as possible, we had to have our partners who are operational in the State Emergency Operations Center."

Dragani said that Vibrant Response was a great learning opportunity and was glad that Ohio was able to be such an active participant.

The following entities making up 13 of 15 Emergency Support Functions participated: Adjutant General's Department (Ohio National Guard); American Red Cross; Ohio Department of Agriculture; Ohio Department of Administrative Services; Ohio Department of Health; Ohio Department of Public Safety; Ohio Department of Transportation; Ohio Emergency Management Agency; Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Ohio State Highway Patrol; FEMA Region V and other federal partners. Franklin County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security also participated in the exercise and assisted with exercise development.

Year after year, organizations are encouraged to sit down and focus on where they want their organization to be in the next two, three or five years. Well this year was no different for Ohio EMA. As we began seeking our Emergency Management Re-Accreditation ([EMAP](#)) the leadership team and staff also geared up for our three-year strategic plan. Our process included going back to the basics and recognizing that although many events and incidents may occur that influence and impact our world of Emergency Management, we must remain focused on our core mission. We asked ourselves, what makes our emergency management program succeed and how will we get to the next level? The answer was to closely watch our procedures and processes and hold ourselves accountable to increasing the bar. And lastly, we asked ourselves are we sharpening our skills as emergency managers? Are we staying abreast of the trends, threats and technologies that impact our state? Are we gaining and sharing expertise and knowledge with our key stakeholders and how are we using that information to enhance our coordination of resources.

Ohio EMA Strategic Plan 2013-2016

Constant Focus on Core Mission

- Engage a stronger connection between hazard identification and risk assessment & disaster preparedness & response
- Improve information gathering & sharing from all levels of government to enhance the response to disasters
- Coordinate with key stakeholders to improve hazard identification and risk assessment




Measurable Procedure-based Operations

- Promote understanding and constant review of the approved procedures
- Continue to develop and enhance the decision making processes during disaster and non- disaster times
- Institute Emergency Management Accreditation Program Readiness




Enhance Internal/External Competencies

- Develop an internal training program that drill and exercise against all positions in the SEOC
- Strengthen accountability and responsibility of agency personnel & process
- Expand coordination with key stakeholders and improve process around identifying & responding to hazards




Ohio's Response to Dangerous and Wild Animals

by: Melinda Craig

Since the beginning of the year, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) has been assisting the Ohio Department of Agriculture with the implementation of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 935, which outlines new requirements of dangerous wild animal (DWA) owners in the state of Ohio. In response to this, county EMAs across Ohio were tasked with soliciting membership for the mandated dangerous wild animal response teams (DWA) identified under ORC 935.27. The submission deadline for approval by the State DWA Emergency Response Commission was July 1, 2013. Of Ohio's 88 counties, 63 submitted DWARTs for approval, 51 of these teams were approved, and 12 were held for additional follow-up by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. As planning teams were approved, DWARTs began moving into phase 2 of implementation: the development of county response plans.

To help facilitate initial discussions of the DWARTs and to aid counties in writing their plans, the State DWA Emergency Response Commission developed a DWA response plan template, which was distributed to counties at the beginning of August. This template may be revised to suite each county's unique needs, so that the resulting DWA plan complements each county's emergency operations plan (EOP). Understanding that not every county's EOP is structured by emergency support function, a DWA response plan checklist was also developed to assist counties in identifying the basic elements that need to be covered in their DWA plan. Both the county DWA response plan template and checklist are available on the Ohio Department of Agriculture's DWA website as well. County response plans must be submitted to the State DWA Emergency Response Commission through the Ohio Department of Agriculture no later than February 28, 2014.



IMPORTANT DATES

- National Preparedness Month
September
- Fall County EMA Director's Conference
October 29-30, 2013
- Great Central US Shake Out
October 17, 2013 at 10:17am
- Cyber Security Awareness Month
October
- Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week
November 17-23, 2013



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