



**Ohio
Emergency
Management
Agency**

State Emergency Operations Center

CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Completed in 1994 at an estimated \$13 million, the State EOC/JDF houses the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, District 6 Headquarters and the Dispatch Center of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, and communications elements of the Ohio Departments of Natural Resources and Transportation. The facility's purpose is to enhance the state's capabilities to respond to disasters and emergencies, and to improve coordination among state agency partners.

The building is more than 90,000 square feet and measures 252 feet long by 168 feet wide. The two-story structure is actually two buildings in one, with a steel frame structure built over a concrete structure for maximum disaster protection. The EOC/JDF is a secure facility with access card readers placed throughout the building for the protection of critical and sensitive areas.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency received a special grant of federal funds identified by Senator George Voinovich for renovations to the State EOC. In 2010, the agency completed necessary technology upgrades to the operations and assessment rooms. Last year, the EOC and its adjacent rooms were modified and reconfigured, to allow state agency representatives to function more efficiently.

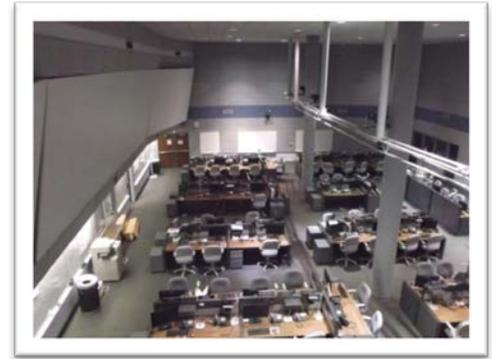
- The EOC Executive Room was converted to the Joint Information Center. The new Executive Room was enlarged and is adjacent to the JIC. This modification will assure efficient coordination between officials in the Executive Room and public information officers.
- The Data Management Branch (IT) moved to the operations room across the hall. IT's move included upgrading the telephone room and moving the computer server room and associated technology. The vacated space now houses the new Assessment Room, the Assessment Annex and the Advance Planning Room.
- The former area of the Assessment Room and Annex was modified to break-out rooms which can convert from one to three break-out rooms, using folding partition and glass partition walls.
- Portions of the Dispatch Training Room/Joint Information Center and telecommunications office were reconstructed to house the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) and Critical Incident Command Center (the Hub).

EOC/JDF Renovation Building Highlights



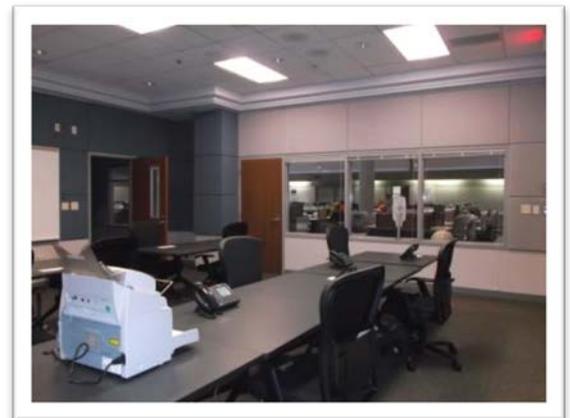
Executive Room: The governor, Ohio EMA executive director and lead agency staff work in the executive room during an emergency. Operations room personnel and communication technology support the decision-makers in this room with the information needed to direct emergency response operation.

Operations Room: The emergency operations center, or operations room, is where agencies congregate to conduct a coordinated response to a disaster situation. During a typical emergency, approximately 20 agencies are actively involved in emergency operations. The operations room accommodates 52 workstations, appropriately identified by Emergency Support Functions, and includes the command and control stations.



Assessment Suite: The assessment suite consists of the assessment room, the assessment annex and the advanced planning room. This suite provides the tools and resources needed to assess and provide information to the operations and executive rooms.

Joint Information Center: The JIC is the physical (or virtual) operation where public information staff representing all agencies and organizations involved in incident management activities coordinate and disseminate official, accurate and consistent information in a timely manner to the public and media.



OHIO GRANT AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Homeland Security Grant Awards

The Ohio Emergency Management, through the Ohio Homeland Security Grant Program, has awarded \$4,880,547 in Homeland Security Grants to the 15 County Emergency Management Agencies across Ohio to support the implementation of state homeland security strategies that address the identified planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs.

“The program dollars are designed to enhance the capacity of state and local jurisdictions to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents,” said ODPS Director John Born. “Ohio is committed to providing the support and guidance necessary to keep our counties and communities safe.”

The FY2013 HSGP supports core capabilities across the five mission areas of **prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery**.

SHSP supports the implementation of risk driven, capabilities-based State Homeland Security Strategies to address capability targets set in Urban Area, State, and regional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (THIRAs). The capability levels are assessed in the State Preparedness Report (SPR) and inform planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events. Ohio's allocation of the FY2013 HSGP is comprised of the State Homeland Security Program, the Law Enforcement State Homeland Security Program, and Operation Stonegarden.



Photo: Executive Director Nancy Dragani with Hamilton County EMA partners and staff.

*Franklin County Office of EMHS- Montgomery County EMA- Allen County Office of HSEM- Henry County EMA- Darke County EMA - Cuyahoga County Office of EM- Lake County EMA- Medina County EMA- Summit County EMA- Hamilton County EMA- Lucas County EMA- Union County EMA- Columbiana County EMA- Jackson County EMA- Huron County EMA**to be rescheduled**

Ohio Department of Transportation has New Equipment

If you are from northeast Ohio, you may have noticed the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) using new technology as a way to efficiently and effectively remove snow and ice from roads, specifically along State Route 11 through Columbiana County.

This winter season, Mahoning and Columbiana counties partnered to use a new Tow Plow which is a multi-functional machine that increases driver productivity while decreasing snow removal expenses.

The Tow Plow, designed and first utilized by the Missouri Department of Transportation and manufactured by Viking Cives Ltd. of Mount Forest, Ontario, Canada, allows the snowplow driver to clear two lanes of pavement at once, reducing clearing time. Utilized behind a plow-equipped tandem truck, 22 feet of pavement can be cleared in conjunction with the application of salt and liquids.

The Tow Plow that was used in Mahoning and Columbiana counties was also a salt hopper, capable of holding six tons of salt. In addition, a 250-gallon brine tank can spread salt brine on the second lane from the Tow Plow. The truck that pulls the Tow Plow is a 430 horsepower tandem which also has a salt hopper that can hold 10 tons of salt and two 300-gallon saddle tanks for salt brine or calcium chloride. Hydraulic controls have been added to this truck that swing the Tow Plow to the left or right behind the truck and also raises and drops the plow. The ODOT truck also comes equipped with several cameras to help the driver monitor the Tow Plow and the amount of materials in its hopper.

The Tow Plow's greatest advantage is the ability to clear two lanes of pavement at one time, reducing fuel costs and allowing one driver to complete work that would normally require two. The driver can plow the shoulder while plowing the travel lane or plow two driving lanes simultaneously.

ODOT's Mahoning County maintenance facility will be partnering with ODOT's Columbiana County maintenance facility this winter, using the Tow Plow on SR 11 all the way through Columbiana County to East Liverpool.

Additionally, ODOT District 4 will be using it on Interstates 680, 80 and 76. The total cost for this unit was \$100,000.

Ohio's highways are essential to keeping and creating new jobs. With a mission to provide easy movement of people and goods from place to place, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for maintaining one of the largest transportation networks in the nation. Guided by ethical principles and accountability, ODOT works to improve safety, enhance travel and advance economic development. As a \$2.8 billion enterprise, the department wisely invests in its core services of snow and ice removal, annual construction program and highway maintenance operations.



Ohio EMA Teams Up with Private Businesses

"There's no way government can solve the challenges of a disaster with a government centric approach. It takes the whole team."

-Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator

On January 9, Director John Born and Ohio EMA Director Nancy Dragani expanded the **team** to include the private sector. A group that has been long on the list of important factors is community recovery and resiliency. The kick off meeting was one of many that will pull together the interested group of private businesses designed to share current information and situational awareness on disaster response and recovery efforts.

The meeting began with remarks from FEMA Region V administrator Andrew Velasquez III who applauded Ohio's

efforts in building relationships at every level to support disaster response.

Members received a briefing on the many types of information available to the business community to include: incident situation reports, weather forecasts, state EOC activation levels, event summaries, and emergency planning information for employers and employees.

The Goals of the Ohio Public Private Partnership are:

1. Provide a two-way flow of information between the public and private sectors
2. Provide information that will help business partners get back up and running after a disaster
3. Build a bridge between businesses and state agencies that will encourage collaborative disaster planning, response and recovery efforts

IMPORTANT DATES

- Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Preparedness Week
March 2-8, 2014
- Statewide Tornado Drill
March 5, 2014
- National Flood Awareness Week
March 16-20, 2014

Tamara McBride, Chief Internal/External Affairs
tmcbride@dps.state.oh.us

Kelli Blackwell, Publications Editor
kblackwell@dps.state.oh.us

