



**Ohio
Emergency
Management
Agency**

ReadyOhio joins forces with the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness



Since 1978, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA) has been dedicated to educating Ohioans about the natural disasters that typically affect the state, and encourage Ohio residents to plan and prepare for severe weather incidents before they happen.

The Committee is responsible for identifying and coordinating the statewide tornado drill, which is conducted on the Wednesday of Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week. This is an opportunity for county emergency management agencies to test their outdoor warning sirens during the drill, and for homes, schools and businesses are to practice their tornado drills and emergency plans.

In 2003, the US Department of Homeland Security launched Ready, a national public service advertising (PSA) campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural and man-made disasters. The goal of the campaign is to get the public involved and ultimately to increase the level of basic preparedness across the nation.

Both campaigns promote statewide safety and preparedness messages throughout the year. It is the goal of both campaigns to inform residents of all hazards that typically affect Ohio, and encourage families to plan ahead and know what to do during different weather and home emergencies. Both campaigns encourage people to organize emergency preparedness kits; and practice safety drills to protect themselves from impacts of disasters.

“We are excited about branding one campaign,” said Jeff McElroy, chair of the OCSWA. “It is hard competing with all the non-preparedness messages. Now we can take the grass roots from OCSWA and the national branding from Ready and give Ohioans one campaign they can follow.”

The staple campaigns will continue to exist, such as the OCSWA poster contest among grade schools and National Preparedness Month, but changes will occur with the website and the social interaction Ohioans will have with the site.

Thank you...from FEMA

America's PrepareAthon!

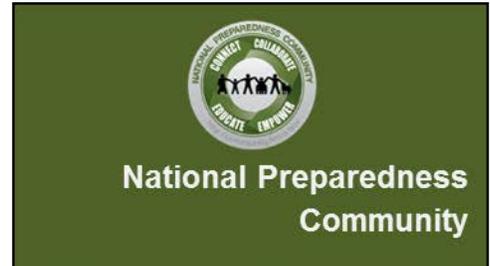
Thank you for your support of America's PrepareAthon! National Day of Action that was held on April 30. Citizens, organizations, schools and communities came together on this first National Day of Action to take steps that would help prepare them for emergencies that could happen in our hometowns.

This far reaching campaign had more than five million participants across the country. The campaign informs citizens about the hazards they could experience while also helping them understand what to do should disaster strike. This is important because less than half of Americans say that they have a plan for what to do in an emergency. America's PrepareAthon! is focused on getting participants to take action to increase their preparedness. Practicing what to do in an emergency in advance of the event can make a difference.

Your role in America's PrepareAthon! is a big part of changing the culture of preparedness for the better. By working with your employees, members, volunteers, customers and others who cross your path daily, you help to increase emergency preparedness and build a stronger, more resilient nation. Whether it was by conducting hazard-specific drills, holding group discussions or handing out information that would help keep people safe, you have helped make our country better prepared.

The next National Day of Action, September 30, will be the culminating event of National Preparedness Month. Step by step, working together, we can raise the level of preparedness in all of America's communities. Thank you again for your dedication, vision, and commitment to supporting America's PrepareAthon!

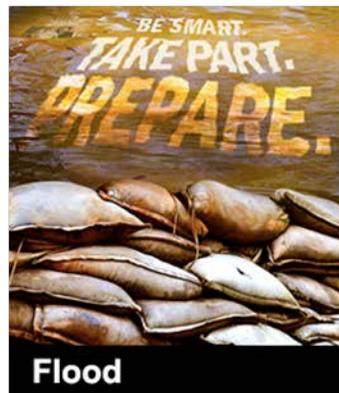
What will you do this National Preparedness Month? Let us know your ideas, email Tamara McBride at tmcbride@dps.state.oh.us.



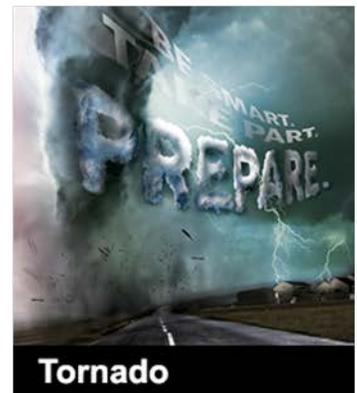
Wildfire



Hurricane



Flood



Tornado



Functional Needs Summit

by: Brad Schwartz

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency will sponsor a Functional Needs Summit on May 29, 2014 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Worthington, Ohio. Summit participants, from a variety of public- and private-sector organizations, will identify gaps in the disaster-based functional needs response service network and will determine how to improve it through increased communication and cooperation between agencies and organizations.

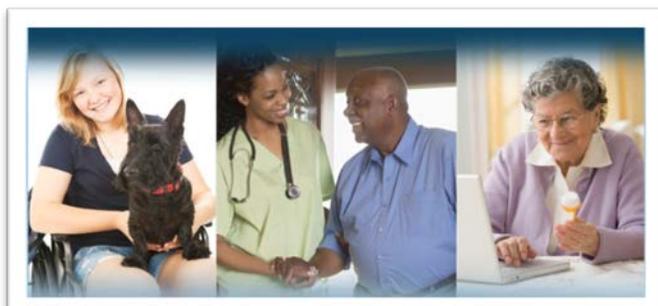
The Functional Needs Framework is structured around five functional needs categories: Functional Independence, Communication, Supervision/Safety, Medical, and Transportation. The functional needs population is made up of persons who might need additional assistance to be able to effectively participate in disaster response operations such as evacuation and sheltering. Persons with functional limitation needs are those who may need assistance to be able to maintain their health and independence, or to be able to manage the stresses of disaster/emergency response-related operations. The Functional Needs Framework serves as a more effective planning platform for resource management, organization and assignment/allocation operations.

The functional needs model was first proposed as a framework for federal-level plans in 2006 by June Isaacson Kailes at an initial meeting of a working group that was assigned to write a plan for addressing functional needs during disasters. Kailes and Alexandra Enders had published a paper earlier that year entitled, *Moving Beyond Special Needs: A Function-Based Framework for Emergency Management and Planning*. An orientation seminar was held in December 2006 in Ohio, where the functional needs concept was introduced to Ohio-based agencies that would be implementing the functional needs concept in their service delivery. Much has changed since the 2006 Seminar, including: agency missions and roles; legal and program requirements that drive the functional needs response; the level of awareness and demand within the community for functional needs assistance services; and the number and variety of agencies and organizations that provide disaster-based functional needs assistance services.

In May 2007, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency published the Ohio Functional Needs Plan, which detailed the state of Ohio's approach to addressing disaster-based functional needs. That plan was updated in 2011, and will be updated again in 2015 – incorporating the results of this year's functional needs summit.

It is estimated that depending on the type and the severity of a disaster, up to 70 percent of the population could have a functional need in a disaster situation. The more severe and/or damaging the incident, the higher the rate of people with functional needs could be. People who have functional needs on a day-to-day basis still have them during a disaster situation, and their needs might be at an increased level during disaster response operations, such as evacuation and sheltering.

This event will allow participants to listen and discuss ways to address the needs of the communities before the next disaster strikes. Follow up information from the summit will be available on the Ohio EMA website at www.ema.ohio.gov.





This May, FEMA is supporting the 34th Annual Building Safety Month (BSM) to promote the importance of high building standards, protecting the environment, and saving energy.

BSM is a public awareness campaign founded by the International Code Council (ICC). The campaign focuses on public outreach and education to increase the overall safety and sustainability of buildings through the adoption of model building codes and promotion of code enforcement. An array of theme-related community events, safety demonstrations, and educational outreach activities take place during BSM. The overarching theme of BSM is Building Safety: Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks. This theme is supported by weekly building safety sub-themes:

- May 5-11, 2014: Keeping Fire in Its Place
- May 12-18, 2014: Helping Homeowners Weather the Storm
- May 19-25, 2014: Surround Your House with Safety
- May 26-31, 2014: Building A Brighter, More Efficient Tomorrow

For the fourth consecutive year, President Obama has proclaimed May as National Building Safety Month to underscore that safe building codes and standards have an essential role in decreasing the effects of disasters. As is articulated in Presidential Policy Directive/ PPD-8, National Preparedness, as well as PPD-21, Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience, building safety, fire prevention, and energy codes and standards help achieve disaster resilience for our Nation.

Our Nation's building safety, fire prevention, and energy codes and standards play a critical role in maintaining and ensuring the safety of our buildings and enable our Nation to better prepare, respond, recover, and mitigate from all hazards. Strong building safety, fire prevention, and energy codes and standards also puts the Nation in a better position to deal with future challenges, such as climate change. FEMA supports ICC's BSM as it strives to help communities reduce the impacts of natural disasters by promoting the importance of high building standards, protecting the environment, and saving energy.

For more information on FEMA's Building Science Branch, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/building-science>. For more information on Building Safety Month, visit www.buildingsafetymonth.org.

A message brought to you by the Mitigation and Recovery Branch, <http://ohiosharpp.ema.state.oh.us/ohiosharpp/>.



Tammy Little Retires after 26 years of service

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency would like to thank Tammy for her dedication and service to both the system of emergency management and also to the evolution of emergency management in Ohio. She has been instrumental in the development of laws and policy as it has changed over the course of her tenure.

We are appreciative of her legal expertise and coordination at the national level.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Heat Awareness Day
May 23, 2014
- National Lightning Safety Awareness Week
June 22-28, 2014
- Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week
November 16-22, 2014
- **Good Luck to all EMA's who host county fairs.**

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