

# OHIO EMA SPRING CONFERENCE



APRIL 13 & 14, 2021



Ohio

Department of  
Public Safety

# SPRING CONFERENCE DETAILS

## **DATES & TIMES:**

April 13 & 14, 2021: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## **LOCATION:**

Online webinar using Microsoft Teams. If you have not received a webinar invite please email David Nunley: [dbnunley@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:dbnunley@dps.ohio.gov). You can also use the below links to connect:

- Day 1 April 13: [CLICK HERE](#)  
If computer audio is not working dial: 614.721.2972 Conference ID: 43751748#
- Day 2 April 14: [CLICK HERE](#)  
If computer audio is not working dial: 614.721.2972 Conference ID: 487681247#

## **REGISTRATION:**

No pre-registration required. Attendance will be taken during the conference.

## **MS TEAMS ISSUES:**

Please log in early each day between 9:30am and 10am to trouble shoot your connection. If you are having problems connecting to MS Teams please contact either of the following: Lisa Jones 614.799.3824 [ljones@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:ljones@dps.ohio.gov) or Matt Jaksetic 614.799.3666 [mtjaksetic@dps.ohio.gov](mailto:mtjaksetic@dps.ohio.gov)

## **MUTING AND QUESTIONS:**

All non-presenting participants will be muted. Questions can be typed into the chat feature on the right side of the screen and at the end of the presentations, questions will be answered. You may also use the hand raise feature during the question portion of the presentations and you will be called on individually.

## **EVALUATIONS:**

An electronic evaluation will be provided at the end of the conference. County representatives are required to complete this evaluation to receive credit for this required conference.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

Most presentations will be posted on the [Ohio EMA Website](#) within a few days of the conference conclusion.

## **CERTIFICATES:**

Attendance will be taken each day and the roster will verify who completed the conference. If those attendees have an account in the Public Safety Training Campus they will be registered for the conference and a certificate will be emailed to them.

# TUESDAY, APRIL 13 (DAY 1)

9:30 – 10:00 AM

Sign-In to MS Teams

Ohio EMA Training Section Staff

## GENERAL SESSION

10:00 – 10:10 AM

Opening Remarks

Sima S. Merick, Executive Director,  
Ohio Emergency Management  
Agency

10:10 – 10:15 AM

Opening Comments

Thomas J. Stickrath, J.D. Director,  
Ohio Department of Public Safety

10:15 – 10:30 AM

FEMA V Update

Acting Regional Administrator  
Kevin M. Sligh

10:30 – 11:00 AM

Nation Weather Service: Year in  
Review & Look Ahead

NWS Personnel

11:00 – 11:10 AM

BREAK

11:10 – 12:00 PM

Emerging Threats: Individual  
Readiness & Resilience

Thomas Marshall, Senior Editor,  
*Recoil Offgrid* Magazine

12:00 – 1:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure  
Security Agency (CISA)  
Resilience Services

Stephen A. Cauffman, Chief (A),  
Resilience Services Branch

2:00 – 2:10 PM

BREAK

2:10 – 3:00 PM

Get Connected: A New  
Resource for Volunteer  
Recruitment and Management

Rebecca Verhoff-Kiss, Outreach &  
Education Officer, ServeOhio

ADJOURN DAY 1

# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14 (DAY 2)

9:30 – 10:00 AM

Sign-In to MS Teams

Ohio EMA Training Section Staff

## GENERAL SESSION

10:00 – 10:50 AM

Agroterrorism: Interagency  
Coordination and Joint  
Investigations

U.S. Special Agent Richard  
Maier, FBI Cincinnati, Weapons  
of Mass Destruction Coordinator

10:50 – 11:00 AM

BREAK

11:00 – 12:00 PM

Threats from Space

Dr. Barbara Ryden, Professor of  
Astronomy at The Ohio State  
University

12:00 – 1:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Understanding and Overcoming  
Conspiracy Theories

Joseph Uscinski, Associate  
Professor of Political Science at  
University of Miami

2:30 – 2:40 PM

BREAK

2:40 – 3:00 PM

Executive Update

Sima S. Merick, Executive  
Director, Ohio Emergency  
Management Agency

## ADJOURN CONFERENCE

### OHIO EMA MISSION STATEMENT

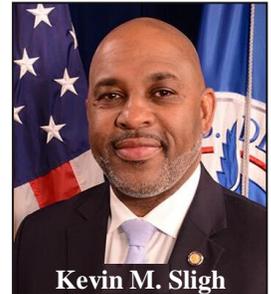
*“To coordinate activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.”*

# PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS DAY 1

---

## FEMA REGION V UPDATE

Acting Regional Administrator Kevin M. Sligh will provide an update on the whole-of-America response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and how the Agency is supporting ongoing local and state recovery efforts across Ohio, the region and our nation. He will discuss FEMA's priorities for 2021, including a focus on greater disaster risk reduction through the launch of the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program.



Kevin M. Sligh

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: YEAR IN REVIEW & LOOK AHEAD

The National Weather Service will provide an update on emerging trends in providing weather support to Emergency Management and other public safety officials. Weather support for hazardous weather events, outdoor events and HAZMAT incidents will be discussed. Useful tools for monitoring the weather will also be covered.



## EMERGING THREATS: INDIVIDUAL READINESS & RESILIENCE

All signs seem to indicate that the ripple effects of 2020's various global crises have spilled over into 2021. This year has already set some unsettling precedents about how quickly, and how aggressively, our entire lives can be changed. With the evolution of threats and hazards, emergency managers are coordinating and planning like never before. International impacts on election security, intentional misinformation campaigns, nuclear threats, mass violence, and fears of a power grid collapse from an electromagnetic pulse (EMP), solar flares, and cyber-attacks are all valid concerns. This presentation will analyze how individual readiness affects both family readiness and programmatic preparedness with an overall goal of systemic resilience against both daily and catastrophic emergencies.



Thomas Marshall

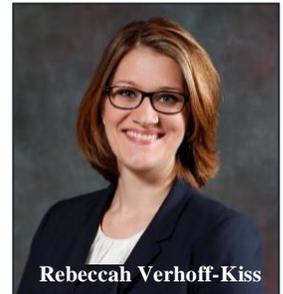
## CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY (CISA) RESILIENCE SERVICES

CISA's Resilience Services Branch develops and maintains products to support regional resilience planning and the assessment of security and resilience at scales from individual facilities to regions. This talk will provide an overview of the products that the Resilience Services Branch develops and how those capabilities are delivered to the field. It will also describe the approach that is used to understand dependency/interdependency relationships and cascading consequences to identify opportunities for enhance resilience. The main part of the talk will focus on two products that will soon be publicly released: The Regional Resilience Assessment Methodology and the Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework and how these resources can assist emergency managers, local and regional planners, and infrastructure owner/operators to work collaboratively to build regional resilience.



## GET CONNECTED: A NEW RESOURCE FOR VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT & MANAGEMENT

ServeOhio recently launched an exciting new statewide volunteer engagement platform: Get Connected. Previously, no statewide infrastructure existed to send volunteers to the local level to respond to the immediate needs in their community. The need for a system like this became more apparent over the past several months, during the pandemic. Get Connected allows organizations to post volunteer opportunities, recruit volunteers in their local community, and manage their volunteers, all within the platform/statewide system. Volunteers can then access the opportunities that best match their skills and interests. Ms. Verhoff-Kiss will discuss how to use this resource to recruit and manage volunteers for your program.



## PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS DAY 2

### AGROTERRORISM: INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND JOINT INVESTIGATIONS

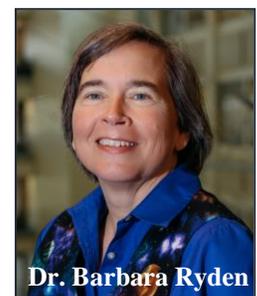
This presentation will hit the highlights of the Animal/Plant Health Joint Criminal – Epidemiological Investigation Course. This presentation will include:



- Understanding law enforcement and animal/plant health agency roles, responsibilities, and authorities during an outbreak of an unusual, suspicious, and/or high consequence animal or plant disease incidents.
- Law enforcement threat assessments, intelligence, and criminal/terrorism investigations.
- Animal/Plant Health (veterinary & plant unusual disease incident epidemiological investigations).
- Determine if disease introductions are accidental, natural, or intentional (criminal-terrorism-espionage) incidents.
- Identify assets and capabilities for each discipline.
- Demonstrate types of information collected by law enforcement & animal/plant health experts and how/when to share it.
- Best practices for conducting a joint threat assessment, joint investigations, joint interviews, and evidence collection.
- Develop inter-professional relationships between law enforcement and animal/plant health experts.

### THREATS FROM SPACE

Professor Ryden will present a historical timeline of events that have affected or nearly affected Earth. She will also discuss current and/or potential threats to the Earth and to human society, from asteroid impacts and solar storms. She will examine practical ways in which damage from these threats can be mitigated (if not always eliminated). Lastly, Professor Ryden will discuss when (or if) a solar event were to affect Earth, what we should expect.



### UNDERSTANDING AND OVERCOMING CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Professor Uscinski will discuss the causes and consequences of conspiracy theories. Relying on a wealth of survey data, he will detail the popularity of conspiracy theories now and historically, including those that surround disasters such as terror attacks, hurricanes, and pandemics. He will then address the reasons why people adopt such beliefs, in spite of evidence, and what can be done to dissuade people of their conspiracy beliefs during and after disasters.

