



February 14, 2005

Press Release

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FEMA AWARDS GRANT FUNDS TO DARKE COUNTY FOR WARNING SIRENS AND WEATHER ALERT RADIOS

Chicago, IL – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today released \$80,250 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) for Warning Sirens and Weather Alert Radio projects in Darke County to alert citizens when danger is eminent.

The funds will be used to purchase and install ten warning sirens to be placed at various locations throughout the county. Nine sirens will be located in areas that do not currently have warning sirens. The other siren will be located in an area in the city of Greenville that has a sizeable population not covered by a warning siren. In addition, ten weather alert warning radios will be placed in nursing homes, schools and in places where the public gathers in large numbers. These radios are desktop telephone-size devices.

“The citizens of Darke County will benefit greatly from the addition of the ten sirens,” said June Mong, Darke County Emergency Management Agency Director. “Sirens save lives in the event of an approaching hazard and advise people to take safety precautions immediately.”

The main objective of sirens and weather alert radios is to prevent loss of life by providing direct warnings to the public when natural, man-made, or technological hazards are eminent. A secondary objective is to provide warning so that residents may protect their property. Darke County and local villages will provide \$80,250 in additional matching funds for this mitigation project. The total cost of these projects is \$160,500. Mitigation projects are administered by the Ohio EMA.

“These projects are the cornerstone of disaster prevention efforts and illustrate the importance of local, state and federal government working together for the benefit of citizens,” said Nancy Dragani, Executive Director of the Ohio EMA.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

The Ohio EMA coordinates the state's response and recovery from the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center. One of the primary focuses of the agency is to ensure that Ohio citizens are prepared to respond to and recover from an emergency or disaster and to lead mitigation efforts against the effects of future disasters. During times of disasters, Ohio EMA coordinates activities of responding state agencies and maintains liaison with similar agencies of other states and of the federal government.

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