



## **IAFC MEDIA ADVISORY**

*Fairfax, Va., March 2, 2007*

### **Event:**

On March 8, close to 200 first responders and government officials will meet in Columbus, Ohio to prepare their communities for mutual aid response should a natural or manmade disaster occur that would require significant emergency resources crossing jurisdictional lines. Two years ago, Hurricane Katrina illuminated the need for a coordinated response to major disasters.

### **Why the media should be interested:**

- During this meeting, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) will activate the **Ohio Emergency Response Plan**.
- This involves a field exercise mobilizing and deploying multiple police, fire and EMS units across jurisdictional lines.
- This exercise will demonstrate a response to a major natural disaster in the Columbus and Franklin County area.

### **Media accessibility to the March 8 events:**

The media may have access to events taking place at both the Columbus Police Academy and Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. Note security requirements to gain access to Rickenbacker.

#### **12:15 - 12:45 (Columbus Police Academy)**

- Cover remarks made by dignitaries
- Observe activation of the Ohio Emergency Response Plan
- Interview opportunities with key planners, leaders, officials with ODPS, IAFC/OFCA, Law Enforcement

#### **2:00 - 2:45 (Rickenbacker ANGB)**

- Shoot B-Roll of the responders arriving at the staging locations
- Interview opportunities with local responders who participated in the exercise
- You **must** register by calling Lt. Col. Kathryn Lowery (614) 492-4371 by COB on March 7, to gain access to the base on March 8.

For further information concerning onsite activities, contact: C.J. Couch, Chief of Public Affairs for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency at (614) 799-3695 or (614) 582-9801, [cjcouch@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:cjcouch@dps.state.oh.us), or Tom Hunter, Communications Director for the Ohio Department of Public Safety at (614) 466-6178 or (614) 403-0302, [thunter@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:thunter@dps.state.oh.us).

For details about the national mutual aid programs at the International Association of Fire Chiefs, contact: Jennifer Ashley, CAE, Director of Communications, IAFC (703) 537-4820

### **About the International Association of Fire Chiefs**

Established in 1873, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) is a powerful network of nearly 13,000 chief fire and emergency officers. Our members are the world's leading experts in fire fighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, search & rescue, and public safety legislation. For more information, go to [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org).