
MEDIA RELEASE

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Ohio Achieves National Emergency Management Accreditation

(COLUMBUS) – Ohio’s system for preparedness and response to disasters was granted full accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

Emergency management accreditation represents a significant achievement. There currently are twenty accredited states and three accredited local jurisdictions in the country. To achieve accreditation, Ohio documented how it meets 63 national standards for the state’s disaster preparedness and response system and underwent a peer-review assessment by EMAP trained assessors.

The accreditation process was spearheaded by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS). Through Ohio EMA, ODPS is the state agency responsible for coordinating activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, both natural and man-made.

“Ohio achieved an important step in the accreditation process and we are pleased to see their success,” said Tim Manning, chairperson of the EMAP Commission and director of New Mexico Emergency Management. “States like Ohio that work toward and achieve compliance with these standards are at the forefront in ensuring their residents are served by a comprehensive system to deal with disasters.”

Accreditation is valid for five years from the date the EMAP Commission grants accreditation. Accredited programs must maintain compliance with EMAP standards and be reassessed in five years to maintain accredited status.

“The work of disaster response and recovery is one that requires prompt and accurate allocation of assets and resources,” said ODPS Director, Henry Guzmán. “The partnership between the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, other state agencies and local partners in Ohio that has allowed us to move forward with this accreditation is vital to ensuring that we are doing everything possible to serve and protect Ohioans. It would not be possible without the work and dedication of the employees of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.”

EMAP is a voluntary accreditation process for state, territorial and local government programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters, from tornadoes to terrorist acts. It recognizes the ability of a state or local government to bring together personnel, resources, and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to an emergency. This forms the foundation of the nation’s emergency response system. EMAP is the only accreditation process for state and local emergency management preparedness.

Working collaboratively since 1997, state, local and federal emergency managers developed EMAP to provide quality standards and a process for determining compliance. The Emergency Management Standard by EMAP creates a structure for strategic planning for improvement coupled with methodical, verified assessment by experienced peers from other jurisdictions, which results in stronger capabilities and accountability. The EMAP process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in 16 functional areas, including: planning; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations and corrective actions; and communications and warning.