



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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OHIO EMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES NEMA'S 2014 SUITER AWARD

COLUMBUS, OH – The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) recently announced that Nancy Dragani, Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, is the honored recipient of the 2014 Lacy E. Suiter Distinguished Service in Emergency Management Award. Dragani was presented the award during NEMA's annual forum in Atlanta, GA on October 11.

The distinguished service award is in recognition of the men and women who have dedicated their careers and lives to make citizens and communities safer from both natural disasters and terrorists events. This prestigious award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions throughout his or her career to any or all facets of emergency management, which includes the areas of preparedness, mitigation, response or recovery at a local, state, regional or national level. The award is named in honor of Lacy E. Suiter, one of the nation's most experienced and respected emergency management and homeland security leaders.

"Nancy is one of the most knowledgeable and respected emergency management professionals in the nation, and is most deserving of this award," said Charley English, NEMA President.

Nancy Dragani has served more than 20 years in positions of ever-increasing responsibility and leadership in the emergency management profession. She was named agency director in 2005 by Gov. Bob Taft, and has continued in that position under governors Strickland and Kasich.

Under her leadership, the state of Ohio achieved accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) in 2008 and 2013, and Dragani has led the state through numerous disasters – both natural and man-made. Dragani also serves as tri-chair of the National Homeland Security Consortium.

Dragani has performed in various leadership positions within NEMA, including President, Chair of the Response and Recovery Committee, and Chair of the Homeland Security Committee. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has appointed her to numerous terms on the National Advisory Council as chair of the Recovery Subcommittee, and the Insurance and Mitigation Subcommittee. Dragani has also served on the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism Advisory Board.

Dragani served more than 22 years of combined service in the U.S. Army, Army National Guard and Air National Guard. A graduate from Ohio Dominican College, Dragani is also pursuing an advanced degree through the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense Security Studies.

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The Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, is dedicated to coordinate activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.