



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • John Born, Director
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SIMA MERICK NAMED OHIO EMA DIRECTOR

(COLUMBUS) - Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Director John Born named Sima Merick Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) today. She is replacing Evan Schumann who resigned as director to take another position at EMA that will allow him to spend more time with his family in Vandalia. Merick is currently Assistant Director at EMA and has served in that capacity since 2011. Prior to being Assistant Director, Merick served in various management positions at EMA since 1996.

“We are grateful that Sima has agreed to take over the duties of Executive Director,” said ODPS Director John Born. “Her long term commitment to the agency and the people of Ohio has readied her for this assignment and I look forward to working with her in this new capacity.”

Merick has been instrumental in moving the agency toward a regional concept that will have liaisons in areas throughout the state who can assist county EMAs as the need arises. She will also work with private partners to assure that citizen’s basic needs are met when disaster strikes.

Merick holds an Associate Degree from The University of Akron and took courses at both Columbus State Community College and The Ohio State University.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency is the state’s coordinating agency for emergency response. In the event of an emergency anywhere in the state, EMA can assemble state agencies at its headquarters near Columbus and coordinate assets available through these agencies in order to get supplies, personnel and equipment where it is needed in a timely manner.

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