





# This Week in Ohio EMA

*A publication of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety*

Bob Taft, Governor ♦ Nancy Dragani, Executive Director, Ohio EMA ♦ Kenneth L. Morckel, Director, ODPS  
[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov) (614) 799-3695 - Ohio EMA Public Affairs

*March 24, 2006* *Volume III, No. 12*



## Ohio EMA participates in the Regional Technology Integration Initiative

*Information provided from DHS Fact Sheet*

The Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology directorate, has implemented a new initiative for Regional Technology Integration (RTI) to facilitate the transition of innovative technologies and organizational concepts to regional, state and local jurisdictions. Four urban areas across the country have been selected to be the initial pilot locations for this program, with Cincinnati being one of them. All selected regions are participating in the DHS Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and have demonstrated a willingness and capacity to adopt advanced and innovative concepts for emergency preparedness and public safety.

The focus of Homeland Security's Regional Technology Integration initiative is simple: to make our cities safer. The program recognizes the need for all-hazard preparedness and response, with a specific interest in deploying technology that may be particularly helpful in response to terrorist events.

The initiative's objectives are as follows:

- Prompt implementation of technologies for detection and response
- Integration of new technologies with the existing infrastructure, systems and concepts to reduce costs and assure sustainability
- Migration path for new concepts and technologies
- Collaboration with end-users and other Homeland Security programs such as Office of Domestic Preparedness and Infrastructure Protection
- Measurable objectives and continuous evaluation
- Communications of progress and lessons learned to the other local communities, states, Congress, the administration, and other federal leadership

Ohio EMA Plans and Field Operations personnel attended a RTI Initiative Phase II meeting on March 17. This was the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories' final involvement. The lab submitted its final report to the DHS, Science and Technology directorate. Nancy Duski, portfolio director with DHS Science and Technology directorate, presented select findings from the report and emphasized the fact that no funding is tied to the initiative. Implementing recommendations requires the use of existing general revenue, UASI or other grants. Trent DiPergia, DHS program manager for Technology Implementation, also attended the meeting.

## Ohio EMA Weekly Report Entries (ending March 21)

### National Plan Review - Phase II

The Columbus-Franklin County Urban Area completed its peer review early last week. The Urban Area Security Initiative cities and the state of Ohio are in the process of completing the Phase II requirements of the National Plan Review (NPR). Phase II is a peer review site visit conducted by contractors on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security. Reviewers are validating information submitted in Phase I by each urban area and are gathering more detailed information on the contents of the base plans and annexes including citations, strengths, weaknesses, technical assistance needs and documentation.

#### Dates of NPR Phase II Visits:

Toledo-Lucas County Urban Area	February 27-28, 2006 (completed)
Columbus-Franklin County Urban Area	March 13-14, 2006 (completed)
Cincinnati-Hamilton County Urban Area	March 30-31, 2006
State of Ohio	April 3-4, 2006
Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Urban Area	April 6-7, 2006

SPILL OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE EXERCISE

# SONS07

A full-scale exercise to test the National Response System resulting from a New Madrid earthquake.

COMING JUNE 19, 2007

The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan defines a Spill of National Significance (SONS) as "a spill that, due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on the public health and welfare or the environment, or the necessary response effort, is so complex that it requires extraordinary coordination of federal, state, local and responsible party resources to contain and clean up the discharge." (40 CFR 300.5)

For more information: [www.sons-program.org](http://www.sons-program.org)

### Congressman Visits Mahoning County Emergency Operations Center



(Pictured from left to right) Mahoning County EMA Director Walter Duzzny, Congressman Sherrod Brown, Youngstown Fire Chief John O'Neil, Youngstown firefighters Shawn Murray and Chris Weaver.

The Mahoning County Emergency Management Agency received an honorary guest at its Communications/Operations Center last weekend. Congressman Sherrod Brown (Lorain, D-13<sup>th</sup>) toured the Mahoning County facility and attended a briefing by Mahoning County EMA Director Walter Duzzny and other local officials.

"Security begins at home," said Brown to local media. "That includes full funding for Ohio's fire, police, EMS and local homeland security task forces." Brown addressed his concern of homeland security budget cuts and how its support dollars are needed for preparedness for terrorism and natural disasters.

Duzzny emphasized the benefits of the Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG), such as maintaining a significant level of preparedness at the local level and the advancement of more than 125 recommendations that were initiated through the recent report from the White House on Hurricane Katrina.

Mahoning County local officials noted that guidance and regulations are being processed in a "top-down" format: the first call, whether it is terrorism or a natural disaster, will be to a local 911 center, with local responders leading the way.

## Are You Prepared for Severe Weather?



Governor Bob Taft has proclaimed the week of March 26 through April 1, 2006 as "Severe Weather Awareness Week," and encourages all Ohioans to review safety precautions now to protect themselves and their property from the damaging affects of severe weather.

"I urge all Ohioans to get a family preparedness kit, make a plan and be informed," said Taft. "The time to prepare for natural disasters is now. Knowing what to do when disaster strikes can make all the difference when seconds count."

While Ohio will not experience a storm with the magnitude of a Hurricane Katrina, it is possible for the state to endure widespread flooding or heavy winds from a tornado. In fact, flooding is Ohio's number one natural disaster, with tornadoes placing second. Flooding can occur at any time during any season. Ohio's tornado season is typically April through July, although tornadoes, too, have hit during any random month.

This year, as part of Severe Weather Awareness Week, a statewide tornado drill is scheduled for 9:50 a.m. on Wednesday, March 29. Counties will sound their warning sirens and the Emergency Alert System will broadcast a test message. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages schools and businesses to practice their tornado drills during this time.

"Springtime is a good time to plan and practice severe weather preparedness," said Nancy Dragani, executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. "Every household, school and business should have a NOAA Weather Radio and an emergency preparedness plan. In addition to having a radio and an emergency preparedness plan, every household should maintain a disaster supply kit with enough food, water and supplies to sustain individuals for a minimum of 72 hours."

Ohio EMA is one of 12 state agencies and organizations that represent the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness. Since 1978, the committee has been dedicated in educating Ohioans on severe weather safety and preparedness. Other members include the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service, Ohio Insurance Institute, Ohio News Network, the State Fire Marshal, the Emergency Management Association of Ohio, and the Ohio departments of Aging, Education, Health, Insurance, and Natural Resources.

For further information on preparedness activities log on to [www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov), [www.ocswa.ohio.gov](http://www.ocswa.ohio.gov), [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).



### Weather Spotters Training 2006

Wednesday, March 29th, 7-9 p.m.

Liberty Center  
2980 West Fair Avenue  
Lancaster, Ohio (Fairfield County)

The Wilmington National Weather Service office will guide participants through weather spotter training. Trained spotters have the ability to safeguard their family, neighbors and co-workers from threatening weather.

Free and open to the public. Call (740) 687-5585 to register.

### FEMA Assistance

Registrations for Federal Disaster Assistance:

#### Hurricane Rita (as of March 22)

Louisiana	365,157
Texas	479,816

#### Hurricane Katrina (as of March 22)

Louisiana	1,078,126
Mississippi	517,171

Registration deadline: **March 11th (CLOSED)**

*Sponsored by the American Red Cross of Fairfield and Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency, in conjunction with the National Weather Service, NOAA and the Amateur Radio Club.*



**Spring Directors' Seminar on  
Emergency Management and  
Homeland Security**  
Holiday Inn - Worthington  
175 Hutchinson Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43235

**March 28 and 29, 2006**



Seminar and registration information  
available at:  
<http://ema.state.oh.us/training>

Held in conjunction with the  
Intergovernmental Technology Conference (ITC)



Hosted by:

**Ohio Department of Public Safety  
and Homeland Security**  
**Greater Columbus Convention Center - Downtown Columbus**  
**May 10-11, 2006**

The Ohio Homeland Security Symposium will bring together different disciplines and communities critical to the success of homeland security efforts: police, fire, hospitals, healthcare, schools, political leaders, security, banking, insurance, transportation, agriculture, food distribution, and the information technology community.

The goal of the symposium is to promote an exchange of ideas between public and private sector to better coordinate, prepare and educate all that are involved in homeland security efforts.

Advance registration: \$52.00  
On-site registration: \$75.00  
Register Now! [www.gov.resources.com/ohsshomepage.html](http://www.gov.resources.com/ohsshomepage.html)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 19</b> CERT-100 Train-the-Instructor: Licking County (Newark)	<b>20</b> Medical TAC Ohio EMA	<b>21</b> HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	<b>22</b> Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
NATIONAL FLOOD SAFETY WEEK ( March 20-24)						
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Directors Seminar - Holiday Inn Worthington, Ohio	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Debris Management Ohio EMA	<b>31</b> Cost Documentation Ohio EMA Agri.Exercise with Case Western Univ.	<b>April 1</b>
SPRING SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK (March 26 - April 1) - Wednesday, March 29 - 9:50 a.m. Statewide Tornado Drill						
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Communications TAC Teleconference	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> URSB Meeting Ohio EMA	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Senior TAC ODOT Auditorium	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>  Easter	<b>17</b> Medical TAC Ohio EMA	<b>18</b> HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	<b>19</b> Incident Mgmt Ohio EMA Tactical TAC ODOT - B	<b>20</b> Water TAC Ohio EMA	<b>21</b> CAMEO Course Carlisle Township Fire Department (March 21-23)	<b>22</b> CAMEO Course Carlisle Township Fire Department (March 21-23)

Register for Ohio EMA courses and seminars by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>