





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 (614) 799-3695 - Ohio EMA Public Affairs

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Governor Taft and State Agencies Discuss Preparedness and Response to Avian Influenza

Governor Bob Taft met with key state agency and poultry industry officials Wednesday at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency to discuss Ohio’s preparedness for a potential outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in waterfowls or commercial poultry. Officials tested their plans by conducting a tabletop exercise.

“We must continue to prepare all levels of government to respond effectively if avian influenza ever made its way into Ohio, and this exercise will help us to coordinate federal, state and local agency response,” said Taft.

Topics of discussion included how emergency responders would handle an incursion of avian influenza (“bird flu”) in commercial poultry flocks and birds in the wild, and how the state would communicate with the public. Meeting and exercise participants included representatives from the Ohio Departments of Administrative Services, Agriculture, Health, Natural Resources and Public Safety; Ohio Emergency Management Agency; Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the State Veterinarian and Ohio Poultry Association.

Ohio is receiving \$3.2 million in federal funding for pandemic planning efforts. The Ohio Pandemic Flu Preparedness Summit convened more than 500 health, emergency management, agriculture, business and Ohio community leaders in February.

The two-year-old Ohio Pandemic Flu Preparedness Plan is an integrated planning and response approach led by the Ohio Department of Agriculture is responsible for quarantining facilities and disposal of animals during any animal disease outbreak. Existing state law requires all livestock and poultry brought into Ohio to have a certificate of veterinary inspection to ensure the animals are free of disease.

For additional information, contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industry at 800-282-1955 or visit www.ohioagriculture.gov/avian/.

State agency directors and the governor listen to the scenario of an avian flu outbreak in Ohio during a tabletop exercise at the State Operations Center. Pictured left to right: Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani, Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Kenneth Morckel; Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Samuel Speck; Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Fred Dailey; and Governor Bob Taft.



Ohio Senate Bill 9 Requires Applicants to Complete Terrorism-Related Forms

Effective April 14, as a result of Ohio Senate Bill 9, applicants seeking certain state issued licenses, public employment or business contracts and funding must complete new forms that indicate they have not provided financial assistance or support to a terrorist organization.

The Declaration Regarding Material Assistance/ Non-Assistance to a Terrorist Organization (DMA) was created to provide the state with an additional tool to deter and prosecute acts of terrorism within the state of Ohio.

All DMA forms and reference material, to include the Terrorist Exclusion List and a list of licenses subject to DMA, are available on the Ohio Homeland Security Web site:

www.homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/dma.asp.

All forms are in PDF format.

The issuing agency is responsible to either direct applicants to the Ohio Homeland Security Web site to retrieve the forms, or should have hard copies available for the applicants. The issuing agency will retain the completed forms, along with the application.

For additional information, contact Ohio Homeland Security's DMA hotline number at (614) 644-3892, or e-mail: dma-info@dps.state.oh.us.

National Incident Management Capability Assessment Tool

NIMCAST Update

According to Federal Fiscal Year 2006 Ohio National Incident Management System (NIMS) Implementation Guidance of January 2006, local jurisdictions and state agencies must update the baseline NIMS assessment on the NIMS Capability Assessment Tool (NIMCAST) by April 30, 2006.

Final NIMCAST for full NIMS implementation compliance is due August 25, 2006.

Local and state agency NIMCAST administrators have received reminder notifications.

Ohio EMA Weekly Report Entries (ending April 12th)

Weather Spotters' Convention

Ohio EMA's Public Affairs Office participated at the Weather Spotters' Convention held at the Fawcett Center, Saturday, April 8. Public Affairs set up a display table and provided a variety of publications on severe weather awareness and preparedness.

Communications Update

Technicians conducted MARCS Radio System Overview and Operational training for 25 Scioto County personnel representing the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Scioto County EMA, Scioto County Coroner, Portsmouth Police Department, Portsmouth Fire Department, and local health department and hospital staff.

Technicians completed maintenance on State of Ohio Rain/Snow Monitoring System (STORMS) gauges in Trumbull, Ashtabula, Highland, Athens and Holmes counties.

Beaver Valley Power Station Update

On April 11, Unit 2 of the Beaver Valley Power Station experienced several spurious activations of the fire protection system, which caused water to be sprayed into the Supplemental Leak Collection and Release System (SLCRS) that permits water to infiltrate both charcoal filter banks that provide ventilation to various parts of the plant.

With both banks impacted, the SLCRS was rendered inoperable, placing the plant in violation of Tech Specs Requirement - 3.0.3, requiring hot standby within six hours and ultimately cold shutdown within 30 hours.

The plant commenced a controlled shutdown and proceeded to cold shutdown, over time. The plant was taken off the electrical grid for repairs. Officials speculated that it would take at least two days before the unit could synchronize to the grid.

EMA UPDATES

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CLARIFICATION
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March 31, 2006 Bio-Terrorism Conference
 Also in attendance: Buck Adams, Medina County EMA director, Chief Deputy Tom Miller and Captain Ken Bacca of the Medina County Sheriff's Office.

*Happy
 Easter*



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

Advance registration: \$52.00
 On-site registration: \$75.00
 Register at: www.gov.resources.com/ohsshhomepage.html

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 9	10 URSB Meeting Ohio EMA	11	12	13 Senior TAC ODOT Auditorium <i>Passover Begins</i>	14 <i>Good Friday</i>	15
16  <i>Easter</i>	17 Medical TAC Ohio EMA	18 HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	19 Incident Mgmt Ohio EMA Tactical TAC ODOT - B	20 Water TAC Ohio EMA	21 CAMEO Course Carlisle Township Fire Department	22 CAMEO Course Carlisle Township Fire Department
23 CAMEO Course Carlisle Township Fire Department	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	May 1	2	3	4	5	6

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