



## 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

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### Governor Taft Leads the Influenza Pandemic Response Exercise Held at State EOC



June 13, 2006 - Governor Bob Taft informs how state and local agencies are practicing the state response plan and procedures in preparation for a flu pandemic of national significance. Also pictured are (left) Director Kenneth Morckel, Ohio Department of Public Safety and (right) Executive Director Nancy Dragani, Ohio Emergency Management Agency. (Ohio EMA photo.)

Governor Bob Taft joined federal, state and local government leaders and representatives from Ohio's business and health care communities on June 13 to take part in a pandemic flu exercise. The day-long exercise was held at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) and provided a forum to evaluate the state's response plan and coordinate activities among the various agencies.

"We must continue to prepare all levels of government to respond effectively if a pandemic occurs," said Taft. "This exercise helps us determine how we can best be prepared to respond, reduce incidence of sickness and maintain the continuity of government and essential business operations in the event of a pandemic."

During the exercise, participants were given three scenarios in which to discuss Ohio's response plan – a human case identified in California; a human case identified in Ohio; and a widespread illness in Ohio.

Governor Taft was joined in today's exercise by Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director J. Nick Baird, M.D., Director of Ohio Department of Public Safety Kenneth L. Morckel, Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy J. Dragani, Ohio Adjutant General Gregory Wayt, Ohio Department of Administrative Services Director Carol Nolan Drake and Fred Dailey, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Ed Buikema, Regional

Director from the Federal Emergency Management Agency also participated in the discussions.

Ohio's Pandemic Flu Preparedness Plan, developed two years ago and subsequently revised, is an integrated planning and response approach led by the Ohio Department of Health, along with the Ohio Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Public Safety, the State of Ohio Security Task Force and The Ohio State University and other key state agencies.

The state's plan suggests that many of the things Ohioans can do to prepare for a pandemic are things that can be done to prepare for any widespread emergency. Those include: storing a one-week supply of nonperishable food and water; getting an extra supply of regular prescription drugs; establishing a family communication plan; and ensuring all flashlights and battery-operated radio have fully charged batteries. Ohio's Pandemic Flu Plan can be found on the Web at [www.ohiopandemicflu.gov](http://www.ohiopandemicflu.gov).

(See "Pandemic Exercise," Page 2)

Homeland Security Threat Level:

ELEVATED



### **Pandemic Exercise (continued)**

The state has participated in other pandemic flu preparation activities including a February 17 planning summit hosted by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt. The summit convened more than 500 health, emergency management, agriculture, business and community leaders representing all parts of Ohio. On April 11, the Ohio departments of agriculture and health led an exercise similar to today's to address a possible avian flu pandemic.

*For additional information contact Jay Carey, Ohio Department of Health at 614-644-8562.*



### **Lightning Safety Awareness Week: June 18-24, 2006**

To help promote effective emergency preparedness for lightning and severe thunderstorms, Governor Bob Taft announced June 18-24, 2006 as "Lightning Safety Awareness Week." The governor's resolution comes in conjunction with the National Weather Service's proclamation of National Lightning Safety Awareness Week.

The purpose of Lightning Safety Awareness Week is to help safeguard people from the hazards of lightning and to lower deaths and injuries due to lightning strikes. According to the National Weather Service, on

average 67 people in the United States are killed annually by lightning, which is more than the national average of people killed by tornadoes and hurricanes. In 2005, 48 people died and 172 were injured because of lightning strikes.

The committee encourages Ohioans to learn and practice these important lightning facts and safety tips:

- **Watch for developing thunderstorm.** Especially during summer months, pay attention to weather conditions; watch for developing thunderstorms. On a sunny day, as the sun heats the air, pockets of warmer air start to rise in the atmosphere. When the warmer air reaches a certain level, towering cumulus clouds can develop, which could be one of the first indications of a developing thunderstorm.
- **If you can hear thunder, you are in danger of lightning.** Seek safe shelter immediately. Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain area in a thunderstorm. If the sky looks threatening, take shelter before hearing thunder.
- **Minimize the risk of being struck by lightning while participating in outdoor activities.** Many people participate in outdoor recreational activities during the summer. Those involved in outdoor activities need to take appropriate actions and seek shelter in a timely manner when thunderstorms approach.
- **Listen to your NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV station** to receive up-to-date weather information.

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### **Local Emergency Responders Participate in Fairfield County Hazmat Exercise**



*June 10, 2006 - The city of Pickerington in Fairfield County participates in a functional Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) hazardous material exercise.*

*The exercise involved the Pickerington Police Department; Violet Township Fire Department; Fairfield County Sheriff's Department; Ohio State Highway Patrol; Fairfield Medical Center, Fairfield County Red Cross; Lancaster-Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club; Fairfield County EMA; and a host of other participants. The event took place on the grounds of Pickerington Local School District.*



## Make a Difference and Volunteer Today!

### What is the Franklin County and Columbus Medical Reserve Corps?

The mission of the Franklin County and Columbus Medical Reserve Corps is to establish teams of local volunteer, medical and non-medical volunteers who can assist our community during emergencies, such as an influenza epidemic, a chemical spill, an act of terrorism, or during other times of need.

#### Who is needed?

##### Medical Professionals:

- \* Physicians
- \* Physician Assistants
- \* Nurse Practitioners
- \* Nurses
- \* LPNs
- \* Paramedics
- \* EMTs
- \* Pharmacists
- \* Dentists
- \* Mental Health
- \* Midwives
- \* Public Health Workers
- \* Radiology Technicians
- \* Respiratory Therapists
- \* Veterinarians
- \* Chiropractors

##### Non-Medical Professionals:

- \* Clerical Staff
- \* Data Entry
- \* Computer Programming
- \* Office Manager
- \* Traffic Controllers
- \* Greeters

For additional information, contact Mitzi Kine at the Franklin County Board of Health at 614-462-3028 or e-mail: [mrkline@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:mrkline@franklincountyohio.gov)

#### EMA Updates

Annette Petranic, Director  
Summit County EMA  
**175 South Main Street, Suite 204**  
Akron, Ohio 44308

Krista **Slanker**, Director (formerly, Peters)  
Madison County EMA  
23 West High Street

Jefferson County EMA  
E-Mail: [jeffema@comcast.net](mailto:jeffema@comcast.net)

#### CORRECTION

Doug Bentley, Interim Director  
**ATHENS County EMA**  
13 West Washington Street  
Athens, Ohio 45701

#### Hurricanes Katrina & Rita Activities:

As of June 13, FEMA received more than **2,560,208** Individual Assistance registrations.

FEMA has approved more than **\$5,989,915,084** in disaster assistance to individual applicants from Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama.

There currently are **3,972** evacuee households in Ohio that have registered for FEMA assistance.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>June 11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> HazMat TAC Ohio EMA <i>Flag Day</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
 <b>18</b> <i>Father's Day</i>	<b>19</b> Medical TAC Ohio EMA	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Water TAC Ohio EMA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
National Weather Service's <b>NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK</b> (June 18-24)						
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Preparedness & Response to Agri-Terrorism (June 27-29) 220 W. Livingston Street, Celina OH 45822	<b>28</b> Beaver Valley Power Station EXERCISE (Plume Phase 06/27) (Ingestion Phase 06/28)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>JULY 1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	 <b>4</b> <i>Independence Day</i>	<b>5</b> Communications TAC Ohio EMA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>

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