





***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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September is...

# National Preparedness Month

## **READYBusiness - Preparing Makes Business Sense.**

The Department of Homeland Security and the Advertising Council launched the *Ready Business* campaign in September 2004, as part of DHS's *Ready* campaign, which is designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies. *Ready Business* focuses specifically on business preparedness.

*Ready Business* outlines common-sense measures that business owners and managers can take to start getting *ready*. It provides practical steps and easy-to-use templates to help you plan for your company's future. These recommendations reflect the Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Standard (NFPA 1600) developed by the National Fire Protection Association and endorsed by the American National Standards Institute and Department of Homeland Security. Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more details.

## **Plan to Stay in Business**

Business continuity planning must account for all hazards (both man-made and natural disasters). You should plan in advance to manage any emergency situation. Assess the situation, use common sense and available resources to take care of yourself, your co-workers and your business's recovery.

- **Be Informed** - Risk assessment is a sophisticated area of expertise that can range from self-assessment to extensive engineering study. Know what kinds of emergencies might affect your company, both internally and externally.
- **Continuity Planning** - Carefully assess how your company functions to determine which staff, materials, procedures and equipment are absolutely necessary to keep the business operating.
- **Emergency Planning** - There are some procedures you can put in place before a disaster, but you should also learn about what people need to recover after a disaster.
- **Emergency Supplies** - Think about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth. Then, encourage everyone to have a portable kit customized to meet personal needs, such as essential medications. Every business, home and school should have a NOAA Weather Radio.
- **Deciding to Stay or Go** - Depending on the nature of the disaster, the first important decision after an incident is whether to shelter-in-place or evacuate. Plan for both possibilities.
- **Fire Safety** - Have your office, plant or facility inspected for fire safety; ensure compliance with fire codes and regulations.
- **Medical Emergencies** - Encourage employees to take basic First Aid and CPR training; keep First Aid supplies in stock and easily accessible.

**Ohio EMA Weekly Report Entries (dated September 7, 2006)**



Ohio EMA Executive Director Nancy Dragani, Technical Support Division Director Mark Patchen, and MARCS Program Director Darryl Anderson met with six county emergency management directors of northeast Ohio and Michelle Fitzgibbon, executive director of the Emergency Management Association of Ohio, to discuss the overview of the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) program.

As a follow-up to this meeting, every county EMA director will receive a listing of all MARCS radio users, by county. A MARCS user manual is being developed.

MARCS has been described as the backbone of the Ohio's statewide Homeland Security programs: a state-of-the-art communications network through the use of a secure, statewide 800-megahertz digital trunked radio system that provides state and local emergency personnel with voice and data transmission of digital clarity, regardless of weather or terrain.

Work on the MARCS program began in 2000 and was completed in April of 2006, with construction of 203 communication towers throughout the state. The system cost approximately \$293 million to complete (\$279 state funds; \$14 million federal funds). MARCS is managed by the Ohio Office of Information Technology and has more than 15,000 users from 14 state agencies, county sheriff offices, hospitals, health departments and police, EMS and fire departments.

The MARCS network has 99.7 percent statewide mobile coverage. The goal behind MARCS was to replace an antiquated system plagued with dead spots and silence, which was a noted problem after communication failures occurred in Ohio with the 1990 Shadyside flood in Belmont County and the 1993 Lucasville prison riot in Scioto County. Communication problems were brought to national attention after the September 11 terrorist attack and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

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**Guernsey County Sheriff's Office Receives 10th BSSA Vehicle**



The Ohio Department of Public Safety and Ohio EMA's Technical Support Division presented the tenth of 11 Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA) interoperable communications vehicle to the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office on August 30. First responders and law enforcement officials throughout an eight-county region in southeast Ohio will be able to use the vehicle in the event of a major weather disaster, terrorist attack, hostage or hazardous material situation, or any other large-scale incident. Counties within Guernsey's region include: Belmont, Coshocton, Harrison, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble and Tuscarawas.

Franklin County is scheduled to receive the final BSSA vehicle in early 2007. All BSSA vehicles are paid for by federal homeland security funding.

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**Ohio Disaster Incidents - Update**

FEMA-DR-1656: On August 11, Governor Bob Taft requested FEMA to extend the incident period for DR-1656 from the start date of July 27 - August 4 to July 22 - August 4. The request is still in process with FEMA Headquarters.

FEMA-DR-1651: On August 22, FEMA denied Ohio's request for an incident period extension for DR-1651 from June 21-23 to June 21- July 16. The state submitted an appeal to FEMA's denial on August 28. The appeal is in process.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT

**FEMA DR-1656 - Declared: August 1, 2006**  
Federal Individual Assistance for Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake counties.  
**Incident period: July 27 - August 4, 2006**

Registrations for IA (as of Sept. 7): **5,624**  
**Registration Deadline: September 30, 2006**  
FEMA Individuals & Household Program:  
**3,677** applications approved for **\$8,344,053**

**Small Business Administration (SBA)**  
Home/Personal Property Loans: **323**  
Approved for **\$8,584,800**  
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**FEMA DR-1651 - Declared: July 2, 2006**  
Federal IA disaster assistance available for Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lucas, Sandusky and Stark counties.

**Registration Deadline: August 31, 2006**  
FEMA Individuals & Household Program:  
**5,624** applications approved for **\$8,486,097**

**Small Business Administration (SBA)**  
Home/Personal Property Loans: **539**  
Approved for **\$11,793,700**

## Master Exercise Practitioner Program Now at EMI

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) created the certificate title Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEPP) specifically to recognize those individuals who have completed prescribed training and demonstrated, through hands-on application, a high level of professionalism and capability in the arena of emergency management exercises. This program is specifically directed at improving the capabilities of emergency management personnel involved in all aspects of emergency management exercises.

Through the improvement of the knowledge, skills and abilities of involved personnel, the quantity and quality of exercises conducted at the local, state and federal levels of government can be improved.

During the week of August 28, the following individuals completed MEP Series 6 at EMI and were awarded the title of Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP): Tony Brizzolara, FBI, Cleveland; Ken Folsom, Geauga County EMA; and Jeff Walker, Licking County EMA. These gentlemen should be congratulated on their achievement.

For additional information, contact Darren Price, MEP, Exercise Program Manager at (614) 799-3660 or via e-mail: [deprice@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:deprice@dps.state.oh.us).



# Go Bucks!!! Beat Texas!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 3	<b>Labor Day</b> 4 	5 FADRC - AG 100.3 Delaware County Tactical TAC ODOT-A	6 Behavioral Health TAC Ohio EMA Communications TAC Ohio EMA	7 Animal Health Emergency TAC ODOT-A	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 EMA Directors' Seminar Clarion Hotel, Dublin	15 Foreign Animal Disease Responder Course - AG 100.4 Butler County	16 Toledo UASI/FS Exercise (TICP Validation)
17	18 Medical TAC Ohio EMA	19 HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	20 Damage Assessment Ohio EMA Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	21 Debris Management Ohio EMA Water TAC Ohio EMA	22	23 <i>Autumn Begins</i>
24	25	26 Foreign Animal Disease Responder Course - AG 100.1 Logan County	27	28	29	30 Cincinnati UASI FS Exercise (TICP Validation)

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

UASI: Urban Area Security Initiative - TICP: Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan - FS: Full Scale Exercise