



Erie County - June 2006

Lucas County - June 2006



## *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  
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### **State Executives and Public Information Officers Test Procedures during Influenza Exercise**



*C.J. Couch, Ohio EMA Chief of Public Affairs, briefs state agencies' public information officers before the mock governor arrives to discuss the avian flu outbreak.*



*Adriana Post, of Ohio Department of Health's Public Health Preparedness, assists Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA executive director, in reviewing talking points and news advisories during the Joint Information Center exercise.*

More than 40 agency directors and public information officers from multiple state agencies met at the State Emergency Operations Center yesterday to participate in a functional joint information center (JIC) exercise that focused on an outbreak of the avian flu in Holmes County.

The purpose of the exercise was for the Ohio Department of Health to fulfill a grant requirement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The overall goal of the exercise was to test the ability of state agencies' public information officers to coordinate efforts and respond to a state of emergency in the Joint Information Center, which is located contiguously to the State Emergency Operations Center at Ohio EMA.

The four-hour exercise was divided into two working shifts. The first shift had to deal with children in Holmes County infected with E-Coli after visiting a petting zoo; and waterfowl in Holmes County that were confirmed to have died from the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza.

The second shift not only had to contend with the avian flu in Holmes County, but also a tornado strike in Clark County which resulted in human fatalities.

Dr. Mary DiOrio of Ohio Department of Health Infection Disaster Control and Dr. Tony Forshey of Ohio Department of Agriculture Animal Industry also participated to assist exercise players with medical and agricultural matters, as necessary.

**Public Schools to Receive Public Alert Radios**



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in partnership with the U.S. departments of Education and Homeland Security launched the completion of the nationwide

project to distribute a NOAA Public Alert Radio to every public school, this month.

This week, 80,000 radios were shipped to public schools across the country to augment the 2005 pilot program that was conducted in two states and 20 urban areas (Cincinnati schools received public alert radios last year).

The radios are shipped directly to the schools. Receipt is confirmed through the NOAA Web site: [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov).

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**Perry Nuclear Power Plant**

Dry Run (Partial Exercise):  
Wednesday, October 4th

Graded Exercise (Partial):  
Tuesday, October 24th

**Licking County EMA Hosts Radio Course**



Licking County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management recently hosted an amateur radio technician-level training course. The group of 13 met for seven evenings throughout August and September, with testing completed on September 23. Course instructors were Scott Long, a Licking County EMA volunteer and Earl Paazig, of Muskingum County.

Licking County EMA Director Jeff Walker said, "Our agency has been working to improve our relationship with amateur radio for the last year, and we're pleased with the fine group of volunteers who can be counted on to support our agency during a disaster or exercise." The Licking County amateur radio emergency volunteer group has 24 members and meets once a month with the Licking County EMA staff.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATUS UPDATE**

**FEMA DR-1656 - Declared: August 1, 2006**

Federal Individual Assistance for three counties.  
Registrations for IA (as of Sept. 26): **6,154**  
**Registration Deadline: September 30, 2006**  
FEMA Individuals & Household Program:  
**3,895** applications approved for **\$8,849,755**

**Small Business Administration (SBA)**

Home/Personal Property Loans: **443**  
Approved for **\$11,140,400**

**FEMA DR-1651 - Declared: July 2, 2006**

Federal IA disaster assistance available for six designated counties.  
**Registration Deadline: CLOSED**  
Total registrations: **12,595**  
FEMA Individuals & Household Program:  
**5,737** applications approved for **\$8,634,871**

**Small Business Administration (SBA)**

Home/Personal Property Loans: **750**  
Approved for **\$15,221,100**

- FEMA-1651, June floods: On July 19, the State requested FEMA to consider extending the incident period from June 21-23 to June 21-July 16 for Individual Assistance. This was done in order to allow individuals and families impacted by new flooding that happened after the declaration was issued to be eligible apply for assistance.
- FEMA denied this request on August 22. The State appealed this decision on August 28. On September 28, FEMA informed the State that their initial decision remains unchanged and denied the appeal. There is no recourse for the State; county EMAs impacted by this decision were contacted and advised this morning.
- FEMA-1656, July floods: On August 11, the State requested FEMA to consider modifying the incident period from July 27-August 4 to July 22-August 4. FEMA denied this request on September 28. The State will appeal FEMA's decision.
- Affected county EMAs were advised of this action and will be contacted as soon as there is a response to the State's appeal.

**EMA Updates**

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**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

Ohio EMA: Telecommunications Technician 1  
 Start Salary: \$15.66/hour to \$18.56/hour  
 Posted: Sept. 27, 2006 Closes: Oct. 6, 2006

**Requirements:** Under supervision of Telecommunications Tech Manager, assists in installing, removing, inspecting, repairing, testing and main-taining telecommunication equipment (satellite, radio, STORMS, MARCS, video monitoring and agency audio equipment).

Minimum Qualifications: Completion of associate core program in electronics or telecommunications or 12 months experience in installation, repair and maintenance of telecommunications and/or data processing and radio equipment.

Submit applications to Ohio Department of Public Safety, Human Resources, 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223 (614) 752-7665.

Visit [www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov), and click on "Employment Opportunities" for more information.

**Excellence in Service Award**



Ohio EMA Training Officer Pam Gibson was awarded the Third Quarter Ohio Department of Public Safety Excellence in Service in Technical Service on September 28.

Pam was awarded Ohio EMA's Employee of the Quarter in August, for her outstanding work as training officer. Congratulations, Pam!

**OCSWA to Present Poster Contest School Trophy**



*Gabriela Torres, Overall State Winner of the 2006 Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest pictured with C.J. Couch, Ohio EMA Chief of Public Affairs.*

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness will present the "traveling school trophy" to Salt Creek Elementary School in Circleville (Pickaway County), October 17.

Gabriela Torres, now in sixth grade, was awarded the Overall State Winner of the 2006 Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest in August at the Ohio State Fair. Gabriela was one of 58 regional poster winners.

Pickaway County EMA Director James Deal and local media will also be present.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sept. 24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Foreign Animal Disease Responder Course - AG 100.1 Logan County	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Cincinnati UASI FS Exercise (TICP Validation)
<b>October 1</b>	<b>2</b> Canine TAC ODOT-A	<b>3</b> CAMEO (LSU)	<b>4</b> Perry Nuclear Power Plant DRY RUN	<b>5</b> OH EMA (Oct. 3-5)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
		<b>ICS Train-the-Trainer - Ohio EMA (Oct. 3-6)</b>				
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  COLUMBUS DAY	<b>10</b> URSB Meeting Ohio EMA - 1:30	<b>11</b> Communications TAC Ohio EMA	<b>12</b> TAC Chair ODOT-A Donations Mgmt Ohio EMA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Medical TAC Ohio EMA School Roundtable ODOT-B	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	<b>18</b> Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	<b>19</b> Water TAC Ohio EMA	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>

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