



Southeast Ohio Floods - Sept. 2004



Stark 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

Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director  
www.ema.ohio.gov (614) 799-3695 - Ohio EMA Public Affairs

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## Ohioans Encouraged to Learn about the Hazards of Flooding

National Flood Safety Awareness Week is March 19-23, 2007

Nationally, floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disaster in terms of loss of life and economic hardship - a fact known all too well in the state of Ohio. In the summer of 2006, nine northern Ohio counties received federal disaster declarations because of flooding.

The National Weather Service, a member of the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, has designated March 19-23 as National Flood Safety Awareness Week. This week is intended to highlight some of the many ways floods can occur, the hazards associated with floods, and what citizens can do to save and protect their lives and property.



Lucas County EMA file photo - June 2006

### The key to being safe from floods is to know the different types of floods.

A **flood** is a condition that occurs when water overflows the natural or artificial confines of a stream or body of water, or accumulates by drainage over low-lying areas. Floods can be slow or fast rising, but generally develop over a period of days.

**Flash floods** occur very rapidly, often within six hours of a heavy rain event and can cause extreme damage. Structures such as building or bridges, or objects such as trees can be washed away by walls of water that reach heights of 10 to 20 feet. During a flash flood warning, the safest thing to do is to move immediately to higher ground.

### Before a flood:

- Purchase and maintain flood insurance. Damages caused by floods are not covered by homeowner or renter insurance policies. Learn more about the National Flood Insurance Program by visiting [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).
- Prepare an evacuation plan. Decide in advance where your family should go in the event of a flood emergency. Practice your evacuation plan.
- Protect your home against rising waters. Move furniture and valuables to higher floors of your home. Raise the furnace, hot water heater and electrical system panel with the help of a professional.
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit. Include a first aid kit; essential medicines; non-perishable food; bottled water and juices; clothing; battery-operated radio; flashlights; extra batteries; special needs essentials - items to sustain every member of the household for at least three days.

For additional information on flood safety, citizens should contact their county EMA offices.

Homeland Security Current Threat Level (Domestic & International Flights):

HIGH

## Artists Wanted for 2007 Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest

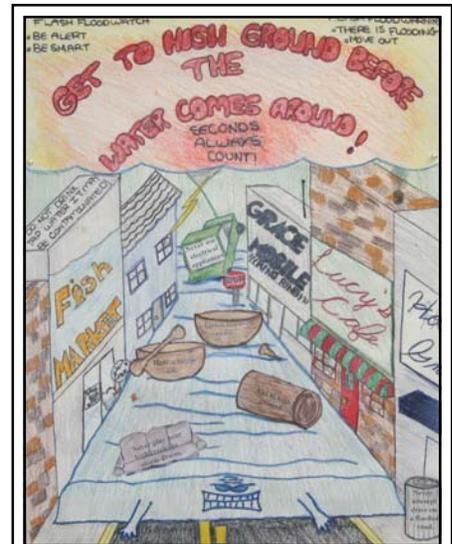
County EMAs Encouraged to Visit Local Schools to Promote Severe Weather Safety

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is encouraging Ohio's students in first through sixth grade and individualized instruction classes to participate in the 2007 Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest. The goal of this annual contest is for Ohio's students to show through illustration how to protect themselves from the natural hazards that typically affect the state.

Ohio schools have until April 16 to send their top posters per grade level to their regional National Weather Service (NWS) office. The NWS offices will choose their top regional winners; then in May, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness will conduct a state-level judging to determine the state and overall state winning posters. All of the initial regional winners will be invited to the Ohio State Fair in August for an awards ceremony.

An ideal time for students to participate in this contest is during Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, which is March 25-31.

For complete rules and forms to participate in the poster contest, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness Web site at: [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov). Go to the bottom of the menu box and click on "2007 Contest Rules."



2006 Overall State Winning Poster  
Artist: Gabriella Torres, 5th Grader  
Pickaway County

## Homeland Security's HSEEP and Guidance Volumes Revised and Ready

The Department of Homeland Security recently announced that its 2007 editions of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Policy and Guidance volumes have been revised and published. HSEEP is a capabilities and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized policy, methodology and terminology for the design, development, conduct and evaluation of all exercises.

HSEEP volumes I-IV were initially developed in 2002. But, to increase the applicability and use of HSEEP among diverse entities, several revisions were made over the years, to include:

- Incorporation of recent policies - National Incident Management System, National Response Plan, National Preparedness Goal, Universal Task List, and Target Capabilities List;
- Elimination of references to DHS-specific doctrinal or grant-related requirements, such as the need for terrorism-related scenarios; and
- The order of volumes II and III were reversed to follow the natural progression of exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation and improvement planning.

In addition to providing a standardized exercise policy, HSEEP also facilitates the creation of self-sustaining, capabilities-based exercise programs by providing tools and resources such as guidance, training, technology and direct support. This blended approach to HSEEP implementation promotes exercise expertise while advancing a standardized means of assessing and improving preparedness across the nation.

The complete volumes are available on the HSEEP Web site: <https://hseep.dhs.gov>. Volume titles are as follows:

- Volume I: HSEEP Overview and Exercise Program Management
- Volume II: Exercise Planning and Conduct
- Volume III: Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning
- Volume IV: Sample Exercise Documents and Formats

**Franklin County to Receive New BSSA Vehicle**



Ohio EMA file photo.

Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Henry Guzmán will present the Franklin County sheriff with a new vehicle that is designed and equipped to improve interoperable communications and

response capabilities during major emergencies. This Buckeye State Sheriffs Association (BSSA) vehicle, paid for with federal homeland security funding, will enable first responders throughout a seven-county region in central Ohio, to better communicate and respond to large-scale emergencies such as civil riots, terrorist attacks or wether disasters. Counties within this region include: Delaware, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow and Union.

The event will take place at the Franklin County Fleet Management Office, 1721 Alum Creek Drive, Columbus, on Monday, March 19 at 10 a.m.

Since 2005, Ohio EMA, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, working with BSSA, has stationed 11 interoperable communications vehicles within 50 miles of the greatest percentage of Ohio's population. The other 10 counties where these vehicles are staged include: Ashland, Athens, Columbiana, Geauga, Guernsey, Hancock, Lucas, Mercer, Montgomery and Ross.

**Ohio Department of Public Safety  
Emergency Management Agency  
Spring Directors' Conference**

March 27 and 28, 2007  
Holiday Inn East  
4560 Hilton Corporate Dr.  
Columbus, OH 43232  
(614) 868-1380



To register, visit the Ohio EMA Training Site at: <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>, or contact the Ohio EMA Training Section at (614) 799-3680.

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**Conference for Behavior  
Health Providers, First  
Responders and  
Volunteer Networks**

May 30-31, 2007

Columbus Marriott North  
6500 Doubletree Ave.

Call 1-800-228-3429 for reservations, mention ODMH-Join Force Conference, or register on-line at [www.marriott.com/cmhno](http://www.marriott.com/cmhno).

Sponsored by the Ohio Community Service Council, Ohio Departemnt of Mental Health and NEOUCOM (Southeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	12	13 Water TAC Seminar & Awareness Course Ohio Fire Academy Mitigation Planning for Local Gov't Ohio EMA	14	15 Animal Health Emergency TAC - ODPS Evacuation/Re-Entry Planning <b>CANCELED</b>	16	17
18	19 Medical TAC Ohio EMA	20 HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	21 Incident Mgmt. TAC Ohio EMA	22	23	24 CERT-100 Train-the-Instructor Pickaway County
<b>National Flood Safety Awareness Week (March 19-23, 2007)</b>						
25 CERT-100 T-T-I Pickaway County	26	27 Spring Directors' Seminar Holiday Inn East, Columbus	28	29 USAR TAC Ohio EMA	30	31
<b>Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week ~ Statewide Tornado Drill Wednesday, March 28th, 9:50 a.m.</b>						
<b>April 1</b> <i>Passover Begins</i>	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Good Friday</i>	7

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>  
TAC - Technical Advisory Committee