

*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  
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**Governor Strickland Encourages Ohioans to Prepare for Severe Weather**  
*Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 25-31*

Governor Ted Strickland has proclaimed the week of March 25-31 as Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week. In coordinating efforts with the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, the governor urges Ohioans to prepare now for natural disasters.

"We have seen the horrific images from Alabama, Florida and Georgia that detail the deadly and destructive nature of severe weather," said Governor Strickland. "As Ohio prepares for the arrival of spring and summer, the times when we are at the greatest risk for tornadoes and thunderstorms, I urge every citizen to organize your emergency plans and conduct safety and evacuation drills. I want everyone to be prepared."

Since 1978, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has encouraged families, schools and businesses to review their emergency preparedness plans, practice tornado and fire drills and refresh the supplies in their disaster preparedness kits.



*LaGrange, Ohio (Lorain County) 2006 - EMA file photo.*

As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week, a statewide tornado drill will be conducted on Wednesday, March 28 at 9:50 a.m. County will sound their warning sirens and the Emergency Alert System will broadcast a test message. Schools, businesses and households are encouraged to practice their severe weather plans during this time, however, it is not mandated that schools and businesses participate in this drill.

If the statewide tornado drill interferes with schools' testing periods, or if schools are not in session because of spring break, then they must independently schedule times to practice their tornado drills in accordance with Ohio Revised Code section 3737.73.

The following state agencies and organizations represent the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness: American Red Cross, Emergency Management Association of Ohio, National Weather Service, Ohio Citizen Corps, Ohio EMA, Ohio Insurance Institute, Ohio News Network, State Fire Marshal, and Ohio departments of Aging, Education, Health, Insurance and Natural Resources.

For additional information on severe weather preparedness, log onto [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov).

## Ohio EMA Weekly Report Update (from report dated March 20, 2007)

### Forging New Links Annual Conference

Two representatives from the Operations Division participated in an animal planning panel discussion at the Forging New Links Conference held on March 12.

Ohio EMA briefed participants on the state's Animal Health Emergency TAC and Ohio's developing Disaster Animal Response Teams (DART). The state anticipates the organization of eight regional DARTs. DART-1 in northwest Ohio has developed a draft emergency response plan that provides emergency response, planning and support for all animals (pets, strays, livestock, wildlife, zoo animals) in the event of a disaster or disease outbreak that overwhelms the local infrastructure.

Emergency preparedness plans for animals are available at: [www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/pets.html).

### Ohio Nuclear Power Plant Updates

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing confirmatory action letters to 40 nuclear power plants, nationwide, that have pressurized water reactors. The letters regard flaws in certain welds in reactor coolant systems which have displayed an increased susceptibility to cracking due to their chemical makeup and residual stresses from the welding process and operating conditions.

The Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station and Beaver Valley Power Station are among the nuclear power plants that will receive NRC letters confirming commitments made by the plants to resolve concerns. All 40 plants must shut down by the end of the year to have their welds inspected and to make any necessary modifications or repairs.

### Tour of State EOC/JDF Facility

The Technical Support Division conducted a tour of the State Emergency Operations Center/Joint Dispatch Facility for the Lexington, Kentucky EMA director and a design study team. The city of Lexington is planning to construct a new EOC in preparation for the Equestrian Games which will be held there in 2009.

### **Miami and Darke Counties' Bradford Fire and Rescue Services Receive FEMA Grant**

*Article provided by Kenneth Artz, Miami County EMA Director*

Last month, the Bradford Fire and Rescue Services received word from Senator George Voinovich's office that the department was selected to receive an Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award (fiscal year 2006) in the amount of \$129,000. After the Bradford Fire and Rescue's five percent share of \$6480 is applied, the department will receive a total of \$129,600 in FEMA grants.

The FEMA grant will be used for the Operations and Safety Section of the FEMA program. The department plans the following:

- Replace the older, outdated self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
- Install a new diesel exhaust removal system in the fire station
- Purchase a new compressor, cascade system and fill station for its new high pressure SCBA

Fire Chief Jan A. Mottinger said that the department has applied for the grant five times in the past, and was selected this year. "Without the Assistance to Firefighters' Grant, we could not purchase this equipment and would struggle to provide a safe and healthy environment for our firefighters and community," said Mottinger.

The Bradford Fire and Rescue Services is located in west-central Ohio, in the village of Bradford (Darke and Miami counties). The department provides first response mutual aid to five surrounding communities and also provides water rescue services to Darke and Miami counties.

**EMA UPDATES**

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**Practice the Plan**

Go beyond planning, and frequently practice what you intend to do during a disaster. Just as your business changes day-to-day, so should your plan.

- If you rent, lease or share office space, coordinate and practice evacuation and other emergency plans with the other businesses in your building or facility.
- Include preparedness training in new employee orientation programs.
- Schedule walk-through drills where the emergency management team and response teams actually perform their designated emergency functions.
- Practice evacuating and sheltering. Have all personnel walk the evacuation route to a designated area where procedures for accounting for all personnel are tested.

**Ohio Department of Public Safety  
 Emergency Management Agency  
 Spring Directors' Seminar  
 March 27-28, 2007**

Revised agenda to include the following topics:

**Day One**

- Ohio National Guard
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Stafford Act
- Ohio Department of Public Safety
- Office of Governor Ted Strickland
- Resource Database
- Mitigation Programs
- Homeland Security/EMPG Grant Update
- FY07 National Incident Management System (NIMS) Requirements

**Day Two (Breakout Sessions)**

- Leadership in Today's Changing Environment
- Grant Monitoring for Local EMAs
- Pandemic Influenza Planning and Exercises
- Emergency Response Plan Brief/TAC Update
- Homeland Security Critical Infrastructure
- National Weather Service
- Interoperable Communications Plan and Interoperable Communications Strategy

Note: Extended lunchtime: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. (on your own) Second day shortened to half-day.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	National Flood Safety Awareness Week (March 19-23, 2007)					
	Medical TAC CANCELED	HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt. TAC Ohio EMA	Animal Health Emergency TAC - ODOT		CERT-100 Train-the-Instructor Pickaway County
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week ~ Statewide Tornado Drill Wednesday, March 28th, 9:50 a.m.					
CERT-100 T-T-I Pickaway County		Directors' Conf. - Holiday Inn E. Columbus	Tactical TAC - OSHP	USAR TAC Ohio EMA		
				Bomb TAC Cols. Police Academy		
April 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Passover Begins				Good Friday	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
 Easter Sunday	URSB Meeting Ohio EMA	Basic Public Information Course ~ Ohio EMA				
	ICS-400 Course ~ Cuyahoga County			Sr. Advisory TAC ODOT		

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