



Ohio's Emergency Management News

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

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State Dodges Major Mishaps from Recent Winter Windstorms

Two weeks ago, the National Weather Service forecasted a second powerful winter windstorm to sweep through Ohio. Wind gusts in excess of 60 mph accompanied by cold fronts of equal speeds and heavy rain produced damaging winds and flooding.

There was major concern that the state would suffer another sweep of extensive power outages. More than 150,000 Ohio customers lost power for approximately a week after a crippling winter storm pummeled the Midwest two weeks earlier.

A strong low pressure and cold front accompanied by heavy rains moved through the state on the evening of February 11. The already saturated ground and strong wind gusts made it easy for trees to uproot and topple on buildings and power lines.

At the height of the storm, more than 251,000 Ohio customers lost electricity. The utilities were able to achieve faster power restorations to the majority of the state. Minor to moderate flooding occurred in the north and northwest portions of the state.

No major issues were reported from ice jams, flooding or power outages. No local declarations were issued. There were no requests for state assistance.



An evergreen tree uprooted and fell at the Monroe County Emergency Operations Center - February 11, 2009 / Monroe County EMA photo

Lake County EMA, Coast Guard and Army Corps Monitor Ice Jams at Fairport Harbor



Ice jams at the Fairport Harbor threaten to flood a nearby residential area. The ice traveled downriver to a nearby turning basin at Pickle Bill. Photo courtesy Jeff Braemer, Fairport Harbor Fire Department (2-10-09).

Accumulated snow and ice on Lake Erie and the Grand River gave way to major ice jams in northeast Ohio. Last week, because of the melting snow, rain and ice jams, there was a potential for major flooding in communities along the river.

According to the Lake County EMA, on Feb. 10, the ice on the Grand River traveled down river approximately 1/2 mile to a nearby turning basin.

The U.S. Coast Guard assisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer with flood mitigation missions along the Ohio rivers by using ice breaking cutter vessels.

Their transit up and down the Grand River alleviated the risk of flooding.

Belmont County EMA, National Weather Service to Conduct SKYWARN Training

The Belmont County Emergency Management Agency, in conjunction with the National Weather Service - Pittsburgh Office, will host a Skywarn training class at the EMA's Operations Center on March 10, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Skywarn program is a nationwide network of volunteers who have been trained by the National Weather Service (NWS) to report significant weather events. Class participants become trained weather spotters who will provide invaluable services/information for the NWS. Spotters real-time observations of tornadoes, hail, wind and significant cloud formations provide a reliable information base for severe weather detection and verification.

Richard Kane, warning coordination meteorologist, will be the instructor. Topics of discussion will include: the development of thunderstorms, tornadoes and floods; various tools used by the NWS to forecast events; severe weather safety rules; and the opportunity to become a Skywarn weather spotter.

Belmont County EMA has sponsored Skywarn classes in the past to train volunteers creek monitoring for potential flooding situations. The NWS uses the information/data to provide weather-related warnings via the NWS radio warning system. Skywarn weather spotters call in the data to the NWS via toll-free telephone numbers or amateur radio networks.

For additional information, contact the Belmont County EOC at (740) 695-5984. There is no charge for Skywarn Weather Spotter Training.





Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 22-28
Statewide Tornado Drill: March 25th - 9:50 a.m.

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

Ohio EMA Technician Attends Homeland Security Domestic Preparedness Training



Ohio EMA Radiological Instrument Technician Michael Rieser recently completed training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) located in Anniston, AL. The CDP is operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction training facility in the nation.

Rieser is responsible for the repairs, services and calibration of electronic radiation detection and monitoring equipment. He also provides special training on the proper use of radiation detection equipment and performs field maintenance inspections on county radiation detection instruments. He has been a technician with Ohio EMA for two years.

The CDP's mission is to operate a federal training center for delivery of high-quality, comprehensive preparedness training programs for the nation's emergency responders.

The CDP provides federally funded, interdisciplinary training for the following emergency responder disciplines: emergency management; emergency medical services; fire service; governmental administrative; hazardous materials; health care; law enforcement; public health; public safety communications; and public works. The scope of training includes preparedness, deterrence and response.

EMA Updates

Fulton County Emergency Management

Brett Kolb, Director

135 Courthouse Plaza

Wauseon, OH 43567

Deputy Director: Rod Cheney

Administrative Assistant: Jodi Tuckerman

Lorain County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Tom Kelley, Director

322 North Gateway Boulevard

Elyria, OH 44035

Ensure Office Phone is: **440-329-5117**

E-Mail: lcema@lorcnty.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 22	23	24 <i>Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Wkshp Ohio EMA</i>	25 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	26	27 <i>EMAO Retreat</i>	28
March 1	2	3 <i>Basic Public Information Officer - Ohio EMA</i>	4 <i>Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Wkshp Portage County EMA</i>	5	6	7
 8 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	9	10	11 <i>Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Wkshp Wood County EMA</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17 <i>HazMat TAC Ohio EMA St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 <i>Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA</i>	19 <i>Water TAC Ohio EMA</i>	20	21
<i>National Flood Safety Week</i>						

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

TAC - Technical Advisory Committee, URSB - Utility Radiological Safety Board, HSEEP - Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation