



# Ohio's Emergency Management News



Athens County, May 2004

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

June 19, 2009

Volume VI, No.10

## World Health Organization Declares H1N1 Flu Pandemic

(From ODH Web site and talking points)

On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 6 in response to the ongoing global spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. A Phase 6 designation indicates that a global pandemic is underway.

More than 70 countries are now reporting cases of human infection with novel H1N1 flu. This number has been increasing over the past few weeks, but many of the cases reportedly had links to travel or were localized outbreaks without community spread. The WHO designation of a pandemic alert Phase 6 reflects the fact that there are now ongoing community level outbreaks in multiple parts of the world.

WHO's decision to raise the pandemic alert level to Phase 6 is a reflection of the spread of the virus; not the severity of illness caused by the virus. WHO's announcement should be an alert to countries in the southern hemisphere that the virus is likely present and health authorities should heighten their surveillance activities and review their pandemic plans.

Here in the United States, officials are working hard across the government to be prepared for what happens in the fall with H1N1 when the traditional flu season starts. Preparations are underway to have a vaccine tested and ready to go, should the science determine we need to begin an immunization campaign.

As of June 18, Ohio reports 66 confirmed cases of H1N1 and seven probable cases. County breakdown is as follows:

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Allen - 1     | Knox - 1       |
| Butler - 2    | Lawrence - 2   |
| Clark - 6     | Lorain - 2     |
| Cuyahoga - 11 | Lucas - 2      |
| Franklin - 17 | Mahoning - 2   |
| Fulton - 2    | Montgomery - 3 |
| Hamilton - 3  | Portage - 1    |
| Highland - 1  | Stark - 2      |
| Holmes - 1    | Summit - 4     |
| Huron - 1     | Wayne - 1      |
| Jefferson - 1 |                |

### Steps to Take to Stay Healthy

- Stay Informed. Visit the Ohio Department of Health Web site for up-to-date information. [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)
- Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- Take everyday actions to stay healthy
  - \* Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Through the tissue in the trash after use
  - \* Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers
  - \* Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
  - \* Stay home if you're sick. Limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO for more information



International Association of Emergency Managers

## Ohio Citizen Corps offers National Conference on Community Preparedness to County EMAs

The Ohio Citizen Corps announced that the state of Ohio has nine spots reserved for the 2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness (NCCP): "The Power of Citizen Corps." The conference is hosted by FEMA's Community Preparedness Division and will take place in Arlington, VA, August 9-12. The conference is intended to help communities become safer, stronger and better prepared for all types of hazards.

NCCP 2009 will bring together approximately 750 state and local elected officials, emergency management, fire and police services, public health and emergency medical services, non-governmental organizations, private business and industry, advocacy groups and members of the public. Conference participants will -

- Share best practices on collaborative emergency planning
- Discuss preparedness outreach and education for targeted populations
- Learn innovative approaches to funding
- Hear updates on DHS/FEMA initiatives
- Get updates on findings from citizen preparedness research
- Hear about successful training and exercises
- Share volunteer management practices
- Network with other Citizen Corps participants



Additional information on NCCP 2009 is available at [www.iaem.com/NCCP2009.htm](http://www.iaem.com/NCCP2009.htm). If interested in attending, E-mail Ohio Citizen Corps by June 25 at [OhioCitizenCorps@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:OhioCitizenCorps@dps.state.oh.us).

---

## DHS Announces Nearly \$1.8 Billion in Fiscal Year 2009 Preparedness Grants

*(From Department of Homeland Security press release, dated June 16, 2009)*

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced on June 16 that nearly \$1.8 billion in FEMA preparedness grants is available to help states, urban areas, tribal governments and nonprofit agencies improve their readiness by enhancing protection, prevention, response and recovery capabilities for all disasters.

The grant program allocations incorporate specific steps undertaken by DHS to improve the ability of state and local partners to apply for and use FEMA grant funding. The preparedness grant program allocations for FY2009 include:

1. Homeland Security Grant Program - \$1.7 billion to be split between State Homeland Security Program; Urban Areas Security Initiative; Metropolitan Medical Response System Program; and Citizen Corps Program
2. State Homeland Security Program Tribal - \$1.7 million
3. Nonprofit Security Grant Program - \$15 million
4. Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program - \$34 million

Additional information is available at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov) and [www.fema.gov/grants](http://www.fema.gov/grants).

## METH TRAINING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Taught by the Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation and the Miami County Sheriff's Office

WHEN: Saturday, July 25, 2009  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WHERE: Covington Rescue Squad Station  
1000 Dick Minnich Drive  
Covington, Ohio 45318

The Meth Training for First Responders will include information on:

- Affects of Methamphetamine on the Body
- User Identification
- Manufacturing Process
- Chemical and Equipment Identification
- Drug Laws
- Officer/First Responder Safety

To register for this **FREE** class, contact Shirley Swallow of the Miami County EMA/LEPC, at 937-332-8561 or E-mail: [swallows@mccc.co.miami.oh.us](mailto:swallows@mccc.co.miami.oh.us).

Reservations must be made by July 13, 2009. BCI&I will mail a certificate of completion upon completion.

## EMA Updates:

### Kay Phillips, Chief

#### Mitigation Branch, Ohio EMA

New employment as FEMA's Director of the Recovery Center in DeMoines, Iowa  
Last day at EMA - June 26

### Jacques (Jack) Bossert, Chief

#### Preparedness Grants Branch, Ohio EMA

Retiring after 40 years of dedicated service  
Last day at EMA - July 31

### Paulding County EMA

Randy Shaffer, Director  
503 Fairground Drive, Suite 2  
Paulding, OH 45879  
Office: 419-399-3500

E-Mail: [pauldingema@windstream.net](mailto:pauldingema@windstream.net)

## Lightning Safety Awareness Week:

June 21-27, 2009

*Remember: When  
Thunder Roars, Go  
Indoors!*



NOAA NWS photo

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday                | Wednesday                               | Thursday              | Friday           | Saturday  |
|---|--|------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| June 14   | 15   | 16                     | 17                                      | 18                    | 19               | 20  |
|   |  | HazMat TAC<br>Ohio EMA | Basic OpsCenter<br>Ohio EMA             | Water TAC<br>Ohio EMA |                  |   |
| 21  | 22   | 23                     | 24                                      | 25                    | 26               | 27  |
| <br>Father's Day | <b>National Lightning Safety Awareness Week - June 21-27</b> |                        |   |                       |                  |   |
|   |  |                        | State of Ohio IEMC Exercise<br>Ohio EMA |                       |                  |   |
| 28  | 29   | 30                     | July 1                                  | 2                     | 3                | 4   |
|   |  |                        |   |                       | Holiday Observed |  |
| 5   | 6  | 7                      | 8                                       | 9                     | 10               | 11  |

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

\* TAC - Technical Advisory Committee