



# 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)

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## New Commission Members Appointed

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has named a new individual to the EMAP Commission: Mr. Robie Robinson. Mr. Robinson is the director of emergency management for Dallas County, Texas.

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) has named two individuals to the EMAP Commission: Lt. Col. Jerome Hatfield and Mrs. Tamara Little. LTC Hatfield is a 22-year veteran of the New Jersey State Police. LTC Hatfield currently serves as the deputy state director for the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management.



Mrs. Tamara Little has been an assistant attorney general in Ohio for 21 years. In the executive agencies section of the Attorney General's Office, Mrs. Little represented the Adjutant General's Department, the Ohio National Guard and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency for 16 years, and currently represents the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

The EMAP Commission is the 10-member governing and decision-making body of EMAP. Its members are appointed (five each) by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA).



## Spotlight: Best Practices

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency has developed the Preliminary Damage Assessment Field Guide and Damage Assessment Toolbox, a field guide designed to serve as a quick reference tool during preliminary damage assessments by state and local officials and field personnel.

The four degrees of damage (destroyed, major, minor and affected) are not only described, but also depicted in illustrations to make assessments easier.

The field guide's format allows it to be easily carried in a pocket or on a lanyard in a plastic sleeve. It identifies the sequence of events and critical actions that occur following a disaster, plus assessment guidance and descriptions of key federal assistance programs.

Both tools have been in use in Ohio and have been liberally shared. The tools can be easily adapted to other jurisdictions and can be found on Ohio EMA's Web site: [www.ema.ohio.gov/Recovery\\_DAToolbox.aspx](http://www.ema.ohio.gov/Recovery_DAToolbox.aspx).



Homeland Security Threat Level: **ELEVATED**

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attack



**HIGH or Orange for Aviation Sector**

# National Preparedness Month



[www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov)

**September is National Preparedness Month.** This year, the Department of Homeland Security's *Ready* campaign is focusing on changing the perceptions about emergency preparedness and helping Americans understand what it truly means to be *Ready*. National Preparedness Month (NPM) 2009 will illustrate how preparedness goes beyond fire alarms, smoke detectors, dead-bolt locks and extra food in the pantry, and help people communicate important preparedness messages to families, businesses and communities.

We, as Ohio first responders and emergency managers, will continue to educate and inform the public on ways to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. We will continue to promote the four key points of the *Ready* campaign: **Get a Kit. Make a Plan. Be Informed. Get Involved.**

County and state emergency management offices are distributing emergency preparedness information at their county and state fairs, conducting open houses and "emergency days," and a variety of other preparedness activities within their communities.

State/Ohio EMA activities include:

## **NPM 2009 Media Day Kick-Off Event: August 28**

Parking Lot of the State Emergency Operations Center/Joint Dispatch Facility  
2855 West Dublin Granville Road  
Columbus

## **Flag Memorial: September 11 (Ohio Community Service Council, Ohio Citizen Corps, FIRSTLINK)**

Statehouse West Lawn  
Columbus

## **Ohio Emergency Management Agency Open House: September 29**

Parking Lot and State EOC/JDF  
2855 West Dublin Granville Road  
Columbus

For additional information and to view the NPM 2009 Calendar, visit [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov) or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

## Columbus and Franklin County Officials Meet to Help Somali Community Prepare for Disasters

By: Mark Anthony, PIO, FCEM&HS

Franklin County organizations recently met with the county's Somali community leaders to determine how they can help local Somalis - despite formidable language and cultural barriers - better protect themselves and their families from disasters.

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office co-chaired the initiative on July 27. Other participating organizations included the Somali Women and Children's Alliance; Helping Africans in New Direction; Somali Community Access Network; Franklin County Board of Health; Columbus Public Health; American Red Cross of Greater Columbus; and FIRSTLINK.

"Our goal is to overcome profound language and cultural barriers to help Franklin County's Somali community be better prepared for life-threatening emergencies such as tornadoes," said Michael Pannell, FCEM&HS director. "This project can benefit both the local Somali community and the community as a whole. The better citizens are able to protect themselves in a crisis, the more resources there will be for those who need them."

The group is a subcommittee of the Franklin County Government Somali Work Group, which convened in April by County Commissioner John O'Grady, to help provide a coordinated government response to the needs of the thousands of Somali immigrants living in Central Ohio.



*Visit the Ohio Department of Public Safety divisions' displays in the Market Place Building at the Ohio State Fair, through August 9th.*

News Update from ...



This summer, President Obama is calling on Americans to participate in our nation's recovery and renewal by volunteering in our communities.

To encourage individuals to volunteer and develop their own "do-it-yourself" projects that can help prepare communities for disasters, FEMA and Citizen Corps have teamed up with the Corporation for National and Community Service to provide a Community Preparedness Toolkit link on Serve.gov.

FEMA conducted a research on disaster preparedness. They found that many people who believe themselves prepared for disasters often aren't as prepared as they think. Our nation's emergency managers, fire-fighters, law enforcement officers, EMT/paramedics, and other emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, but they can't do it alone. We must all take on the responsibility of being prepared.

The Community Preparedness Toolkit helps citizens create a service project to prepare their families, friends, neighbors and colleagues for disasters in their neighborhoods.

For additional information on serving the community and to download the toolkit, visit: [www.serve.gov/toolkits/disaster/](http://www.serve.gov/toolkits/disaster/) [www.serveohio.org](http://www.serveohio.org)

Also, as a lead in to September as National Preparedness Month, **United We Serve will promote the week of August 24-30 as "Safety and Security Week"** and will send out national press releases and prominently feature stories focused on volunteerism in the arenas of disaster preparedness and recovery. If your organization has volunteer activities occurring the week of August 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> that relate to "Safety and Security," please reach out to Fred Wong, Outreach Coordinator for United We Serve at the Corporation for National and Community Service at [fwong@cns.gov](mailto:fwong@cns.gov), to share your story.

## Ohio EMA Supervisor Receives Emergency Management Associate Degree

Karen Kadar, planning supervisor of Ohio EMA's Readiness and Response Branch, recently received an Associate of Applied Science degree in Emergency Management from the Frederick Community College in Maryland. Because she already has a bachelor degree, she was able to receive her associate in emergency management in approximately one year.



Karen first took a series of online individual study courses from FEMA's Emergency Management Institute; submitted her completed EMI courses to Frederick Community College for conversion to college credits; took a total of four proctored (monitored) exams at a local community college; and completed an internship project. Karen graduated with high honors.

Karen has been with Ohio EMA for nearly two years. Previous to working at EMA, she was at the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety for five years.

"Since I've been in my position here, I already had a solid safety background, but wanted a solid foundation in emergency management," said Kadar. "I wanted to be more effective in my job."

### EMA UPDATES

#### **Jack Bossert, Chief**

Ohio EMA Preparedness Grants  
Retiring from the State after more than 30 years of dedicated service.

Last day at Ohio EMA: **July 31**

#### **Ramona Hauenstein, Secretary**

Ohio EMA Radiological Branch  
Retiring from the State after 30 years of dedicated service.

Last day at Ohio EMA: **August 31**

#### **William Ommert, Director Huron County EMA**

Retiring from the County EMA after more than 18 years of dedicated service.

Last day at Huron County EMA: **August 31**

#### **Jeff Galloway, Director (effective Aug. 3) Butler County EMA**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July 26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Developing & Maintaining Local EOPs <i>Defiance Co EMA</i>	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>August 1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Poster Contest Awards Ceremony State Fair 12pm
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness (IAEM) Arlington, Virginia			L449 Incident Command System Train-the-Trainer Ohio EMA			
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Water TAC Ohio EMA	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>

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

\* TAC - Technical Advisory Committee