

Fairfield County
Emergency
Management Agency

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Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Quarterly Updates

Volume 3, Issue 2

December, 2009

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The Medical Reserve Corps Responds to the H1N1 Emergency

The Fairfield County's Medical Reserve Corps is out in full force. At the last printing of this newsletter,



the Medical Reserve Corps had 1 volunteer. Today they have over 200 volun-

teers and are actively responding to the H1N1 Health Department's response.

MRC units are community-based groups that function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers, medical professionals and others, who want to donate their time and expertise to promote healthy living throughout the year and to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

The Health Department is currently working to vaccinate the county's Tier 1 Population. Clinics have been hosted at the River Valley Mall as well as county schools. Liberty Union and Bloom Carroll schools have completed their vaccination clinics



with Pickerington Schools occurring before the Christmas Holiday. Everyone has been pleased with the coordination of the clinics, as they were planned to help eliminate the problems other counties were facing at the start of this response.

The Health Department continues to coordinate future dates with the county school districts to try to accomplish saturation within the county's Tier 1 population. At that time, they will begin community clinics for the whole population (December 14).

Volunteers are still needed and encouraged to register at the EMA office. This response is a long term project, and the current volunteers may start to drop off as they have scheduling conflicts. With additional volunteers, we hope to minimize the burden on any of the volunteers.



Emergency Operations Center—Gets Upgrades

The Emergency Management Agency has now been at the new location for a few months, but the construction process is set to start in January. Part of the move to the new location was with the hopes of receiving an Emergency Planning Special Projects EOC grant from the

State EMA. This grant has been awarded, with the match from the County Commissioners, so the construction process will begin in January to bring the EOC up to the State Requirements, while also making the facility a state-of-the-art emergency response facility. The up-

grades will include a full radio room, a joint information center, upgrades to audio/visual capabilities, a building wide security system, and will support the personal needs of the responders in case of a long term response. The space will be used for trainings offered by EMA.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

By Bob Clark

The County's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a Committee required under federal and state laws to oversee Hazardous Chemicals and Facilities that produce, use or store hazardous chemicals. The LEPC was first formed in Fairfield County in the late 1980s and the Committee consists of representatives from law enforcement, fire departments to include emergency medical units,

chemical facilities, elected officials, emergency management, media, health department, hospital, transportation, environmental and amateur radio.

During the past year the Committee has completed the annual update of the Hazmat plan, conducted a hazmat exercise, accomplished inspections of facilities under the compliance program, supported several training sessions, and conducted

quarterly meetings of the Committee. The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) evaluates the Hazmat Plan and the Hazmat exercises and the SERC has approved both the updated plan and the conduct of the exercise.

The committee will begin shortly making plans for the 2010 Annual Exercise. The location of the exercise will be hosted in the Village of Baltimore.



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

By Criss Manning

First of all, thanks to the CERT members who attend the trainings, responds to the emails, and are helping with the growth and development of an effective Community Emergency Response Team.

This past year, we received training on:

1. Sheltering Classes from The American Red Cross where we learned to set up, maintain and shut down an emergency shelter
2. C.A.R.T. class from Cmdr Ralph Portier for missing and abducted children
3. Chain Saw training

from Paul Manning for proper use and maintenance of our equipment

4. Weather Spotter class from the great staff from Wilmington Weather Station
5. CERT training class which brought 17 new CERT members into our group

For the remainder of this calendar year, we will not be conducting any training classes. We do need to spend an afternoon organizing the trailer, ensuring the radios are ready to go, batteries are good, and so on. If you have a couple hours to spare, send me a note. All help is appreciated. In regards to the H1N1

situation, thanks to all of you who are taking time out of your personal schedule to assist at the clinics. This is a great combination of the CERT and MRC working together to create a safe environment for all Fairfield County Residents.

Thanks for all you do and your commitment to EMA, CERT and Fairfield County.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

The Medical Reserve Corps still needs volunteers to help with the H1N1 clinics... Sign Up Today!



Special Operations Team

By Rick Hoffman

The Fairfield County Special Operations Team has been busy over the past few months with many activities.

glad that we showed an interest in their businesses and can help them in case they have an emergency. They also realize that we are a source of information.

Members were present from the Fairfield County Sheriff, Pickerington PD and Lancaster PD. They were given 8 hours of training from the Ohio WMD/Hazmat program and personal protective equipment session for escape purposes only. This means that they may dress up to the level C protection while on the outer perimeter of a hazmat incident. They now have a better understanding of how the Special Operation Teams operate and how they can closely work together.

DIVE TRUCK: The dive truck is finished, everything is paid for and ready to go. It's housed in the county building on Lincoln Avenue that used to be the carwash and is ready for active service when needed

TRAINING: The SOT and the dive team have completed various training activities recently. The dive team practice dives regularly in one of the local lakes. The hazmat branch has also had trainings

The team continues to grow in numbers of members as well as the upgrading of equipment.



LEPC INSPECTIONS: All of the inspections for the LEPC have been completed and there were no violations noted. All contacts were very friendly and they were

specializing in highway cargo tanks and more ways to dike, dam, and divert.

We trained approximately 100 law enforcement officers in Fairfield County in three training ses-

Almost everything has been obtained for the team's HazMat Type 2 inspection needs.

*Winter Weather is coming... make sure you are prepared!
(Hints on page 4)*

2009's Fairfield County's Emergency Operation Plan

The plan was distributed during the month of November. Many hours of updates and rewriting were done by Bob Clark to ensure that the distributed plan was the most accurate representation of the county's emergency response plan.

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We're on the WEB at
www.fairfieldema.com



Information taken from
www.ready.gov.

NOTE: The snow levels that dictate the snow emergencies have changed for Franklin County... but not for Fairfield.

Our Mission

To establish, coordinate and sustain partnerships throughout Fairfield County, united in efforts to prepare for emergencies and to minimize loss of life and property and help the community to return to normalcy when they occur.

Winter Months mean Winter Weather! Be Prepared!

When a **Winter Storm WARNING** is issued

- Stay indoors during the storm.
- If you must go outside, several layers of light-weight clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves (or mittens) and a hat will prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs.
- Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.
- If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all

faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).

- Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid build-up of toxic fumes. Refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet from flammable objects.

Avoid traveling by car in a storm, but if you must...

- Carry an Emergency Supply Kit in the trunk.
- Keep your car's gas tank full for emergency

use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.

- Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.
- Eat regularly and drink ample fluids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- Conserve fuel, if necessary, by keeping your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.