

Fairfield County  
Emergency  
Management Agency

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*Jon Kochis, Director*

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# Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Quarterly Updates

## New Emergency Operations Center is dedicated to Thomas Moe!



**The Fairfield County EOC is now complete.**

It has been a long process, but we are proud to say that the Fairfield County now has a permanent standing Emergency Operations Center.

The purpose of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is to be the physical location where a jurisdiction comes together during an emergency to coordinate response and recovery actions, as well as resources. Previously the county had a standing agreement with the Sheriff's Office to use their space in the event of an emergency. This agreement would not only be an inconvenience for the Sheriff's office staff, but

would also delay the response due to the time it took up to setup up the EOC.

This newly renovated space on level one in the Job and Family Services building, on the corner of Memorial and Main in Lancaster, will allow for a

fast and smooth transition into the needed response for a large scale emergency.

Thanks to the support of the Fairfield County Commissioners and a generous grant from the Ohio EMA, this EOC has become a reality. Jon Kochis, the director of the EMA, is excited to see the facility response-ready. It certainly is a great asset to the county.

Due to his great service to the community and country, the EOC was dedicated

in honor of Thomas N. Moe. Tom was a previous EMA Director in Fairfield County, and continues to be involved in his local community.

A special thanks to all that attended the dedication ceremony on September 8th.



**Director Kochis dedicates EOC to Thomas Moe**



**The county commissioners and Director Kochis with Tom Moe.**



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*Mitigation Plan Update  
has now been funded by  
Congress!*

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## Mitigation Plan Update

The County's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update can finally continue as Congress has passed legislation which provided FEMA funds for mitigation planning grants.

The updated multi-jurisdiction mitigation plan will include all incorporated jurisdictions. Each of these jurisdictions will be listed in the plan as participants. Townships are covered

under by the County Commissioner's adoption of the plan.

The next meeting of the CORE group will be held on October 6, 2010. At this meeting the Group will discuss the considerable changes to federal requirements since 2003 and get started on the updates.

We need the assistance and input of all jurisdictions in order to accu-

rately address mitigation problems and concerns of the jurisdiction, to identify local actions plans, and to keep everyone fully advised of our activities and progress. The EMA staff will coordinate with the jurisdictional authorities to request local meetings in order to discuss the information in the current mitigation plan and any changes necessary to bring the plan up-to-date.

## Citizen Corps (CERT/MRC)

Terri Lehman who has served as the Medical Reserve Corps coordinator is stepping down. Terri is moving out of the Fairfield County area later this year. She has done a great job getting the Medical Reserve Corps up and running in Fairfield County over the past few years, and worked hard with the Health Department through the H1N1 situation. We hate to see her leave, but wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors. At this time, Criss Manning will be coordinating the Citizen Corps group—which will include both

the MRC and CERT teams.

The Citizen Corps has started monthly meetings and trainings. These meeting times offer a chance for Citizen Corps members to gain some additional training, as well as spend time getting to know others on the team. Having a working relationship before an emergency, makes it easier for everyone to work together during an emergency. Please contact Criss if you need meeting times or details. Meetings

will be held at EMA.

**NOTE:** *If anyone from the Citizen Corps has some time to volunteer at the upcoming Fairfield County Fair at the EMA tent, please contact Criss at [ffccert@yahoo.com](mailto:ffccert@yahoo.com).*



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*Citizen Corps is looking  
for volunteers to staff the  
EMA tent at the Fairfield  
County Fair!*

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## Special Operations Team (SOT) ... HazMat, Dive and ISO

With HMEP matching funds, the Fairfield County EMA hosted the HazMat IQ course in August. The HazMat IQ class was a success with many of the HazMat members attending, as well as other county Fire Fighters. A great amount of useful knowledge was gained to quickly access a Hazardous Material situation on scene in our county. The training was informative and very applicable to all in attendance.

We also just completed a Haz-Mat technician class (see inserted pic-

tures) at Greenfield Twp. Of the participants in the class, we hope to gain new members for the SOT.

Chief of the Special Operations Team, Rick Hoffman, received his open water diving certification through Black-Water Scuba and will be joining the dive portion of the SOT.

### TRAININGS:

A HazMat training will be offered September 28th at Greenfield Twp. Fire Department at 1900 hours. Contact [hazmat@co.fairfield.oh.us](mailto:hazmat@co.fairfield.oh.us)

if you are interested. The Railcar Specialist Course that was scheduled at Bremen F.D. recently was cancelled due to lack of students. We will reschedule if we find a host department in the county. This class is available to paid and non-paid departments at no charge and is a 2-day class. Contact Rick Hoffman for more information. We must have a minimum of 12 students.



## Other Updates

- With the contributions of siren parts from Lake County and additional work and parts from local resources, we are able to rebuild and install 3 additional county sirens. After the installation is completed, this will bring us up to a total of 44 sirens serving Fairfield County (including the 8 installed by

- the City of Lancaster).
- The County's Emergency Operations Plan's annual update will be completed in September and forwarded to OHEMA for review and approval on October 1, 2010.
- The Alert-Fairfield County ... emergency calling system is up and running. Hundreds of

citizens have signed up online with their cell and VOIP phone lines to be contacted during an emergency. A test of the system will be scheduled soon to ensure that we have full functionality. Several trainings have occurred for key community personnel for their use of the system.

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***Sirens, Alert Fairfield and the Operations Plan are all getting updates.***

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We're on the WEB at  
[www.fairfieldema.com](http://www.fairfieldema.com)

# 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.

*Mark your calendars for  
National Preparedness  
Month  
September, 2010*

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

## September is National Preparedness Month (NPM)

Launched in February 2003, *Ready* is a national public service advertising (PSA) campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural and man-made disasters. The goal of the campaign is to get the public involved and ultimately to increase the level of basic preparedness across the nation.

*Ready* and its Spanish language version *Listo*

ask individuals to do three key things: (1) get an emergency supply kit, (2) make a family emergency plan, and (3) be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

The websites highlight emergency preparedness through National Preparedness Month (NPM), a nationwide effort held each September to encourage citizens to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their

homes, businesses and schools.

**ARE YOU READY?**

*Information taken from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). Additional information and resources are available online.*

