

Fairfield County
Emergency
Management Agency

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Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Quarterly Updates

The EOC gets in Shape with an Exercise

Well after many years in the planning, and many months in construction, the Fairfield County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is officially in full working order. On March 24th, the members of the EOC, that would respond in case of an emergency, came out and tested the facility. With the use of the new computer file server and projection equipment, many were impressed with the ability of the Center.

Grant funding was available for the full exercise that included many of the county's key departments and emergency responders. The EOC responders are those that would coordinate the county's resources to respond to any large emergency affecting the county's residents. By having all the key departments and people in one location, coordination can be accom-

plished quickly and necessary decisions made, allowing the resources to get to where they are needed in the fastest time possible.

Through this exercise, the EMA continues to see areas where they can learn and make improvements. It is always a learning experience when you have an exercise, so that the kinks are hopefully all worked out when a real emergency happens. The time that the EOC responders also have working face-to-face is invaluable, so that trust is built prior to the stressful time of an emergency.

The EMA wants to thank everyone for their participation who contributed to the Exercise. It does take a commitment of time, but the dedication to the residents of Fairfield County is appreciated.

Homeland Security Grant Funding FY2010 Update:

The Homeland Security Advisory Committee has determined that the Narrowbanding issue that is looming over the county is of top priority. Since many county responders' radios are not narrowband ready, the Homeland Security Grant funding will be used in its entirety to purchase a portion of the needed radios.

This grant year can not afford to purchase all needed radios, so possible use of future grant funding years will also be used.

The deadline for compliance of the narrowbanding is January 1, 2013.

<http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/narrowbanding.html>



Mitigating Damage!

Mitigation Plan Update

The CORE Planning Group met in January and reviewed the working draft of the 2011 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The Group made suggestions on changes and additions to the draft plan.

The EMA Staff updated the draft plan and incorporated the recommendations of the CORE Group. The final draft of the Plan was forwarded to OH EMA on

February 24, 2011 for their review.

The plan has been returned and the EMA is working with local jurisdictions to make the recommended changes to the plan. It will then be sent to OH EMA for their final review and forwarded to FEMA for their review and final approval. The current County Mitigation Plan will expire on November 6, 2011.

CAMEO:

The EPA's Hazardous Material Reporting from the facilities is completed and CAMEO has been updated. If you use the CAMEO program and would like the updated data, please contact the EMA office at 740-654-4357.

Citizen Corps (CERT/MRC)

The Fairfield County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) are two valuable groups of volunteers that would help our county to recover in case of an emergency. At this time, we are combining the coordination of both teams under the direction of Criss Manning who will be our Citizen Corps coordinator.



organizational skills are an asset to the efforts of the EMA.

OTHER NEWS:

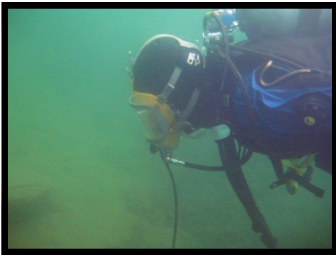
The EMA offered a CERT training course to the members of the Fairfield County Mobile Community Watch members this past February/March. Since these volunteers already

are involved in helping the residents of Fairfield County by assisting the Sheriff's Office, it was simply a good fit to offer them additional training so that they can assist their communities in emergency situations. It is a reality that in a community emergency, it is the community members that are there first to help respond and save lives. By having these Community Watch Members trained, it is making communities safer. A special thanks to all that were involved.

The CERT and MRC join efforts!!!

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

The Fairfield County Special Operations Water Rescue and Dive Team continues to stay very active in training and preparation. Over the past several months, they have completed some routine training dives. They were also recently called upon to assist the Perry Co Sheriff's Office with a search for a



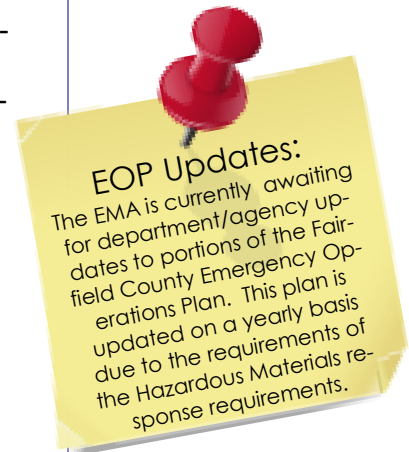
possible drowning outside Junction City. The training schedule also included some ice diving. The most recent ice dives were with conditions being: 9 inches of ice and a 12 or 13 degree air temp. These extreme conditions are realistic rescue possibilities and the opportunity to practice prior to the emergency is needed.

The team continues to also stay prepared by purchasing additional

needed equipment and gear, including new duffle bags for dive suit protection, and 50 lbs of lead weight for the divers.

OTHER NEWS:

A recent article in This Week News states that the Pickerington City Council is purchasing personal dive equipment for Jason Bontrager, the only certified diver on the Pickerington Police Department, and a member of the Fairfield County's Special Operations Water Rescue and Dive Team. Having his own gear will make the response time to the scene much quicker.



Other Items:

Training

ICS 300/400

The ICS 300/400 Class is being offered free of charge in Canal Winchester May 18, 19, and 20, 2011. Applications can be found online at www.fairfieldema.com and are due by May 13, 2011 to the EMA office.

Training

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The CERT team is planning another training in the Pickerington area this Spring. Email emacitizen-corps@co.fairfield.oh.us if you are interested in taking this training.

Siren Update

The EMA is planning to install the 44th Outdoor Warning Siren in the county on May 9th. This siren is being installed in Violet Township.



Weather Radios are available for sale from the Fairfield County EMA! Make sure you are prepared for Severe Weather! Radios sell for \$45 and \$55.

*Available
FREE
Trainings!*

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

*If your home
floods, your home
owners insurance
does not cover the
damage... be
prepared.*



Flood insurance is available to homeowners, renters, condo owners/renters, and commercial owners/renters. Costs vary depending on how much insurance is purchased, what it covers, and

the property's flood risk.

All policy forms provide coverage for buildings and contents. However, you might want to discuss insuring personal property with your agent, since contents coverage is optional. Typically, there's a 30-day waiting period from date of purchase before your policy goes into effect. That means now is the best time to buy flood insurance.

Flood Information 101

By now, you probably know that only flood insurance covers flood damage, but you probably don't know all of the details. Here are a few of the more frequent terms:

Insurance Agent

Flood insurance can only be

purchased through an insurance agent; you cannot buy it directly from the federal government. If your local insurance agent is unfamiliar with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can contact the NFIP at (888) 379-9531 to request an agent referral

Mandatory Requirements

Homes and businesses with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders in high-risk flood areas are required to have flood insurance. While flood insurance is not federally required if you live in a moderate-to-low risk flood area, it is still available and strongly recommended.

All information taken from
<http://www.floodsmart.gov/>

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.

REMEMBER: Only FEMA Flood Insurance covers FLOODS

Protect Yourself with Flood Insurance

Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Over the past 10 years, the average flood claim has amounted to nearly \$48,000. Flood insurance is the best way to protect yourself from devastating financial loss.