

Fairfield County
Emergency
Management Agency

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Year 2011, Issue 4

October - December 2011

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Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Quarterly Updates

Alert Fairfield - Gets an UPDATE!

Starting in January 2012, the Alert Fairfield emergency notification system is getting an update. As in the past, the Reverse Calling Emergency Notification system continues to be a tool that emergency responders can use to notify residents of Fairfield County of emergency situations. These situations could include a water boil alert, a missing person, an evacuation notice, or even a Shelter-in-Place notice.

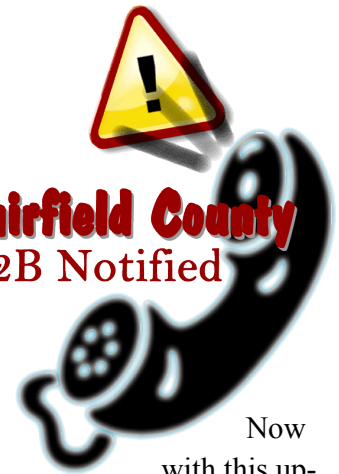
Last year we notified the county residents that if they did not own a landline phone, that this system required them to sign up online. We continue to request that residents sign up so that they can receive these priceless notifications.

Now, we are adding to the benefit of the system

by adding Tornado warnings. These call notifications would go out to registered phone numbers with addresses located within the National Weather Services tornado warning box. Once the warning was sent out by NWS, then the system would be automatically activated to notify by phone of the emergency and to take shelter.

In the past the only notifications of tornado warnings were the Outdoor warning signals (if you were outside) or television or radio announcements (if you were indoors or in your car). Plus, these notifications were for county-wide, and not just the area really being affected.

**Alert - Fairfield County
Sign up 2B Notified**



Now with this updated service, the warnings can come directly to your phone, allowing for immediate reaction and safety, and only to the homes in the warning area.

Please know that this service is only an opt-in service, so even if you have a landline, you must register that you would like to receive these notifications.

Go online now to www.fairfieldema.com and click on the Alert Fairfield Link to sign up today.



Operations Updates

Planning and Operations @ EMA

The duty of preparing for an county emergency is a full time job of the EMA. As personnel, technology and skills change over time, so the response planning has to change to reflect the skills and abilities of the county. Current planning activities include:

1. The Annual updated Fairfield County 2011 Emergency Operating Plans (EOP) were mailed out to the juris-

dictions with an effective date of 1 October 2011. We still have not received all the signed receipt's back from the agencies or organizations, as this is part of the plan process.

2. The Final FEMA Approved 2012 Fairfield County Debris Management Plan was sent out to our Debris Managers on 10 December 2011. Anyone that would like to have a copy can con-

tact Bill Gilliam at the Fairfield County EMA Office.

3. The Debris Management aspect of the emergency response is also being reviewed. We continue to work and research local vendors for Debris Removal contracts. These vendors will be on a pre-approved list that can be used in the event of an incident, when mutual aid is exhausted.

Citizen Corps (CERT/MRC)

Since October, we have had the help of Brian Hardwick and Mindy Armbrust taking over the daily organization of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) respectively. It is a great to welcome them to the team officially. We look forward to their leadership in the future.



Brian:
emacert@co.fairfield.oh.us

Mindy:
emamrc@co.fairfield.oh.us

MRC Conference

In November, Mindy was able to attend a regional MRC Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. She says that this con-

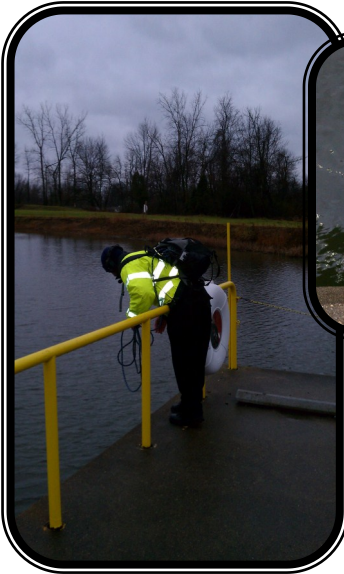
ference was full of great ideas, resources, and contacts that she knows will be great information to bring back to Fairfield County. We want to thank Mindy for taking the time to attend the conference and for being a great representation of the county to the region.

CPR/First Aid

The Citizen Corps team also held a First Aid & CPR class on November 17 at the EMA office. This class will be offered again soon for anyone interested in getting certified, or for anyone needing a refresher course.

*Keeping in
touch!!!*

Special Operations Team (SOT) ~ HazMat, Water Rescue, ISO



Water Rescue Team

Fall 2011 presented a fairly slow season for the Dive/Water Rescue Team. We had a few



runs, that were eventually cancelled enroute by on scene personnel, some minor mechanical work on the truck, and one request for a pier inspection from the Ohio Fire Academy on East Main Street in Reynoldsburg. Diver Kurt Davis was called into service with his prior experience in the commercial diving field, and

entered the no visibility water to feel the concrete pilings for cracks or damage. While nothing was found, it was still a good

chance to do a dive a bit different than the team is used to. It was also good training for Diver Jason Bontrager to tend from the pier. All did a great job, and the OFA was very appreciative. The team is gearing up for another ice season, and has several trainings planned over the winter, hopefully diving under the ice canopy!

Other Items:

Narrowbanding Radios

With the use of the FY2010 State Homeland Security Grant funds, the EMA was able to upgrade 94 mobiles and 127 handheld radios for county responders. These radios are currently being distributed to the local jurisdictional fire and law enforcement agencies around the county.

Since most of the jurisdictions had communication equipment that was not narrowband capable, these radio purchases were appreciated by everyone.

Weather Spotter Training 2012

The Meteorologists from the National Weather Service are once again coming to Fairfield County offering the

Weather Spotter Training. This free training is offered to anyone interested in learning about how to safely observe storms and how to report them to the NWS. If you are interested in weather and learning about the clues of the storm, then this session is for you. Sign up today at www.fairfieldema.com.
When: March 21, 6pm



Free Trainings Available!!

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

*Are you prepared
for a winter storm?
See information
that www.fema.gov
provides.*



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.

What to do... During Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

- Stay indoors during the storm.
- Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack. If you must shovel snow, stretch before going outside.
- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat.
- Watch for signs of frostbite. These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Watch for signs of hypothermia. These include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. If symptoms of hypothermia are detected, get the victim to a warm location, remove wet clothing, warm the center of the body first and give warm, non-alcoholic beverages if the victim is conscious. Get medical help as soon as possible.
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive: travel in the day; don't travel alone; keep others informed of your schedule; stay on main roads and avoid back road shortcuts. Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive.
- 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.
- 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.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F.