

Fairfield County
Emergency
Management Agency

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Jon Kochis, Director

Year 2012, Issue 1

January - March 2012

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- Mitigation Plan Approved
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- Lots of Training going on...



Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Quarterly Updates

The LEPC - Exercises the County's Ability to Respond

On March 23, 2012, the EMA and other local emergency responders met at the Pickerington Police Department to exercise their response to an emergency scenario. The scenario of a tornado creating a valley of destruction through Old Pickerington, causing a train derailment of a hazardous substance, is not that impossible. By considering the timing of the Friday night disaster, and the concurrent football game at Central High School, a person could start to add up the severity of the destruction and the lives impacted.

The group of 20+ responders discussed how they could save lives and control damages. This included setting up a command center that city and township operations could respond in unison, as communication is so vital in the first moments following disasters. There was also time spent on discussing how the different agencies and responders could

control the hazardous materials spill, to control traffic, and manage evacuation of those in the immediate area.

These exercises are setup to test the preparedness of the first responders and response agencies, and also allow open communication between parties so that in times of emergencies all parties



are comfortable in working as a team. This exercise was evaluated and all areas tested were met and/or exceeded. Citizens of Fairfield County should feel comforted that these activities are making this county a safer place to live.

Newest EMA Team Member

In January of 2012, the EMA welcomed the newest addition to our EMA Team, Craig Spiller.

Craig Spiller takes on the responsibilities of facilitating the Logistical Support to our emergency response. The works hours of logistical support are spent in preparation by creating a database of contacts and support agencies of those that can be contacted to supply valuable resources

and equipment needed in the first moments after a disaster or emergency.



Continued on page 3...

Operations Updates

FEMA Approved New Fairfield County Mitigation Plan

Officials of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency informed Director Jon Kochis that personnel from the Region V, FEMA's Mitigation Branch had approved the draft of the plan following its adoption by the County and the fourteen participating jurisdictions (County, Cities, and Villages).

Work to replace the County's October 7, 2003 Hazard Mitigation plan, that was scheduled to expire on November 6,

2011, started in October of 2010 in an initial planning meeting with the County's CORE planning group. Over the next eleven months the County EMA staff and the CORE group members coordinated with the participating jurisdictions, county and other agencies in order to complete the plan.

The 2011 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan was developed in accordance with current State and Federal guidance. The guidance had changed

considerably since 2003 requiring major changes to the plan.

FEMA's formal approval date for the plan is February 1, 2012 and the plan will remain in effect, and allow Fairfield County jurisdictions to participate in any State or Federal mitigation grants offered, until the plan expires on January 31, 2017 at which time the plan must be updated again.

Congratulations to our participating jurisdictions for their continued support and adoption of the plan. The federal approval of this plan ensures continued availability of the full complement of Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants.

Citizen Corps (CERT/MRC)

The CERT Team has continued with their ongoing training opportunities to keep the team involved and working cohesively. By having a group of volunteers actively getting together, and increasing their skill set, they will make their response activities an even greater asset to the countywide responding team. Some of the recent activities have been:



1/25 General CERT meeting - Discussion of 2012 and review of 2011

1/26 and 3/13 Basic First Aid & CPR Class

2/22 EOC Overview - for all CERT members interested in working the EOC

If you are a member of the CERT Team and need to update your contact information or if you need to reach Brian Hardwick, Coordinator for any reason, please email him at:

emacert@co.fairfield.oh.us

MEETING DATE

Fairfield County Local
Emergency Planning
Committee (LEPC) and
Homeland Security
Advisory Committee (HS)

Meeting:

The next meeting date will be
Thursday, June 7 at 9 AM at
the County EOC/EMA Office

Keeping in touch!!!

Spiller (cont. from page 1)

Craig also works as a Lancaster Fire Department Professional Fire Fighter/Medic. His experience in emergency response brings the quick thinking and knowledge of issues that can occur during the initial critical time in the response timeline. This experience also helps him in knowing the needs and demands of the first responders on the scene and trying to meet their response needs.

Craig is a Fairfield County resident of 21 years. He is married to Jennifer and is the father of 2 boys, Carson and Blake. We are excited to have him as part of the Fairfield County EMA Team.

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



The Special Operations Team is working on a plan to make a vital county resource work even better. The plans are set to cross-train the Hazmat and Water Rescue Teams so that all members of the SOT can respond to a greater variety of emergencies. By giving the Hazmat Team basic water rescue skills, and the water rescue team basic hazmat response skills, the team becomes a stronger team.

Since these responders are volunteers, schedules can become busy and limit the ability of team members to respond. By having more personnel with a greater skill set, the team is able to be more effective.

The team also continues other trainings for the team members throughout the year. Upcoming trainings include:

- 5/22 Dive Team at Rock Mill Dam
- 7/3 BLASST @ Buckeye Lake - on call for emergencies
- 7/21 Insertion and Recovery of a motor vehicle in Lakeview.

HAZMAT TIDBITS:

Recently, the hazmat branch has received numerous calls from homeowners about small amounts of unknown chemicals or substances found on their property. As a reminder, the hazmat team is not responsible to remove or dispose of these products. Unfortunately, Fairfield County is not having a hazardous waste clean-up day this year, so residents are urged to contact the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). The link to the household hazardous waste page is <http://www.swaco.org/SmartPeople/HHW.aspx>

If you have any questions about Mercury spills in your home, take a look at the EMA webpage <http://www.fairfieldema.com/resources/mercury.html> This will answer most of your Mercury questions about thermostat switches and common fever thermometer spills.

Other Items:

Want to Help in a Disaster with Response to Pets, Livestock and Wildlife?

This session will be presented by Dr. Aaron K. Messer DVM, RS with the Columbus Public Health Department. This information is open to "ANYONE" that would like to be part of our Fairfield County Disaster Re-

sponse Team to Pets, Livestock and Wildlife. There are two sessions 2:00-4:00 and 6:00-8:00 on June 6, 2012 at our Emergency Operations Center. Please call our office if you plan to attend and let us know which session you would like.

Damage Assessment Class

This training is open to our CERT and Red Cross volunteers on April 26,

2012 from 6:00-8:00. Bob Clark and Bill Gilliam will be presenting Damage Assessment guidance to our volunteers.

Propane Emergency Responder Training

This class is being offered to first responders on Saturday, May 12 from 8am—4pm. Go online to www.fairfieldema.com/training to register.

Free Trainings

Available -

Call

740-654-4357

to register for any of our classes.

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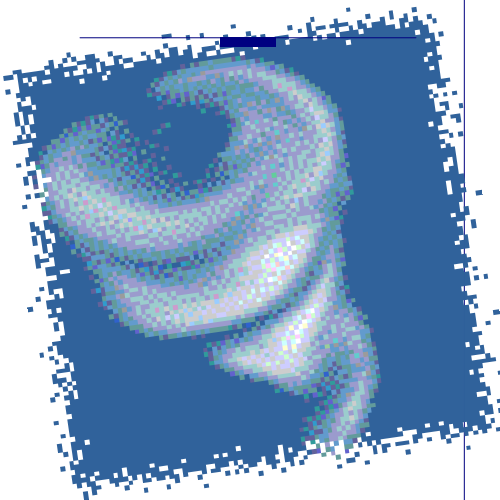
We're on the WEB at
www.fairfieldema.com

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.

What to know... Before a Tornado

Good to KNOW! Tornado 4-1-1



Quick facts you should know about tornadoes:

- ↳ They may strike quickly, with little or no warning.
- ↳ They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- ↳ The average tornado moves Southwest to Northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direc-

tion.

- ↳ The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph, but may vary from stationary to 70 mph.
- ↳ Tornadoes can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move onto land.
- ↳ Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over water.
- ↳ Tornadoes are most frequently reported east of the Rocky Mountains during

spring and summer months.

- ↳ Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May; in the northern states, it is late spring through early summer.
- ↳ Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 pm and 9 pm, but can occur at any time.

Good to know... but be prepared... have an emergency plan before a tornado strikes.