

The
July
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EMA Report

NEWSLETTER FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

VOLUME II, NUMBER 8

FCEM&HS WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

The emergency management/homeland security staff of FCEM&HS is anxiously awaiting July 14th. This is the date Marine Reserve Colonel Michael R. Pannell is coming onboard as Director of the Agency after retiring from duty as the deputy commanding general of the 4th Marine Division.

Col. Pannell's plan for the agency consists of four components: assess, change, respect and future.

Please join our staff in welcoming Col. Pannell to the agency.

NIMSCAST

NIMSCAST IS UP AND READY FOR ENTRY OF FFY 2008 RESPONSES

The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 NIMS Compliance Objectives questions have been uploaded to the online NIMSCAST system by the National Integration Center Incident Management Systems Division and can be accessed. The login page of the NIMSCAST is <https://www.fema.gov/nimscast/Logon.do>.

A portion of the FFY 2007 information entered last year has been pre-loaded into the NIMSCAST screens for this year. Changes can be made to the pre-loaded answers if needed. A new feature in NIMSCAST allows for the state to include

guidance language on each screen. The state NIMSCAST administrator has loaded information from the FFY08 Ohio NIMS Implementation Guidance (available at <http://www.ema.ohio.gov/nims.asp>) onto the response screens for county and local jurisdictions. This should help alleviate a majority of the difficulties in dealing with objectives that are more applicable to certain levels of government or certain functions than others.

FCEM&HS IS ASKING THAT THE JURISDICTIONS COMPLETE THEIR ENTRY AND ROLLUP OF COMPLETED RESPONSES BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 22ND

FCEM&HS OFFICE CLOSED JULY 4

FCEM&HS will be closed Friday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Should severe weather be forecast for



Franklin County; on-call staff will be monitoring the situation and will report to work if needed.

SNOW DECLARATION

Federal aid was available to supplement state and local response efforts in the area struck by record snow and near record snow during the period of March 7-9, 2008. On Thursday, May 8th FCEM&HS hosted an informational meeting of all eligible entities at our office.

As of Monday, June 30th, \$98,210.00 has been distributed to the various county agencies/municipalities that applied.

Congratulations and nice work to all who were granted reimbursement dollars through FEMA for the snow declaration.

If your jurisdiction or school district is interested in appointing or changing your fiscal point of contact and/or the point



of contact for damage assessment contact Jamie Stout, Planning Manager, at jlstout@franklincountyohio.gov.

JUNE WEATHER

June 2008 is the wettest June on record for Columbus and the fifth wettest month ever at Columbus. The Port Columbus International Airport officially received 10.39 inches of rainfall for the month of June. The previous record was 9.75 inches set in June 1958.

Due to the unstable weather conditions in June, FCEM&HS staff was busier than ever. The on-call staff was diligent in monitoring the weather and checking with the National Weather Service for updates.

During the most recent storms of June 25-28th, the amount of rainfall received caused flooding in certain areas. FCEM&HS staff checked on known areas that are subject to flooding and initiated contact with the American Red Cross (ARC) on June 25 to report areas of concern and asked them to visit and help with basic services.

With the forecast initially calling for the possibility of heavy rains continuing for the remainder of the week, the ARC activated their EOC and provided FCEM&HS with site assessments. ARC placed a shelter on stand-by in case it was needed.

On June 26th, Dan Winningham and Brigitte Bouska from OEMA visited and went out with staff members Jan Bartel and Jamie Stout to do some preliminary damage assessments of the affected areas. Thankfully,

there was no wide-spread damage, the torrential rains did not materialize that day and no evacuations were necessary.

Staff continued to monitor the weather for the weekend and worked up an action plan in case severe weather hit. Weather forecasts were predicting severe storms Friday night, potentially worse storms on Saturday and again severe storms on Sunday. There were numerous events in the County that weekend where large crowds would be gathering outside making themselves vulnerable, particularly during the day on Saturday: Special Olympics at OSU, Bike race in Grandview Heights, Comm Fest in Goodale Park, Pride Festival and Parade downtown. Also, construction of Rt. 315 was scheduled to begin that weekend which could have been an issue with evacuation of Special Olympics.

A severe thunderstorm warning was issued for Saturday, June 28th. The FCEM&HS staff was prepared and made contact with the necessary entities for the above mentioned events and kept them apprised of the situation.

This is just an example of the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Staff's ongoing efforts to adequately protect the citizens of Franklin County.

OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY TABLETOP EXERCISE



On June 24th the Ohio Dominican University (ODU) held a tabletop exercise (TTX) to exercise their new Emergency Action Plan. The scenario for the exercise entailed a dormitory fire.

Chief Doug Nunnally, ODU Director: Safety & Security, who has since moved on to pursue other interests, was the point of contact for the

exercise. The exercise design team consisted of Chief Nunnally, personnel from FCEM&HS, American Red Cross, City of Columbus Division of Fire and City of Columbus Division of Police.

It was stressed that this was not a pass or fail exercise but strictly a learning tool.

The exercise allowed good interaction between ODU personnel and the Fire and Law Enforcement officers that would respond should there be an actual incident on campus.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

The American Red Cross recently honored and recognized the following volunteers for continually demonstrating their dedication to the Emergency Services Department's mission.

Gretchen Herr received the "National Disaster Preparedness and Response Award" for outstanding service with the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus.

Renea Hushour was awarded the "Ann Magnussen Award" for exceptional Red Cross service in nursing.

Please make sure that you congratulate Gretchen and Renea next time you see them.

Also, the "Good Neighbor Award" was awarded to the Columbus Public Safety Department Division of Support Services Communications Section for their outstanding collaboration with the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus. For the past three years their department has played a pivotal role in strengthening the ARC Emergency Communications and Response Technologies team.

BOY SCOUTS VISIT

Boy Scout Troop 243 visited the FCEM&HS facility on the evening of Monday, June 30th.

Three adults accompanied nine boy scouts for a tour and information.

Because of the two recent incidents involving boy scouts (the tornado at a boy scout camp in Iowa and the Ohio boy scout who likely died of heat exhaustion on a hike) the troop was looking

for information on tornado safety and emergency preparedness.

Several boy scout troops are looking into some type of emergency preparedness training.



Siren Update

Three new sirens have been installed in the City of Columbus and will be up and running in the near future. They are located at: 2055 Norton Road, Big Run South & Allmon Road, and 7789 Tussing Road. This brings the total siren count to 154.



The public is reminded that there are other ways to protect themselves in severe weather conditions, such as having weather alert radios in their homes and places of business and monitoring local radio and television stations.



Upcoming Meetings

July 3	1:30	800 MHz Safety (CANCELED)	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
July 8	9 AM	FCFCA	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
July 9	2 PM	COPIN	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
July 9	1:30 PM	800 MHz Advisory	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
July 10	9:00	COPIN Strategic Planning	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
July 16	9 AM	FCEM&HS Executive Committee	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
July 17	9 AM	Tech Ops/Training	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
July 30	9 AM	9-1-1/PSAP Managers	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
August 6	10 AM	HSAC	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
August 12	9 AM	FCFCA	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.

Upcoming Events

July 3	RED, WHITE & BOOM	Downtown Columbus
July 12-19	Franklin County Fair	County Fairgrounds
August 1	Col.& FC Homeland Security Equipment Expo (POSTPONED)	Rickenbacker
Month of September	National Preparedness Month	

Upcoming Training

July 23-25	8 AM-5 PM	COOP/COG Training (CLASS IF FULL)	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
July 29-31	8 AM-5 PM	ICS 300/400 (CFD Instructor TBD)	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
August 13-15	8AM-5PM	Agricultural Terrorism	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
August 20-22	8 AM-5 PM	ICS 300/400 (CFD Instructor TBD)	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
September 8-10	8 AM-5 PM	ICS 300/400 (CFD Instructor TBD)	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
October TBD	TBD	Partnership in Emergency Preparedness: A Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Workshop	TBD
December 9-11	8 AM-5 PM	ICS 300/400 (Sgt. McVey)	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.

Upcoming Exercises

September 12	9:30 AM-3:30 PM	Columbus Regional Airport FSE	Columbus Airport
September 23	9:30AM-3:30 PM	Multi-Regional IED TTX	TBD
October 16	8:00AM-4:00PM	FEMA Region 5 TTX	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.

Jim Leonard, Interim Director

Jan Bartel, Finance
Jamie Stout, Planning

Art Baker, Warning/EOC
Pam Tickle, Training/Grants

Susan Johnson, Administrative Assistant

www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs

