



EMA&HS QUARTERLY REPORT

Volume 1, Issue 1
2009

Update: Wind Storm Damage Assistance

Sixty-seven (67) applicants from Franklin County, ranging from agencies to jurisdictions to private non-profits with loss anywhere from buildings damaged to personnel costs to debris cleanup submitted applications.

The more than six million dollars requested in public assistance continues to flow into Franklin County as funds are distributed in the form of federal grants. This past week saw a 12% increase in funds granted from the week of January 6th, an addition of \$476,785.25 coming back into the communities. The remainder of the estimated six million dollars requested is expected to be disbursed throughout 2009 to the jurisdictions, private-non-profits and agencies that applied for the funds.

The September 14, 2008 storm brought 70 mph winds causing more than 300,000 residents to lose

power, some for up to a week; and triggered the opening of the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the

This past week saw a 12% increase in funds granted from the week of January 6th, an addition of \$476,785.25 coming back into the communities.

weeklong duration of the incident. Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) led the effort to secure these Federal dollars for budget weary jurisdictions. The agency conducted damage assessments and facilitated the collection of the information necessary to request a disaster declaration at the federal level.

"It has been a pleasure working with our partners at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure

that proper steps are taken for Franklin County's recovery," said Michael Pannell, director of the FCEM&HS. "This has been a near text book example of how successful we can be when all our efforts are properly aligned and coordinated."

The mission of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security is to coordinate county-wide disaster planning, community education, warning, training, grant funding, response, and recovery efforts to prepare and protect Franklin County before, during, and after natural and man-made disasters.

"As the applicants continue to receive their share of the FEMA money from this most recent incident," added Pannell, "we will continue to fine tune our plan for future incidents and ensure a timely and effective response for the citizens of Franklin County."

Inside this issue:

Spotlight on FCEM&HS Employee	2
Siren Update	2
Statewide Tornado Drill	2
NIMS Update	3
HAM Operator	3
Upcoming Events, Trainings, Exercises, Meetings	4

Special points of interest:

- The EMA Report is changing from a monthly publication to a quarterly publication and is now the EMA&HS Quarterly Report.
- Remember to check our website for up-to-date information on training and exercises and any timely information.
- <http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs/>

Holiday Closures:

FCEM&HS will be closed the following dates for observed holidays:

January 19 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 16 — Presidents' Day

Hazards of Space Heaters

As the bitter cold of winter settles on the area, more people turn to space heaters for added warmth.

The U.S. Consumer Product

Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of room (space) heaters. More than 300

persons die in these fires. An estimated 6,000 persons receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting hot surfaces of room heaters mostly in non-fire situations.

Consumers should be aware of the hazards when buying space heaters. For hazard information and general suggestions visit the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website: <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

Spotlight on FCEM&HS Employee

Financial Manager, Jan Bartel, is beginning her 9th year with Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security. When she began working at "EMA", Homeland Security was not part of the agency title, but was always part of the job.

"I can remember my first day at work when I opened my desk drawer and found a Personal Protection Kit containing an impervious gown, gloves, mask, bio-



**Jan Bartel
Financial Manager**

hazard bag and antimicrobial towelette and was given instructions on how and when to use it."

Jan has seen many changes at the agency during her tenure. Her job duties have evolved over time as well. When she started working for the agency, her job included fiscal as well as administration duties. After September 11, 2001, federal grant dollars started flowing through the agency and

it became apparent that the position needed to be separated.

Along with managing the agency budget, Jan has emergency response duties and is the financial manager for the Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council (CEPAC).

"The best part of this job is that it is never boring; no two days are ever the same. I've met some pretty fantastic people while working here and, how great is that?"

Siren Update

Under the county commissioners interest free money for Outdoor Warning Sirens, Pleasant Township has ordered five sirens and Madison Township one. The sirens should arrive in late January with installation expected by late March, in time for the State Wide Tornado Drill on March 25th.

Our agency is working with the trustees for Pleasant and Madison

It is recommended that all residences and places of business purchase and use a tone weather alert radio.

townships to determine the best possible location for the sirens in order to alert the greatest number of residences should a tornado develop.

Remember the sirens are intended to be heard by people outdoors. It is recommended that all residences and places of business **purchase and use** a tone weather alert radio. The information which sounds over the radio comes directly from the National Weather Service in Wilmington Ohio.

During inclement weather, monitoring local radio and television stations is also advocated.

Statewide Tornado Drill

Since 1978, The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has encouraged families, schools and businesses to review their emergency preparedness plans, practice tornado and fire drills and refresh the supplies in their disaster preparedness kits.

As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week, a statewide tornado drill will be conducted on Wednesday, March 25th at 9:50 a.m. Counties will sound their warning sirens and the Emergency Alert System will broad-

cast a test message.

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness along with FCEM&HS encourages homes, schools and businesses to practice their tornado drills at that time.



- If your entity participates in the drill on March 25th or sometime during the month of March,

please log onto our website: <http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs/>. Click on the "Status of the Outdoor Warning Sirens" link on the left side of the page and then under the "Siren Tests" heading click on the survey link. Fill out the form and email it to the agency's Administrative Assistant, Susan Johnson:

sehjohns@franklincountyohio.gov

NIMS Update

FCEM&HS hosted eight (8) ICS 300 and ICS 400 classes during 2008 resulting in 262 people certified in ICS 300 and 209 people Certified in ICS 400.

According to the NIMS 5-year Training Plan, all required personnel should be trained in ICS 300 by September 2008 and all required personnel should be trained in ICS 400 by September 2009.

The NIMS compliance requirements for 2009 are to continue to train all new staff and promoted staff in the required



IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300 and ICS-400.

The ICS Position-Specific Trainings, IS-701 through IS-707, as they become available, will also be required.

The "Emergency Management Framework Course-Awareness Training" course listed in the 5-year plan does not exist at the present time. It is the intent of the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) to develop a course designed primarily for Elected

Officials and other Senior Officials which would combine an overview of the NRF/NIMS with other emergency management information. Development of this training has not yet been started.

FCEM&HS is hosting one (1) ICS 300 & ICS 400 class in January 2009. No other ICS 300/400 classes are scheduled at this time as we are waiting to see how much interest/need there is for additional classes. Please contact Pam Tickle, pktickle@franklincountyohio.gov, if your department is still in need of this training.

Amateur Radio Operator, aka HAM Operator

Do you want to become an Amateur Radio Operator, aka HAM Operator?

During disasters sometimes the only way to communicate is through Ham Radio. Phone services may be incapacitated by a storm or by usage overload. Radio signals are bounced off the earth's atmosphere to other Ham Operators who can relay messages. In bad weather you can hear the Ham Operators that are weather spotters report severe weather. They are able to visually confirm wall clouds, funnel formations and Tornado touch downs. During the mud slides in Kentucky last year the only means of communication in the hills was Amateur Radio. The volunteer used his radio to call in Damage Assessment, and needs of those affected.

The requirements to become a Ham are easier. Morse code is no longer required for the exam. There are three (3) different amateur class license levels that you can test for, Technician, General and Extra. Technician Classes started in September 2008 and there are online flash card questions you can

practice with and the website will give you the correct answers. There are work books for each class level that you can study from. The fee for the test is \$15.00. With the ongoing evolution in the electronics' world, handheld and base radios are becoming smaller and easier to use.

Ham Radio classes are being presented by COARES (Central Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Services) and Nationwide Children's Hospital. Classes for the Technician level are being held at Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd., Columbus, OH 43230. The next class is January 17th from 8:30am-5:00pm. Review and testing will be January 18th from 1-5pm.

Practice questions can be found at the following website: <http://www.kb0mga.net/exams/> and you do not need to log in to practice. Start at the Technician Level first and it will give you the correct answers as you go along.

For more information about becoming a HAM Operator, contact Gretchen Herr.

It is strongly recommended that you buy the following book and review it before the class: *Technician Class* by Gordon West Element 2 study guide for the Technician Level exam.

Not all bookstores carry these books. Universal Radio in Columbus is located at 6830 Americana Pkwy., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068, off of Tussing Road. Their website is www.universal-radio.com and they have the books in stock.

To sign up for the Technician Class or for more information about COARES and/or becoming a HAM Operator, contact Gretchen Herr, 614-323-9854 or Gretchen.herr@nationwidechildrens.org

Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security

5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43230

Phone: 614-794-0213
Fax: 614-882-3209



Michael R. Pannell, Director

Darrel Koerber, Deputy Director
Art Baker, Warning
Jan Bartel, Finance
Jamie Stout, Planning
Pam Tickle, Training/Grants
Matt Keefe, Operations
Susan Johnson, Administrative Assistant

<http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs/>

Upcoming Events

January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 16	Presidents' Day
February 25	Ash Wednesday
March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 16-20	National Flood Safety Awareness Week
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 20	Spring Begins
March 22-28	Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week
March 25	Statewide Tornado Drill @ 9:50 a.m.

Upcoming Trainings*

January 20	HazMat 4-Hour Awareness
January 27-28	ICS 300
January 28-29	ICS 400
February 11	HazMat 8-Hour Operational
February 26	HazMat 8-Hour Tech Refresher @ Worthington Fire Dept.
March 14	Severe Weather Spotter Class
March 30-31	Bioterrorism Mass Prophylaxis
March 31-April 2	Ohio Safety Congress & Expo@Greater Col. Convention Ctr.

*All Trainings are held at 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd., Columbus unless otherwise noted.

Please visit our website for additional training opportunities in 2009:
<http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs/>

Upcoming Exercises

March 12	NAS-T Table-top Exercise at the Makoy Center, 5462 Center St., Hilliard, OH 43026
April 29	Franklin Co. & Delaware Co. LEPC EOC Driven Full-Scale Exercise

Please visit our website for additional exercises in 2009: <http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs/>

Upcoming Meetings (All Meetings are held at 5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd., Columbus unless otherwise noted.)

January 20	11:00 am	Citizen Corp Council
January 21	9:30am	FCM&HS Executive Committee
January 21	2:00pm	CODS
January 21	7:00-9:00pm	ARES
January 22	9:00am	CODS Search Workshop
January 22	9:00am	Public Health Central Region Quarterly Meeting
January 27	8:30am	COTS Pre-Hospital Meeting
January 27	10:00am	COTS RHEP Meeting
January 28	9:00am	9-1-1 Managers
February 3	10:00am	FCCA
February 10	9:00am	FCFCA
February 11	1:30pm	COCAC
February 13	8:30am	CEPAC
February 18	7:00pm	COARES
February 24	10:00am	COTS RHEP
February 26	10:00am	Citizen Corps Regional Meeting
March 4	10:00am	HSAS @ Franklin County Board of Health
March 10	9:00am	FCFCA
March 11	1:30pm	FCAC
March 18	9:30am	FCM&HS Executive Committee
March 24	8:30am	COTS Pre-Hospital Meeting
March 24	10:00am	COTS RHEP Meeting
March 25	9:00am	9-1-1 Managers