

Fairfield County
Emergency
Management Agency

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Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Quarterly Updates

County Communication/Radio Upgrades

The Fairfield County departments are having to make some tough decisions based on the radio narrow banding requirements from the FCC. It is the FCC's requirement to reband all radio frequencies to a 12.5kHz band no later than 1/1/2013.

Currently we have discovered that there are around 300+ radios that will need to be fully replaced to make them compatible with the narrow banding, plus the remaining county radios will need to be reprogrammed to meet this requirement. This option is the simple, and immediate fix to the communications asset in order to meet the FCC's regulations. If this is not done, then we are open to very steep fines after the deadline.

In addition to the FCC regulations, many county and state level first responders continue

to have areas where they are unable to speak with the dispatch center or to each other on their hand-held radios due to limited backbone to the system. This poses safety risks to the responders as well as to the citizens of the county. An upgrade to the entire communications system for interoperability within the county and throughout the state is a solution that does need to be investigated.

The County's Homeland Security Advisory Committee currently has a Communications subcommittee that is meeting to research feasible options. As well the Safety Department of the City of Lancaster is also doing research on this same issue. These two groups hope to find what is the best alternative for the county as a whole as well as for the needs of the individual jurisdictions.

ATTN: Fairfield County Dam Owners

We are conducting our first Fairfield County Dam Safety Engineering Program meeting on December 15, 2010. Representatives from OH-EMA, ODNR-water management section and several other agencies will be in attendance. Also all Class 1 Dam owners in Fairfield County have been invited. The intent is to provide the dam owners the resources needed to complete their Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and their Operation and Maintenance Inspection Plan. With an approved plan Dam owners could receive a compliant Dam discount up to 25% off their annual fee.



Mitigating Damage!

Mitigation Plan Update

The Mitigation Plan is still in process of being updated. The committee is working hard to collect facts and figures on our county to update the 2003 plan. The committee is also meeting with the individual jurisdictions as well as the public to gain input on what the citizens around the county see as the high risk hazards that need to be addressed.

There is still time to submit input to the plan. Please contact Robert Clark at the EMA with any suggestions or areas of concerns in the county that pose potential areas of destruction or damage if a disaster would strike in our county.

We are continuing to install and fix sirens throughout the county. Please let us know if the siren in your area does not test at noon on Wednesdays!

Fairfield County EMA will be hosting an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Exercise on March 24, 2011. This will be a great test of our newly renovated EOC!

Citizen Corps (CERT/MRC)

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)-



Welcome to the new CERT members who just completed their training on 13 November. Glad to have you as part of the team.

now. Once classes, dates and times are established, the information will be sent to all members.



Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)-

A "meet and greet" is scheduled for December 8th, at 6PM and will be held at the EMA office. If you have worked with or are a member of the MRC, please join us. If you know someone who is interested in being a part of the MRC, fill free to bring them with

you to the meeting on the 8th.

Training-

On Saturday, November 13th we held a training day at Keller Kern Park. We had 36 participants including the 5 instructors. Training included stations on: Disaster Psychology, Splinting, Whistle protocol, Radio protocol, Triage, Trailer equipment awareness and Chainsaw use. At the end of the training, all Team members had an opportunity to sit and talk to fellow CERT members over snacks (thanks to all for bringing in something to share and Nina for bringing her grill!).

MRC Meeting is scheduled for December 8th at the EMA! Plan to attend if you are a member - or would like to be one!

Also thanks to the instructors who volunteered their time to work with the new class and the CERT members who showed their support by attending the classes and assisting with the training activities at the November 13th training.

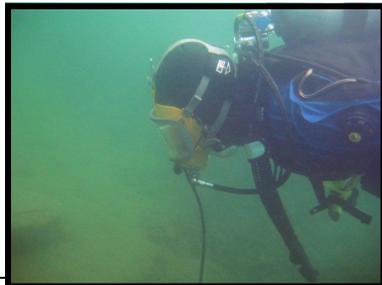
Upcoming CERT training is being worked on

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

The Water Rescue branch would like to welcome the newest member, Detective Jason Bontrager, of the Pickerington Police Department. Officer Bontrager contacted Capt. Treinish to explore options for training underwater, and rather than duplicate services in the county, Pickerington PD has agreed to place Jason on the team and help with training costs. Jason completed his Advanced Open Water training, drysuit, and full face mask certification, and is working on his public

safety dive rating. We like to think this is a great example of what inter-agency cooperation can be, and look forward to having Jason in place as a LE diver.

The team also placed another communication line in service, and trained with it on Saturday, December 4th, by exploring a farm pond in Amanda. *(Picture of Kurt Davis below)*



We also did a presentation and static display at the Violet Township Fire Department's Station 592 during Fire Prevention Week. We displayed gear, answered questions, and passed out literature to young visitors detailing water safety and PFD use. Approximately 200 people stopped by, and we appreciate the chance to work with Violet FD educating the public to our mission.



Other Updates



• As Commissioner Jon Myers retires as a county Commissioner, he also steps down from the Local Emergency Planning Committee. The Committee wants to thank Com-

missioner Myers for his dedication and commitment to the Committee.

•Special Thanks to the staff of N8 Family Chiropractic in Lancaster for their generous donation to the Special Operations Team. By donating \$25 for every new appointment during the month of October – they were

able to donate \$1,340.00 to our county's Special Operations Team. We certainly appreciate their contribution to those serving our community.



*Special
Appreciation!*

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

*Prepare now for
the winter
weather... it is
already here!!!*



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.

FEMA Hints for Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

Add the following supplies to your disaster supplies kit:

Rock salt to melt ice on walkways

Sand to improve traction

Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.

Prepare your home

Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.

Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering

windows with plastic.

Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.

Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.

Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).

Dress for the Weather

Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.

Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.

Wear a hat.

Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

Information from http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/wi_before.shtm