

Fairfield County  
Emergency  
Management Agency

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*Jon Kochis, Director*

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# Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Quarterly Updates

## Robert Clark Retires

On October 7, 2011, Bob Clark made the decision to officially retire from the Fairfield County EMA. After serving our country through the Ohio National Guard, and after almost 15 years serving our State at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Bob found himself being a valued team member at the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency. After serving both as a full time employee and a contractor, he made great strides in preparing our county for an emergency through planning. He collaborated with the jurisdictions and worked closely with county agencies over the years. His vast knowledge of plan writing, exercise planning and preparedness activities will be greatly missed. We hope that Bob enjoys this time in his life – as he has certainly earned it.



our various agencies, departments and organizations. The updated EOP distributed on the CD has an effective date of October 1, 2011.

The paper copies of the sections are provided in order to allow the plan holder to simply remove the old pages and replace

them with the corrected pages. If for some reason your plan does not match the corrected pages, we ask that you print that (2011) annex and place it in your EOP binder.

If our EOC is activated for any type of incident we maintain multiple paper copies for reference.

As a reminder the EOP is a controlled document and changes to the plan are not permitted. If changes are needed we can work them into our 2012 plan update for next year. Please feel free to contact Bill Gilliam for any questions or concerns at 740-652-7963.

## Emergency Operations Plan Annual (EOP) Updates

It is that time again where we update our county's Emergency Operations Plan - the plan that helps the county respond to disasters and emergencies. Many hands help make these updates possible, and we want to thank everyone's contributions.

For those that receive copies of the plan, we have mailed the updated copy (paper copy) of the annexes along with a disk of the complete EOP to



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## *Invitation to Bid*

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### Invitation to Bid for Motorola Radios

On October 9, 2011, a legal notice was placed in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette for an Invitation to Bid for the upgraded Motorola Radios the county needs to become Narrowbanding compliant. We have notified everyone of the upcoming Federal Requirement to narrowband our radio/communication frequencies in the county. The Homeland Security Committee has voted to use

some of its grant funding to help responders in the county to get compliant in this issue. This equals the purchase of over 220 radios. This is a large purchase, but it is a mandated requirement. We do not want anyone to not be legal come Jan. 2013.

The legal notice will run for 2 weeks in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette, and then the official bid opening will be Monday, Oc-

tober 24 at 9am. At that time the EMA office will evaluate the bids submitted and move forward with the purchase of the initial purchase of radios. The bid will allow for additional radios to be purchased at the negotiated price for a period of time.

Anyone interested in more information, please go online to [www.fairfieldema.com](http://www.fairfieldema.com).

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### Citizen Corps (CERT/MRC)

Recent changes have taken place in the leadership of the Citizen Corps Volunteer groups at the Fairfield County EMA. Criss Manning is going to continue heading up the Citizen Corps Program, but she feels that the two volunteer groups need their own leadership.

At this time, Brian Hardwick will be taking on the coordination of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), while Mindy Armbrust will be taking on the coordination of the Medical Reserve Team (MRC). These two are excited about planning the next steps for our two volunteer groups at the EMA.



We know that we have GREAT Volunteers that are willing to serve our county in the event of an emergency, and so we look forward to the new ideas and plans these two bring to the team.

### **CERT**

In August we held a new CERT course at the Vio-

let Township Fire Department and were very excited about the turnout. The class was one of the largest we have had in years, and we welcomed in some great volunteers to the CERT team. We are excited to see our county's citizens take an interest in helping others during times of disasters or emergencies. Thank you to everyone who came out to the training, including the current CERT members that helped out. Also a special thanks to our trainers who also volunteered their time and the Violet Township Fire Department for being such a great host.

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## *Change in Leadership!!!*

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

The HazMat Team has been very busy over the past several months. They have been busy with trainings, refreshers, and community outreach.

In September, we were thrilled to once again offer the HazMat IQ. The turnout and interest was low this year, but for those that attended, great information was shared.

We also offered 2 great HAZWoPeR Operations classes during the month of October, including refresher courses for the Lancaster Fire Department.

On October 1st, Greenfield Township FD received a full 8 hour operations class and on October 15th, Clearcreek received a full

8 hour Ops class with EMS emphasis.

Not only were our fire departments getting the training they needed, but we were also able to send our Incident Safety Officers to advance training and certification. Chief Hoffman, Assistant Chief Spiller, Captain's Treinish, Baker and Kraner, took the certified Incident Safety Officer Course at Washington Township, Ohio. All passed the certified test and are pro-board certified ISOs.

We continue to look for opportunities to share our services and resources to the community. By participating in parades and community fairs, we hope that the county citizens see

our efforts in protecting our communities from potential risks.

Tom Gary took the HazMat truck to Thurston Walnut FD for an open house, he also did a great job of doing some minor repair needs to the HazMat truck. Jon Kochis also took the HazMat truck to Violet Twp. FD on October 11th for a HazMat Day.

We also want to announce that our HazMat Assistant Chief Craig Spiller has taken on a new responsibility of Fire Chief at Clearcreek Township Fire Department. He is still a valued part of our HazMat Team, but will be relinquishing some of his duties back to the team.




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### Other Items:

#### Fairfield County Fair Volunteers

Once again—a special thank you to all those that volunteered at the Fairfield County EMA and Firefighter Association's tent and trailer this year at the fair. This is one of our largest outreach activities of the year. We take this time to help our community be informed of not only our services, but also how they can prepare their home and family for

a possible disaster or emergency.

#### Annual LEPC Exercise

The SERC has approved our recent exercise at the Water Treatment Plant as meeting our annual exercise requirement. Some deficiencies found during the exercise are being improved upon at the fire stations with continued ICS training.

July 1, 2011 was the beginning of the new exercise year. An exercise planning team will be formed prior to the next LEPC meeting. This team will begin planning the next exercise. The current plans will be to have this as a full functional exercise in the Pickerington area using the scenario we used at the recent EOC exercise.

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*Thank you  
Volunteers!!*

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We're on the WEB at  
[www.fairfieldema.com](http://www.fairfieldema.com)

*Are you prepared?*

# 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.

## Cooler Weather May Increase Fire Risk due to Heat Sources

According to FEMA, more than 4,000 Americans die and more than 20,000 are injured as a result of fires – many of which could be prevented. Direct property loss due to fires is estimated at \$8.6 billion a year.

When there is a fire, do not waste time gathering valuables or making a phone call. Fires can spread quickly, becoming life threatening in two minutes and engulfing a residence in as little as five minutes. While flames are dangerous, heat and smoke can be more dangerous and can sear your lungs. As the fire burns, poisonous gases are emitted that can cause you

to become disoriented or drowsy, which could put you into a heavy sleep. The leading cause of fire-related deaths is asphyxiation, outnumbering burns by a three-to-one ratio. It is important to learn about fires in order to protect yourself.

### Step 1: Get a Kit

Get an [Emergency Supply Kit](#) which includes items like non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries. You may want to prepare a portable kit and keep it in your car.

### Step 2: Make a Plan

Planning Your Escape! Make a [Family Emergency Plan](#). Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.

### Step 3: Be Informed

Prepare Your Home  
Install Smoke Alarms  
According to FEMA, properly working smoke alarms decrease your chances of dying in a fire by 50 percent. from [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)

