

ALL-HAZARDS HERALD

**Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Quarterly Newsletter**

Summer 2024

Headlines:

The Ohio Traveler Alert System is launched June 1, 2024

The Ohio State Fair runs July 24 through Aug. 4, 2024

Ohio EMA's #BeatTheHeatOhio Summer Safety Series runs through September on social media

September is National Preparedness Month

A Message from Director Sima Merick

Tornadoes, flooding, and damaging winds... with so many impactful storms that have moved through Ohio this year, our tornado count has jumped to 63 (as I write this). We have now passed the record of 62 tornadoes which was set back in 1992. I'm a competitive girl, but can honestly say this was one record I did not want to break.

The storms have collectively made for a busy year at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Many counties have seen impacts from severe weather thus far in 2024, but none as significant as the March 14 storms.

The Ohio EMA team works diligently to provide support and guidance, information, and resources to our county emergency managers.

Our continued work at local state and federal levels of emergency management will continue for some time as we work through the recovery process. We all share the same goal which is to help these communities heal as quickly as possible.



Coordination at all levels of government have been proven to be key to successful long-term recovery efforts. Ohio EMA will continue to provide support to our local partners through every step.



Buckeye Girls State Program

Recently, I was invited to participate in the Buckeye Girls State Program held at Bowling Green State University (BGSU). This program was designed to educate Ohio's young women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of good citizenship.

The program educates rising high school seniors from across Ohio about city, county and state government. By getting involved in the process, Delegates can learn about City, County, and State Government in a one-week course.

My student partner was Faith S. (pictured above). Faith was appointed as Cabinet State Emergency Management Director (Public Safety) for the project and I had the good fortune to be her mentor. She was a delight to work with and I have no doubt that one day, she may be sitting in my seat!

This annual program is sponsored by the American Legion. I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to learn more about the Buckeye Girls program [here](#).

Sima



OHIO TRAVELER ALERT SYSTEM

The Ohio Traveler Alert System (OTAS) was created through a partnership between the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) and the National Weather Service Wilmington (NWS Wilmington) Forecast Office, in partnership with Lamar Advertising.

This project allows privately-owned digital signs to be activated and display important and timely weather information, ahead of potential high-impact weather events.

The pilot program is currently available in the Columbus and Dayton Metropolitan areas, with plans to expand to more areas around Ohio.

SOCIAL MEDIA

#BeatTheHeatOhio

Summer can be a great time of year to play sports, enjoy family picnics, or take a stroll through a neighborhood park; but it can also bring excessive heat that may make your summertime fun take a dangerous turn.

As Ohio can expect extreme heat periodically throughout the summer, Ohio EMA has created the #BeatTheHeatOhio summer safety series to run on social media into September.

This series shares safety and preparedness tips that can help educate Ohioans on the dangers of extreme heat and how to protect themselves and their loved ones. Throughout the summer we will be joined by a few state partners who will share their tips on summer safety.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Joint Information System & Joint Information Center

The State of Ohio Joint Information System (JIS) provides a system that is structured for developing and delivering timely and accurate information before, during, and after an incident.

The JIS manages and implements public information plans and strategies on behalf of the Office of the Governor, State Emergency Management Director, and the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

A few key elements of the Joint Information System include:

- Interagency coordination
- Disseminating timely, accurate, and consistent messaging
- Responding to media inquiries
- Public affairs support for decision makers
- Managing expectations and maintaining the public's trust



Pictured: State of Ohio JIC during the activation for the total solar eclipse



The State of Ohio Joint Information Center (JIC) is the location where public affairs personnel coordinate and carry out their duties. The JIC can be a physical, virtual, or a hybrid location.

The Emergency Support Function #15 falls under the umbrella of Public/External Affairs and provides another layer of support to develop, coordinate, and deliver information and instructions to the media and public related to an incident. It helps with swift dissemination of information, identifying unmet needs, and mutual support.

To learn more about the Ohio EMA Public Affairs Office click [here](#).

MITIGATION BRANCH

City of Sharonville Mitigation Project

The City of Sharonville reduced flood risk in their downtown area by successfully completing their first Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) project. This project was funded under FMA 17 with \$2.35 million in federal funding and a local contribution of \$1.16 million, for a total project cost of just over \$3.5 million.

This project increased the water storage volume of the Sharonville Detention Reservoir by modifying the spillway with a labyrinth weir (pictured below). A labyrinth weir is an overflow weir that is folded to provide a longer length of the spillway width. The labyrinth weir increased water storage volume, which allows for decreased peak flow rates discharged from the facility as well as delays the timing of the peak flow rate, reducing the flooding risk to businesses and homes in and near the downtown area.

In addition to the dam modifications, this project also increased the capacity of the culverts under Main Street. The existing structure was undersized and constricted flow in the system, which caused water to back up into downtown and adjacent areas. The project replaced the existing culverts with an open channel and realigned Main Street to be perpendicular to US-42 with a bridge. In addition to the culvert replacements, 400 linear feet of stream restoration, a riparian area, and designated green open space were created.



TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS

ODOT Uncrewed Aircraft Systems Center (UASC)

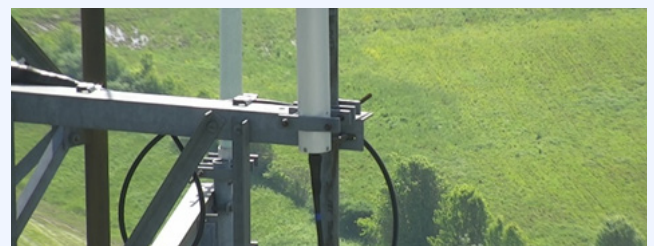
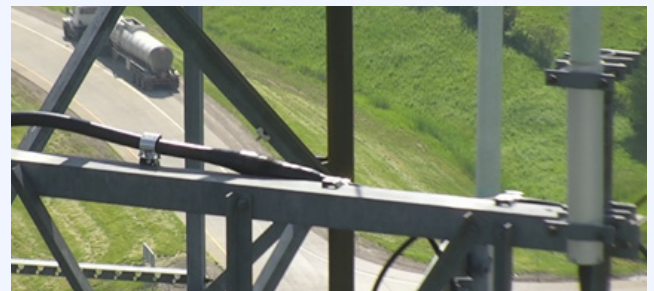
The Ohio EMA Technical Communications Branch is currently working with the [ODOT Uncrewed Aircraft Systems Center \(UASC\)](#) to complete inspections of the eleven antenna towers used to support the [Ohio EMA STORMS](#) rain gauge network. On May 16, 2024, the tower in Johnstown (pictured below), Ohio was the first to be inspected using this technology.

In the past, a manned tower crew would need to be contracted to complete an inspection. This meant we relied on the person climbing the tower to accurately and completely document any issues found with the antenna, cabling and tower. This method is very costly and requires several people to complete the task.

There are several advantages to using drones to complete these inspections:

- Limits the dangerous task of climbing a tower.
- A single person from the UASC can complete the inspection expeditiously.
- The UASC provides high resolution pictures and video of the inspection for future reference.
- The UASC is providing this service to Ohio EMA at no charge.

We will be looking to leverage these assets in other aspects of our maintenance plans to save time and money.



RADIOLOGICAL BRANCH

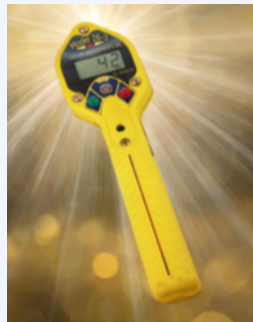
The Ludlum 26-3 Radiation Exposure - Radioactive Contamination Detector

In this edition of the All-Hazards Herald, we introduce the Ludlum 26-3 radiation exposure/radioactive contamination detector that is popular among first responders.

The simplistic design of the Ludlum 26-3 incorporates a digital, auto ranging readout that is backlit. Its button arrangement is minimal for ease of use, and most importantly it is a hand-held one-piece device allowing the first responder to watch what they are surveying and the digital display in the same field of view.

It features audible clicks representing the radiation levels which complement the simplistic design of the 26-3. This makes using the Ludlum 26-3 an “ah ha” moment for both experienced and less experienced meter users and first responders.

[Click here](#) to view a short demonstration video from Ludlum to complete this simple yet powerful tool’s formal introduction to the radiological safety community.



Our next article we will introduce the gamma range to our devoted readers and discuss the Beaver Valley Power Station Evaluated Exercise.

WELCOME COLLEEN MCENHILL

Colleen McEnhill has joined the Ohio EMA team as an Emergency Preparedness Planner. Prior to joining the Ohio EMA Planning Section, she was employed with the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau of Infectious Diseases.



Colleen graduated from the University of Findlay with a Bachelor’s degree in Animal Science and went on to The Ohio State University to earn her Master’s degree in Public Health with a specialization in Veterinary Public Health.

LOGISTIC BRANCH

Ohio Total Solar Eclipse Story Map



It’s no secret that Ohio had planned since 2021 in preparation of the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse. The Ohio EMA Geographic Information System (GIS) section, which is housed under the Logistics Branch, has developed a story map documenting the almost three-year journey from planning and tabletop exercises to the beautiful weather and end result.

The coordination for creating this story map was key to its success. We sincerely appreciate the county and state partners for adding to the overall success of the event and send a heartfelt thanks to them. [Click here](#) to view the Ohio Total Solar Eclipse Story Map.

EMAC Deployments for the Republican National Convention

In July, Ohio will be providing law enforcement support and assistance for the Republican National Convention (RNC) to be held in the state of Wisconsin. Seven Ohio law enforcement agencies will be deployed through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

The convention will be held July 15-18, 2024 in Milwaukee. A total of 137 officers, troopers, and deputies will fill a variety of positions ranging from crowd management, resource guarding, delegate escorts, and fixed site security. They will also provide support with foot patrols, horseback, and bike patrols.

Included in the seven participating agencies are: the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Akron Police, Cincinnati Police, Cleveland Metroparks Police, Columbus Police, and the Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Office, and Trumbull County Sheriff’s Office. We appreciate their dedication to public safety and their service.

DISASTER RECOVERY BRANCH

Are Your VOADs Active in Your Long-Term Recovery Committee?

In the Winter 2024 quarterly edition of the All-Hazard Herald, the Logistics Branch update article discussed the “Commodity Point of Distribution Talk and Demonstration, Ohio Public - Private Partnerships (OP3) Conference”. From this article we gained more details about the commodity points of distribution (CPOD) and the benefits of CPOD operations during a COVID response event.

We have a few counties in Ohio that may be considered what the USDA describe as “low-income and low-access”; due to lack of access to a grocery store. This spring Ohio has numerous tornadoes for which multiple counties have seen the destruction of their community’s businesses that served as the most convenient source of food and bottled water.

The years of COVID -19 were unprecedented and provided a life time of lessons learned in one non-stop disaster, in which communities Long Term Recovery (LTR) plans had been put to the test. Did the aforementioned disaster create resilient relationships with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) or did it create disaster fatigue?

There is a lesson to be learned from the eleven recently disaster- impacted County EMA Directors on the good, the bad, and the ugly of spontaneous donations to a disaster impacted community

Yes, food and water are on the needs list, but the who, what, when, where and how, plays a big part in the "disaster within a disaster" that can be created from donations; from well-intentioned individuals and entities.



Having an organized LTR and having established relationships with community volunteer organizations, and creating sound bonds with Ohio Public Private Partnerships pre-disaster, could help County EMA Directors across the great state of Ohio get ahead of the donation disaster with-in a disaster issue.

Though fresh fruit may be more palatable than canned fruit, canned fruit has a shelf life; unless of course, those well intended cans are way past their expiration date or have had their seals broken from being dropped a time or two. (Fruit was only used as an example, so please do not have a fruit- fit about it being used as such; we have no beef with fruit.)



Does your county have a foodbank consortium as a member of your Long-Term Recovery Committee?

There is no time like the present to dust off, review, and renew VOAD partnerships. There is no disaster too small and none too big to consider the: Who, What, Where, When, and How of your LTR. If you think your county has a great LTR and you have great relationships with your county VOAD we would like to hear about it.

Next time: Let’s talk about Keeping Track of Volunteer Hours and why it matters!

Resource Links:

[FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov)
[The Food Access Research Atlas guide \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov)
[Homepage | VOAD \(nvoad.org\)](https://www.nvoad.org)

If you have any questions, please contact Bernice West , Disaster Recovery Branch IA Specialist at bwest2@dps.ohio.gov.

DISASTER RECOVERY BRANCH

Ohio State University College of Social Work Internship and Volunteer Partnership

Opportunity Overview: [The Ohio State University College of Social Work](#) offers a unique partnership for agencies interested in hosting social work interns.

This collaboration is designed to provide students with a comprehensive learning experience while offering additional support to organizations.

Interns can engage in various activities to include disaster case management, crisis intervention, long-term recovery committee administrative and development support, and community engagement, aligning their academic knowledge with practical fieldwork.

Internship Details:

- Hours: 16-24 hours per week
- Duration: 2-3 semesters

Benefits of Partnership:

- Access to well-trained and motivated interns
- Contribution to the professional growth of future social workers
- Support in organizational activities, particularly in disaster recovery

Affiliation and Contact Information: [Click here](#) to become an affiliated agency, review the affiliation process.

Other Opportunities: Social work students are also required to participate in human rights activities outside of their internship hours. These activities include volunteer and advocacy opportunities, which are listed on the college's website.

If your organization seeks volunteers, your activities can be listed on the Human Rights Activities by clicking [here](#).

Additionally, if you have job positions to fill, you can utilize the university's online job search tool, [Handshake](#).

Partnered employers can register and post positions for free. For additional information, please email Katie Justice at justice.228@osu.edu

This partnership offers a valuable opportunity to enhance your organization's capacity while contributing to the education and development of future social work professionals.

PLANNING SECTION

Attention CERT Leaders!

Are you looking for no-cost CERT-branded training resources?

We may have just what you need! Ohio EMA has an abundance of ProPacs and other items available on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested CERT programs should contact the Ohio EMA's Planning section at: planning@dps.ohio.gov to make inquiries and arrange pick-up.

And remember, it's always awards season at Ohio CERT!

We have four awards available to CERT volunteers (i.e., the Exceptional Volunteerism, Exceptional Leadership, Volunteer Responder, and Volunteer Service Hours Awards) and the CERT Dedicated Partner Award available to individuals, private businesses, organizations, or public agencies that partner with and support local CERT programs.

To learn more about these awards, [click here](#).



WELCOME BERNICE WEST

Bernice West joined the Disaster Recovery Branch as a Disaster Services Consultant 2. Bernice attended Tulsa Junior College, Oklahoma State (OSU), and Franklin University.

She enjoys working in the field of emergency management and previously received an award for Years of Service with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As a dedicated volunteer, she has worked with AmeriCorps, Union County EMA, as well as other agencies.



Bernice is active with various humanitarian initiatives, conversations, and sustainability methodologies for gardening and living. Bernice enjoys, research, costume design and sewing.

WELCOME TO OUR TEAM

WELCOME NATALIE JANNEY



Natalie Janney recently joined the Disaster Recovery Branch as a Disaster Services Consultant 2.

Prior to joining the DRB, she was an analyst with the Ohio EMA Watch Office. In 2015, Natalie was employed by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources' Office of Law Enforcement as a dispatcher

Prior to her career with ODNR, she worked at the Franklin County Metro Parks and Tennessee State Parks.

She has a Bachelor's degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in Geography and Environmental Studies. She enjoys painting models and board games.

REGIONAL OPERATIONS BRANCH

Logan County Multi-Agency Resource Centers and Logan County EOC Support

In the aftermath of the March 14 severe storms and tornadoes, the Villages of Lakeview and Russells Point in Logan County experienced the force of an EF-3 tornado. Over 1,500 structures were impacted and approximately 400 of those were severely damaged or destroyed. The county endured the devastating loss of three community members with another 27 reported injuries.

Widespread power outages and communications issues occurred immediately after this incident and utility and communications crews worked expeditiously to repair the damage and restore communications to the area.

The Ohio EMA's Regional Operations team had a presence in the Logan County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to support county EMA Director Helen Norris.

For several weeks, Ohio EMA personnel from four regions worked in rotation alongside Logan County stakeholders and county EMA personnel from around the state of Ohio. They provided support with planning, operational support, and coordination based on incident objectives.



Logan County EMA established the need for a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) to be stood up in Russells Point and the central region spearheaded this effort.

The MARC is a "one-stop-shop" for disaster survivors to meet with governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies, volunteer, community-based and faith-based organizations to determine individual needs.

An additional MARC was also opened in Lakeview. Each MARC was staffed by volunteer, local, state, and federal agencies. In all, 22 agencies had a footprint at the MARC. Continued communication and teamwork were key to a successful MARC.

TRAINING & EXERCISE SECTION

OHIO EMA UPCOMING TRAINING

The Training and Exercise Section offers training throughout the entire state of Ohio. Trainings are listed for mid-July through mid-November. For more details and a complete list of courses, visit the [Ohio EMA website](#).

TRAINING LINKS:

- [Ohio EMA Training Calendar](#)
- [Login or Create a New Account on the DPS Training Campus](#)

NOTE:

- Seats available listed are as of the release of this update & will change quickly.
- All classes will be posted on the DPS training campus at least 60 days prior to the start of the class.
- Please read the [Training Policy & Catalog](#) for more information on Ohio EMA trainings.

TRAINING POINTS OF CONTACT:

- **Lisa Jones:** (614) 799-3824 or ljones@dps.ohio.gov
 - o EMI Training Applications & Courses
 - o G300 Intermediate ICS & G400 Advanced ICS Courses
- **Emily Suezo:** (614) 799-3666 or elsuezo@dps.ohio.gov
 - o National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC)
 - o Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC)
 - o FEMA G Courses & Ohio OH Courses



OHIO EMA UPCOMING TRAINING

	DATE(S)	REGISTRATION OPEN	# SEATS AVAILABLE
15	L958 Operations Section Chief (Franklin)	Aug. 26-29, 2024	
16	OH-605 IA Damage Assessment Workshop (Muskingum)	Aug. 30, 2024	
17	OH-607 Public Assistance Cost Documentation/Damage Assessment (Muskingum)	Aug. 30, 2024	
18	G-400 Advanced ICS (Wayne)	Sept. 3-4, 2024	
19	OH-101 Developing & Maintaining EOP's (Virtual)	Sept. 9, 2024	
20	L-210 Recovery from Disaster Local Community Role (Ohio EMA)	Sept. 10 – 13, 2024	
21	G-300 Intermediate ICS (Union)	Sept. 11-13, 2024	
22	G-191 ICS/EOC Interface (Pickaway)	Sept. 12, 2024	
23	G-300 Intermediate ICS (Cuyahoga)	Sept. 16-18, 2024	
24	G-300 Intermediate ICS (Hamilton)	Sept. 17-19, 2024	
25	G-300 Intermediate ICS (Lorain)	Sept. 17-19, 2024	
26	G-400 Advanced ICS (Franklin)	Sept. 19-20, 2024	
27	OH-197 Planning for Needs in Emergencies (Franklin)	Sept. 23-24, 2024	
28	G-300 Intermediate ICS (Montgomery)	Sept. 23-25, 2024	
29	G-251 Amateur Radio Resources (Virtual)	Sept. 26, 2024	
30	OH-139 Exercise & Design Evaluation (Lake)	Oct. 1-3, 2024	
31	OH-205 Recovery from Disaster, Local Gov. Role (Ohio EMA)	Oct 1-2, 2024	
32	G-300 Intermediate ICS (Stark)	Oct. 2-4, 2024	
33	L964 Situation Unit Leader (Cuyahoga)	Oct. 7-11, 2024	
34	G-400 Advanced ICS (Union)	Oct. 17-18, 2024	
35	G-400 Advanced ICS (Montgomery)	Oct. 21-22, 2024	
36	OH-386 Mass Fatalities Incident (Delaware)	Oct. 22-23, 2024	
37	G-365 Partnerships for Spotter Groups (Virtual)	Oct. 23, 2024	
38	G-358 Evacuation & Re-Entry Planning (Franklin)	Oct. 24-25, 2024	
39	G-400 Advanced ICS (Cuyahoga)	Oct. 24-25, 2024	
40	G-400 Advanced ICS (Lorain)	Oct. 28-29, 2024	
41	G-191 ICS/EOC Interface (Warren)	Oct. 29, 2024	
42	L-105 Public Information Basics (Lake)	Nov. 5-7, 2024	
43	G-400 Advanced ICS (Stark)	Nov. 6-7, 2024	
44	G-400 Advanced ICS (Hamilton)	Nov. 7-8, 2024	
45	G-400 Advanced ICS (Trumbull)	Nov. 13-14, 2024	

	DATE(S)
1	OH-202 Debris Management (Medina) July 18, 2024
2	G-400 Advanced ICS (Allen) July 18-19, 2024
3	G-191 ICS/EOC Interface (Fairfield) July 25, 2024
4	G-557 Rapid Assessment Planning (Summit) July 29, 2024
5	G-400 Advanced ICS (Montgomery) July 29-30, 2024
6	G-300 Intermediate ICS (Wayne) Aug. 5-7, 2024
7	OH-606 Recovery from Disaster Workshop (Medina) Aug. 15, 2024
8	L110 Emergency Management Basic Academy (TtT) (Delaware) Aug. 12 - 16, 2024
9	G-300 Intermediate ICS (Franklin) Aug. 14-16, 2024
10	G-365 Partnerships for Spotter Groups (Jackson) Aug. 17, 2024
11	L967 Logistics Section Chief (Lorain) Aug. 19-23, 2024
12	G-2300 Intermediate EOC Functions Aug. 19-21, 2024
13	G-400 Advanced ICS (Warren) Aug. 20-21, 2024
14	G-400 Advanced ICS (Delaware) Aug. 26-27, 2024

Ohio Emergency Management Agency



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