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Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Thomas P. Charles, Director
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John Kasich, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Mel House Appointed as New EMS Director

(COLUMBUS) – Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Thomas Charles has appointed a new executive director of the Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Mel House will leave his position as Ohio EMA Operations Director to lead the EMS office, which is responsible for the education, certification and investigation of all emergency medical service and fire service providers in the state of Ohio. House will start August 13.

“We look forward to Mr. House helping us build on our efforts to improve emergency medical services and firefighting in Ohio,” Director Charles said. “His 26 years as a fire chief, and his disaster preparedness experience, make him an ideal leader for state EMS.”

House, 56, has been with Ohio EMA since 2005, coordinating the building of local, regional, and statewide response capabilities through the Ohio Response System. He also served as fire chief for Willoughby Fire Department for 26 years prior to his position at EMA.

House lives in Powell, Ohio with his wife of 25 years, Vicki, and four children Nicole, Danielle, Arielle, and Jarrod.

“Mr. House's experience in emergency management, fire and EMS made him a great choice for this position,” said EMS Board Chair Craig Self. “The Board look forwards to his leadership as we continually work to improve Ohio’s EMS system.”

The state EMS Board, a governing panel of EMS professionals, considered about 70 applications and interviewed seven finalists before recommending House to Director Charles.

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