



NEWSLETTER

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From Public Safety Director Kenneth Morckel

OHIO HOMELAND SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS TO FIGHT TERRORISM AND INCREASE SAFETY

Since 2001, Ohio has made significant improvements to the state's overall ability to fight terrorism and increase the safety and security of Ohioans. Ohio is better prepared now than ever before to prevent or respond to a terrorist attack. By working in collaboration with law enforcement officers, first responders, fire departments, and EMS personnel across the state, Ohio Homeland Security has been successful in developing and implementing programs that have improved the state's ability to prevent, protect and respond to or recover from a terrorist attack. Key programs that have been implemented to improve interoperable communications, information sharing and preparedness and response, and outreach efforts include:

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS

Mobile Communication Vehicles
– The Ohio Emergency Management Agency and the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association have teamed up to place 11 mobile communication vehicles at strategic locations across the state that can be deployed in the event of a major disaster or terrorist attack to provide on-site interoperable communications.

INFORMATION SHARING

Ohio Local Law Enforcement Information Sharing Network (OLLEISN) – This program, led by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, is enabling law enforcement agencies across the state to electronically share records - something not previously possible in Ohio. The information-sharing program is expected to become a powerful tool in the prevention of terrorism and other types of crime.

The Ohio Strategic Analysis and Information Center was established to serve as a secure "one-stop shop" that collects, filters, analyzes and disseminates terrorism-related information to the appropriate authorities. More than 100 participants from more than 30 state agencies, law enforcement, fire and the federal government are represented in the center.

DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

The Ohio Response System was developed to expand the state's capability to prepare for and respond to major incidents. Eight regional collaborations, centered near urban areas, have been formed to focus on developing capabilities in 14 key areas involving urban search and rescue response.

The “Best Medicine” for the Flu: Get Informed, Be Prepared, Work Together

While it's common for state agencies to have promotional booths at the Ohio State Fair, this year's Ohio Department of Health (ODH) booth featured something different: educational materials on pandemic flu. The fair booth giveaways included hand sanitizers, tissues, activity cards and other materials, and were part of an overall public awareness and education campaign underway at ODH, local health departments and other state-agency partners. The slogan “Get informed, be prepared, work together” reminds us of steps we can take now to be as ready as possible.

Get Informed

You may have recently seen or heard ODH's advertisements about pandemic flu on television, on the radio, in newspapers or online. The ads remind Ohioans preparations for pandemic flu will protect them during other emergencies such as tornadoes, power outages, floods and severe winter storms.

The other item in the commercials is the Web address <http://www.ohiopandemicflu.gov>. That site is the State of Ohio's one-stop source for information about flu pandemics, cases of bird flu in other parts of the world and what businesses, community groups, faith-based organizations, families and individuals can do to be aware and to prepare.

Just as many local health departments speak to groups in their communities about pandemic flu, ODH provides presentations to statewide organizations or other state agencies on the topic. If your group or agency would like a speaker, send an e-mail to opa@odh.ohio.gov with your request.

Be Prepared

Although seasonal flu happens every year, a pandemic can be much more severe. With a pandemic, no one or very few people have immunity to the new virus, so many more people have the potential for developing illness. Historians tell us pandemics of flu have occurred a few times per century for at least the past 400 years.

While we cannot stop a pandemic from occurring or accurately predict exactly when one will occur, there are things residents and governments can do to slow the spread of flu and other infectious diseases. Each of us can cover our faces when we cough or sneeze; wash our hands with soap and water frequently, especially before eating or after using the restroom; eat well; exercise regularly; get adequate amounts of rest, enabling our bodies to better fight off most infection; and have enough food, water and supplies at home.

Stockpiling clean water, first-aid supplies, medications and food that is nonperishable and easy to prepare will help every family lessen the impact of natural disasters, pandemic flu or other events such as power outages. Experts recommend you have at least a one-week supply of food, water and medicines purchased over time to limit the financial impact and prevent store shortages. Several fact sheets on this and other topics are available at <http://www.ohiopandemicflu.gov>.

Work Together

Preparing for pandemic influenza or other emergencies requires extensive planning and coordination of efforts. While a strategic plan had been in place at ODH for years, in December 2005 Governor Bob Taft instructed ODH and other cabinet agencies to intensify planning efforts for pandemic flu. At that time, Taft created the Pandemic Preparedness Coordinating Committee to assist under the direction of the State of Ohio Security Task Force.

The committee has overseen the adoption of ODH's operational pandemic response plan, the creation of integrated continuity of operations plans from state agencies, and efforts to provide information about pandemic flu to all State of Ohio employees.

This coordinated effort extends far beyond state agencies. Planning efforts are underway at many large Ohio corporations, communities small and large, civic associations, faith-based organizations, school systems and many others. Stories of “best practices” are featured in Ohio's quarterly pandemic planning newsletters available by e-mail subscription at <http://www.ohiopandemicflu.gov>.



The Ohio Department of Health's booth at the 2006 Ohio State Fair. The booth's theme this year was pandemic flu preparedness.



Ohio Department of Health Director J. Nick Baird, M.D. and other staff speak with people who visited the agency's booth at the 2006 Ohio State Fair. This year, the ODH booth theme was pandemic flu preparedness.



From Homeland Security Executive Director John Overly

Ohio Homeland Security's Public Awareness Campaign "See Something, Say Something" Continues to be a Success

Ohio Homeland Security has continued to reach out to Ohioans through the public awareness campaign "See Something, Say Something." This campaign developed by Homeland Security aims to educate Ohioans on the possible signs of terrorism and encourages the public to report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or the Ohio Terrorism Tipline 1-877-OHS-INTEL.

The "See Something, Say Something" materials remind Ohioans to be alert and aware of surroundings and to report any suspicious activity or behavior such as:

- Unattended bags in public places
- Someone conducting surveillance on a government/military/transportation facility, such as taking pictures or videotaping it
- Someone tampering with security equipment or entering an unauthorized zone

Some guidelines when reporting suspicious activity include:

- What is happening?
- Who is doing it?
- Where is it taking place?
- When did you observe it?
- Why are you suspicious?

In August, Ohio Homeland Security joined together with Ohio University, Athens law enforcement and government agencies to promote the campaign to the Southeastern Ohio community.

Another successful partnership included Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA). As part of National Preparedness Month, on September 5, COTA along with Ohio Homeland Security, Columbus law enforcement partnered to educate the Central Ohio area on this important campaign.

To date, Ohio Homeland Security has partnered with the Toledo Area Transit Authority (TARTA), Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA), Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA), Wright State University, The Ohio State University, Ohio University and the Ohio Hispanic Coalition on this campaign to promote safety and the importance of reporting suspicious activity.



See Something, Say Something Press Conference with COTA

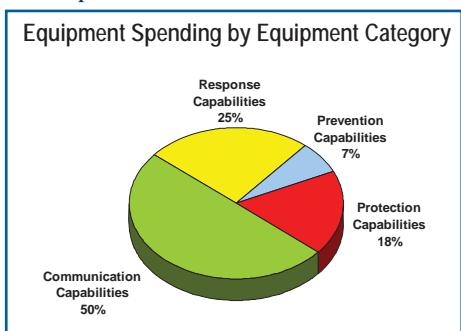


Update on 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program

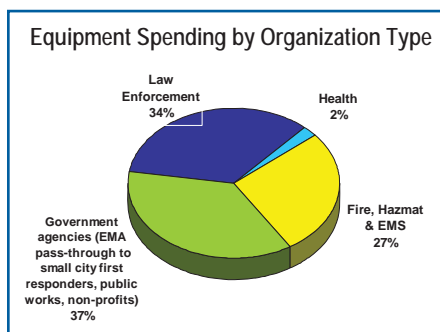
As our nation recognizes the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C., and the heroic efforts undertaken by the passengers on Flight 93, the question of the day is “are we better prepared?” Five years later, with billions of grant dollars doled out nationally to build the capacity of state and local prevention and response agencies, is our nation better prepared to prevent or respond to the next attack?

Since 2002, when the state of Ohio received the first of several homeland security grants, Ohio has disbursed \$277 million to state and local organizations to build Ohio’s capability to prevent or react to an attack or a catastrophic disaster.

Consistent with national priorities, 50% of overall equipment spending is in support of communications capability, 25% to build response capacity, 18% to protect critical infrastructure and other key protection activities and 7% to develop prevention resources.



State and local equipment dollars are spread across the response disciplines with 34% going to law enforcement organizations, 27% to fire, hazardous materials and EMS organizations and 2% to health organizations. The remaining 37% reflects a mix of government agencies including emergency management, certain non-profits and other government services.



Ohio’s 2006 homeland security allocation took a predicted downturn based on a 40% cut in U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant budget.

Ohio’s overall allocation of \$41,347,339 was a decrease of 43% from our Fiscal Year 2005 grant allocation of \$72,460,213. The formula used by The U.S. Department of Homeland Security to allocate this year’s funding was based on risk (2/3% of the calculation) and effectiveness of proposed solutions (1/3% of calculation). While Ohio’s overall risk was in the top 25% of the nation, when compared with the other 56 states and territories, Ohio was 12th in terms of grant amounts.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security identified five separate programs designated to receive Fiscal Year 2006 funding. Those programs and their funding breakdown are as follows:

State Homeland Security Program	\$12,630,000
Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program	\$ 9,180,000
Urban Area Security Initiative	\$17,560,000
Metropolitan Medical Response System	\$ 1,393,980
Citizen Corps Program	\$ 583,359
Total	\$41,347,339

The FY06 allocation for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) is \$12,630,000. This is a 61% decrease from our FY05 allocation of \$32,668,546. The SHSP is the continuation of first responder preparedness to include equipment purchases, exercises, training, planning, and administrative costs.

The FY06 allocation for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) is \$9,180,000. This is a 23% decrease from our FY05 allocation of \$11,879,471. The LETPP provides law enforcement agencies with enhanced capabilities to detect, deter, disrupt, and prevent acts of terrorism.

The allocation for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) is \$17,560,000. This is a 46% decrease from our FY05 allocation of \$32,526,234. The FY06 formula is based on additional credible threat analysis from the Intelligence Community, presence of critical infrastructure, population, vulnerability and cooperation of multiple jurisdictions.

	UASI FY06	UASI FY05	% Change
Cleveland/Cuyahoga	\$4,730,000	\$7,385,100	- 36%
Columbus/Franklin	\$4,320,000	\$7,573,005	- 43%
Cincinnati/Hamilton	\$4,660,000	\$5,866,214	- 21%
Toledo/Lucas	\$3,850,000	\$5,207,598	- 26%

The FY06 allocation for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) is \$1,393,980. This is a 2% increase from our FY05 allocation of \$1,365,552. This allocation supports the efforts of Ohio’s six major metropolitan areas to enhance and sustain their capacity to provide mass casualty response. Each MMRS jurisdiction in Ohio receives \$232,330.

MMRS FY06	MMRS FY05	% Change
\$1,393,980	\$1,365,522	+ 2%

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Colonel Paul McClellan

Ohio Homeland Security Highlights Progress to Fight Terrorism and Increase Safety - Continued

Ohio Homeland Security also developed the Ohio Law Enforcement Response Plan, which is a tool for law enforcement agencies to acquire large quantities of resources in the event of a terrorist attack or major disaster.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/OUTREACH

The Multicultural Affairs Office was established to develop outreach programs to Ohio's diverse communities, with a focus on Arab/Muslim American relations.

See Something, Say Something is a new public awareness campaign that was developed to educate Ohioans on suspicious behavior that may be linked to terrorism and urges the public to contact local law enforcement or the Ohio Terrorism Tipline (1-877-OHS-INTEL) if suspicious activity is observed.

During September, National Preparedness Month, homeland security held press conferences in Columbus, Cleveland and Dayton to promote the importance of terrorism awareness and emergency preparedness.



www.publicsafety.ohio.gov

Patrol's Criminal Intelligence Unit to Maintain National Intelligence Database

As a result of a Congressional mandate, the National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) was created, which was directed to facilitate information sharing among local, state and federal agencies with dignitary and elected officials protective responsibilities. NTAC security officials recommended the establishment of a central protective intelligence repository that would (1) allow access to protective intelligence by agencies that cannot afford to establish their own intelligence-gathering operations, (2) provide uniformity in the dissemination and access to intelligence, and (3) allow agencies to be informed about threats against other individuals who are in the presence of their officials.

This movement gave birth to TAVISS (Targeted Violence Information Sharing System), which is the first centralized database containing a repository of names of subjects with a known or suspected, adverse or unusual direction of interest towards local, state and federal public officials. TAVISS can be directly accessed from a remote administrator site via the Internet, utilizing the pre-existing federally funded RISSNET, by multiple law enforcement agencies with protective responsibilities for such public officials. The system allows participating agencies to conduct name checks and determine whether a subject is of protective interest to any other agency within the TAVISS network.

The original pilot agencies consisted of the U.S. Capitol Police, US Marshals Service, Department of State and the U.S. Secret Service. NTAC currently has 21 agencies designated as administrators in the United States. NTAC has determined that the United States Secret Service shall designate a single TAVISS administrator for each state. The Ohio State Highway Patrol / Criminal Intelligence Unit has been designated as the Ohio administrator for TAVISS. The United States Secret Service and Ohio State Patrol / Criminal Intelligence Unit are scheduling TAVISS rollout training to Ohio Law Enforcement agencies and Judicial components for late October 2006.

In response to the recent rise in hate group activity in the United States. The OSP Criminal Intelligence Unit in August 2006, hosted a Hate Group Training Seminar which was an introductory course that emphasized recognition of and response to hate crimes, and familiarized officers with origins, terminology, types of offenders, hate groups, law and the role of police.

This course also addressed first responder and supervisory roles, investigation and intelligence, victim needs, juveniles, international concerns, legal issues and community responses. This training was provided by the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Southern Poverty Law Center, and MAGLOCLIN to 150 law enforcement officers from three states at no cost.

www.statepatrol.ohio.gov



OHIO TO RECEIVE NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITY

The National Guard Bureau on June 21 selected the Ohio National Guard to receive a new emergency response task force.

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) will add significant capabilities to support homeland security operations in Ohio and its bordering states.

Comprised of traditional soldiers and airmen from existing National Guard units and organizations, this regional task force will assist local, state and federal agencies in the event of a man-made or natural disaster. The CERFP capabilities include patient decontamination, emergency medical services and casualty search and extraction. The CERFP is requested via the Emergency Management System.

Currently a CERFP capability exists in 12 states with at least one located in each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions. The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act provided for the continuation of this capability and the addition of five more NG CERFPs. Ohio, which is currently ranked first nationwide in terms of overall readiness, was one of the five states authorized for the additional CERFP.

California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington and West Virginia have existing CERFP capabilities.

The 155th Chemical Battalion will provide command and control for the CERFP, with the 637th Chemical Company providing the mass decontamination capability. The 121st Medical Group will provide emergency medical services and the 437th Military Police Battalion will provide the security element. The unit that will provide search and extraction capabilities is to be determined.

The 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Civil Support Team (CST), the Ohio National Guard's rapid response team that deploys to an incident scene in order to identify unknown substances and recommend response courses of action, will also work closely with this new unit.

Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard perform Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives (CBRNE) training as part of the new Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) emergency readiness task force.



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Chairman Alan Schriber

PUCO Participates in Safety Event, Awards Hazardous Materials Grants

Each day, hazardous materials specialists and investigators from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) work throughout the

state to improve roadway safety and keep unsafe motor carriers off the roads. These specialists have participated in a number of safety and outreach events over the past few months to help achieve this vital goal.

In June, PUCO hazardous materials specialists and motor carrier investigators were stationed at rest stops and weigh stations throughout Ohio, looking for violations that can make motor carriers unsafe. These inspections were done as part of *Roadcheck 2006*, a three-day annual international transportation safety and security event. PUCO specialists were among more than 10,000 state and federal specialists conducting inspection activities throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

A total of 15 PUCO hazardous materials enforcement staff members participated in Roadcheck, performing 183 inspections over the course of the event. While performing inspections, PUCO staff discovered 347 safety violations and 68 hazardous materials violations. Of these violations, there were 24 vehicle out-of-service violations and two driver out-of-service violations. The majority of the out-of-service violations were a result of problems found with the motor carrier brake system. Thanks to the work of the PUCO, these motor carriers were unable to continue driving until the proper maintenance had been performed.

PUCO Awards Seven Hazardous Materials Grants

On August 23, the PUCO awarded hazardous materials grants totaling \$196,619 to seven local government agencies and educational institutions throughout the state.

Each year, the PUCO awards hazardous materials training grants to local government subdivisions, educational institutions and state agencies to train public safety and emergency services personnel in the proper techniques for the management of hazardous materials transportation and spills. The grants are funded by money from fines paid by hazardous material carriers and shippers, and are given to organizations on a reimbursement basis.

The following agencies recently were awarded hazardous materials grants from the PUCO:

- Cincinnati State Technical and Community College (Hamilton County) – \$97,500
- Columbus Division of Fire (Franklin County) – \$2,250
- Columbus State Community College.. (Franklin County) – \$32,720
- Franklin County EMA and Homeland Security..... (Franklin County) – \$7,485
- Richland Township Glenmont Volunteer Fire Department (Holmes County) –\$15,590
- Seneca County Emergency Planning Department (Seneca County) – \$16,074
- Sycamore Township Fire Department (Hamilton County) – \$25,000

For more information about the PUCO’s role in hazardous materials safety in Ohio, visit the motor carrier section of www.PUCO.ohio.gov.

Update on 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program - Continued



Emergency Management Agency

The FY06 allocation for the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) is \$583,359. This is a 29% increase from our FY05 allocation of \$414,727. The FY05 Citizen Corps funds were used to support existing Citizen Corps Councils and to develop new councils. The FY06 grant proposal will continue to fund existing councils and the establishment of new councils toward a goal of one in each county.

FY06 Citizen Corps	FY05 Citizen Corps	% Change
\$583,359	\$414,727	+ 29%

The priority for 2006 spending is interoperable communications and prevention activities. Notice of awards have been provided to all state and local grant recipients. The grant performance period for 2006 is July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007. The grant will close June 30, 2008.

For comparison purposes, funding from the FY2005 Emergency Management Performance Grant was not included in the FY2005 total, as it was awarded separately in 2006.



How Ohio Would Respond to an Outbreak of Avian Influenza in Birds

In the event of an outbreak of avian influenza in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), in conjunction with USDA, will operate under the Animal Disease Incident Annex, which provides for quick and effective containment of any disease outbreak. ODA is responsible for quarantining facilities and disposal of animals during any animal disease outbreak, including Avian Influenza.

General Background

Avian Influenza, or “bird flu,” is a virus that can cause a varying amount of disease among birds. The viruses can infect chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, geese, and ducks as well as a variety of other birds. Highly pathogenic avian influenza causes a severe, extremely contagious illness and death among infected birds, and while some strains could be infectious to people, the chance of infected poultry entering the food chain would be extremely low.

Ohio Animal Disease Response Plan

The Animal Disease Incident Annex is part of the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Plan. It addresses emergency management responsibilities for state-level organizations in the event of an animal disease outbreak that requires actions beyond the capabilities of the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Animal Industry Division and may require a declaration of emergency by the governor. The primary goal is to coordinate state and federal efforts to prevent, stop and eliminate the spread of animal disease, and minimize the human and economic impact of the disease.

Collaboration

While the Ohio Department of Agriculture has primary authority to manage animal disease outbreaks in Ohio through Chapter 941 of the Ohio Revised Code, there may be events that require many additional resources, such as those performed by other state, federal and local agencies, private businesses, and industry organizations. ODA and these organizations coordinate emergency response and communications before, during, and after an animal disease incident and make up the teams dispatched during an animal disease emergency.

Support agencies include the Ohio Adjutant General’s Department, Ohio Attorney General’s Office, Ohio departments of Administrative Services, Health, Mental Health, Natural Resources, Public Safety, and Transportation, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Livestock Coalition, Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Extension, Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, Federal Emergency

Management Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Service, Wildlife Services, Regional Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organizations, Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Concept of Operations

The Animal Disease Incident Annex establishes a unified command system at the site of the emergency and uses Crisis Action System levels to designate activities that will take place in the event of imminent or actual hazards affecting the State of Ohio. Employees receive training in the National Incident Management System.

Support Teams

The Animal Disease Incident Annex establishes the following teams to coordinate animal disease response and recovery:

Public Information	Surveillance
Indemnification/Appraisal	Euthanasia
Disposal	Decontamination
Biosecurity Training	Veterinary Support
Quarantine	Law Enforcement Support
Recovery	

Putting it to Practice

The Ohio Department of Agriculture regularly tests the functions of the Animal Disease Incident Annex. It has done this through facilitated discussions, tabletop exercises and full-scale functional exercises. The success of the plan depends on implementation through exercises and real-life situations. It is formal enough to provide direction and structure, but flexible enough to allow for quick decision-making when circumstances cannot be predicted.

Consumers may call ODA at (800) 282-1955 with questions or concerns, or visit one of these Web sites:

- State of Ohio Flu Web site – www.ohiopandemicflu.gov
- Ohio Department of Agriculture – www.ohioagriculture.gov/avian
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity/ or www.usda.gov/birdflu
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/
- Ohio Poultry Association – www.ohiopoultry.org
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – www.pandemicflu.gov

Health and Wellness

Richard N. Rucker, EMS Executive Director



Required NIMS Training for All Ohio EMS Providers and Firefighters

In a proposed revision to Ohio Administrative Code 4765-8-01, all Ohio EMS providers and firefighters will be required to complete National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses approved by the EMS Board.

These courses are mandated by the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to Homeland Security presidential directives 5 and 8 (HSPD-5 and HSPD-8), as being necessary for all first responders.

Pursuant to proposed OAC 4765-8-01, after September 30, 2006, the following courses will be required for initial certification as an EMS provider:

1. Introduction to Incident Command System, IS-100
<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/crslist.asp>
2. National Incident Management System (NIMS), IS-700
<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/crslist.asp>

NIMS provides a consistent nationwide outline that allows all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents. This training brings EMTs and firefighters one step closer toward emergency preparedness.

From *OHIO* citizen★corps

Director Kitty Burcsu

Flooding Hits, Ohio Citizen Corps Responds

Massive flooding hit parts of Northwest and Northeast Ohio this summer, Ohio Citizen Corps sprung into action to assist emergency officials and beleaguered residents.

In the Toledo area, a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) was established to process volunteers willing to help residents with flooded basements. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) were also activated to lend a hand to citizens who were not able to remove the debris from their homes. More than 40 homes were completely cleaned.

In Northeast Ohio, following record flooding in Lake County, the EMA director requested the support of Citizen Corps to set up a Volunteer Reception Center to process volunteers wanting to aid residents in the clean-up effort and as a location effected residents could ask for help. The VRC utilized the assistance of 66 volunteers to answer 34 requests for aid. Ohio Citizen Corps volunteers are still assisting with cleanup and long-term recovery. OCC has been designated as the information resource next to 211 telephone information system.

New Campaign Launched

“Make Every Minute Count”

Ohio Citizen Corps launched its new statewide marketing campaign “Make Every Minute Count” at the Ohio State Fair to recruit new volunteers to serve in emergencies. The theme is a continuation of the television and radio advertisements produced last fall. Materials distributed across the state will have the same look and feel, creating a consistent image for the entire program.

The campaign was also designed to support County Citizen Corps Councils and Medical Reserve Corps units with customizable templates for local information. The ServeOhio.org Web site, the home of Ohio Citizen Corps, will also undergo significant revisions with a new vivid look and updated features including a calendar system for trainings and events.

www.serveohio.org





Preparing for the Behavioral Health Effects of Traumatic Events; Curriculum Prepares Behavioral Health Responders

We are threatened everyday with the possibility of any type of emergency from a tornado to the possible threat of a pandemic flu outbreak. The Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) have been proactive in preparing not only our agencies, but also in preparing the local behavioral health agencies in case of emergencies of any kind.

With the formation of the All Hazards Leadership Advisory Committee, ODMH and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) have taken a step to the forefront in preparing the behavioral health system to plan what they will do when an emergency comes to bear. And as the threat of a possible pandemic flu outbreak becomes more evident, ODMH has been busy preparing a communications toolkit which will be available soon.

The toolkit will include various checklists on how to prepare you and your family, business and places of employment for an emergency as well as press releases, letters to editor, brochures on how to prepare, and a PowerPoint. All of these items will discuss the possible behavioral health effects of a pandemic and strategies to cope.

Along the same lines, the department has developed a brochure detailing how to manage the emotional consequences of severe weather. The content includes understanding the impact and exploring strategies for coping with weather emergencies. The brochure is available online at <http://www.mh.state.oh.us/ibhs/centraloffice/allhazards.html>. ODMH also plans to offer this brochure in a Spanish language version soon.

Curriculum prepares behavioral health responders

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and local behavioral health boards have begun using a revised training package to prepare licensed behavioral health professionals to meet the basic behavioral health needs of individuals who have experienced severe crisis and traumatic experiences.

The training package, "Helping People Find Strength Following Disaster," has been adopted by ODMH as required training for clinicians recognized by the agency as Ohio behavioral health care responders. These responders are entered into the official database maintained by the Ohio Citizen Corps as part of its volunteer registration for the Ohio Medical Reserve Corps (OCC/OMRC).

The curriculum was initially developed by a collaborative team of behavioral health disaster training experts including representatives from FEMA, ODMH, and NEOUCOM. The curriculum was revised in 2005, in partnership with university experts from around Ohio, to focus on information relevant to licensed behavioral health professionals.

Numerous behavioral health boards in the state have already utilized successful completion of this curriculum to register professionals as credentialed behavioral health responders with the Medical Reserve Corps.

Manual to assist service members

ODMH and ODADAS, in coordination with Ohio National Guard, Veterans Administration, Vet Centers, Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs, and the OHIOCARES committee, is developing a service member resource manual of behavioral healthcare providers and other community resources.

The manual will include state, federal and local resource and contact information for linkage to behavioral healthcare and other supportive services including housing, healthcare and related services. Services are identified within each Homeland Security Region and covers all 88 counties.

For more information about Ohio's behavioral health response to traumatic events, please contact Joseph Hill at the Ohio Department of Mental Health at (614)-644-6996 or visit <http://www.mh.state.oh.us/ibhs/centraloffice/allhazards.html>.

MARCS Update: State Leaders Put MARCS on Display

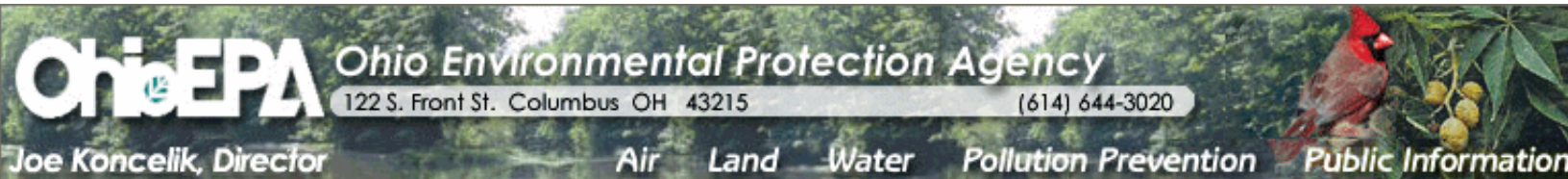
This summer Governor Bob Taft joined Public Safety Director Ken Morckel, Ohio Adjutant General Gregory Wayt, Ohio Office of Information Technology (OIT) Director Mary Carroll and first responders from around the state to demonstrate the capabilities of the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS). MARCS is the nation's first statewide voice and data communication system for first responders.

The voice and data communications system enables police, fire and emergency management crews throughout the state to coordinate with each other to more efficiently and effectively serve and respond to Ohioans during everyday operations and in the event of an emergency.

Currently MARCS serves 14 state agencies, 138 local health departments, 172 hospitals, all 88 county sheriff offices and county Emergency Management Agencies, and more than 110 fire, police and first responder agencies. MARCS supports voice and data services, utilizing a total of 203 radio sites and supporting approximately 19,370 total voice users and 2,251 data devices. The system is also designed to be compatible with other states' communication systems. In April 2006 the system became fully operational when the Computer Aided Dispatch system was completed enabling real-time tracking and coordination of activities between first responders and state, county and local agencies.

Recently state and local agencies, first responders, law enforcement and emergency management officials have utilized MARCS in the following capacities:

- On June 21st and 22nd, severe storms caused flooding in Northwest Ohio. MARCS was used to help disseminate information and call for additional resources needed for response/rescue in the area.
- On July 3rd, MARCS was tested during the Red, White and Boom celebration in Columbus. MARCS assisted with crowd control, traffic flow, and emergency response.
- During the National Guard transport to Michigan for annual training in June, MARCS communicated seamlessly with the Michigan system.
- During the event, Major General Wayt discussed how the MARCS radios were used when the Ohio National Guard went to the Gulf Coast to assist in the rescue and recovery following Hurricane Katrina. Franklin County Sheriff Chief Deputy Steve Martin gave a local perspective on the importance of MARCS.



Ohio EPA Aiding Local Response Efforts

Earlier this year, Ohio EPA's drinking water protection staff participated in a statewide meeting of county emergency management agencies. To assist in emergency planning efforts, Ohio EPA provided county maps showing the location of public water systems and contact information for those systems.

Agency staff are now following up with e-mails to each county EMA to encourage them to include public water systems in future emergency response exercises. "Our first line of defense in securing a safe water supply is at the local level," said Mike Baker, chief of Ohio EPA's drinking water program. "It is

important for the water plant operators and local emergency responders to establish rapport and communication before a crisis occurs. Ohio EPA is happy to assist in that effort."

Baker also noted that Ohio EPA recently purchased 16 MARCS radios that will help staff communicate during emergencies and natural disasters. The radios were purchased with a Counter-Terrorism Coordination grant. MARCS technology is used by the State Highway Patrol and many other state and local agencies to ensure seamless communications between critical government agencies during disasters.

OCJS Hosts Human Trafficking Conference

OCJS hosted a one-day conference on human trafficking on June 20. The goal of the conference was to consider effective strategies for the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases while providing meaningful services to its victims. Human trafficking is the third most profitable illegal enterprise in the world behind drugs and arms dealing.

Over 250 professionals, including law enforcement officers, social service and health care providers, victim advocates, and other non-governmental agencies attended the conference. The leading minds in the field of human trafficking presented at the conference, including Tina Frundt and Bradley Myles from the Polaris Project; Dr. Jeremy Wilson from the RAND Institute; Timothy Del Vecchio of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; Lou de Baca, lead human trafficking prosecutor of the Civil Rights Division, U.S. DOJ and other experts on domestic and international human trafficking, community policing and human rights advocacy. In designing this event, Detective Ken Lawson of the Columbus Division of Police collaborated closely with OCJS. Detective Lawson is recognized as one of the most knowledgeable criminal justice professionals in the state in the area of human trafficking.

The conference represents the first prong of OCJS' three-prong plan to address human trafficking in Ohio. The other two prongs are a significant research study lead by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police in collaboration with RAND and the Columbus Division of Police to determine the incidence of human trafficking in major urban communities in the state. This study will make recommendations to guide a proper policy response to human trafficking in the state. Regional trainings for law enforcement and other allied criminal justice professionals on human trafficking is

the third prong of the plan, which will take place later this year and early next year.

The Toledo Blade ran a series of articles in January after federal investigators charged 31 men and women with herding teens - including at least nine girls from the Toledo area - across state lines as sex slaves in a highly profitable and violent prostitution ring. The Toledo Blade, along with Columbus Channel 4 and Channel 10, gave the conference great coverage in bringing this emerging and tragic issue to the public's attention.

Law Enforcement Officer's Toolkit (LEOT)

Developed by OCJS, the LEOT is a software solution for Ohio law enforcement agencies in need of a records management system. The LEOT also allows agencies to report their OIBRS crime data and participate in the OLLEISN data sharing project. Work is currently underway to program the LEOT for OLLEISN Level II certification, and on Web-based LEOT development. OCJS recently released the final version of LEOT Version 5.0.3. LEOT provides support to agencies using the LEOT records management system developed by OCJS. This system also allows agencies to report their OIBRS crime data and participate in the OLLEISN data sharing project. New features in version 5.0.3 include: the LEOT Service Center module which provides enhanced data submission and software updating capabilities; the LEOT Crash Module diagram module; and a new feature that allows officers to copy the contents of the BMV module into the Incident, Citation and other modules. OCJS also continues to hold regional trainings for law enforcement agencies that use the toolkit, as well as conducting demos for interested agencies. There are currently 369 agencies signed-on to use the LEOT, 29 of which are sheriff's offices.


 A graphic featuring the text "OHIO Homeland SECURITY" in a stylized font, with "OHIO" in large white letters, "Homeland" in a script font, and "SECURITY" in white letters on a red rectangular background. The background is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes.

OHIO
Homeland
SECURITY

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