

Butler County EMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY



Volume 2, Issue 1
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Training Opportunities:

- February 3—Ice Water Rescue
- February 6—ICS/EOC Interface
- February 8—Storm Spotter Training
- February 16—HazMat Tactical Technician
- April 9, 11, 16, 18 & 23—ICS 300
- April 24-26—HSEEP
- May 9, 14, 16 & 21 — ICS 400

Information for registering for any of the above courses can be obtained on our website at butlercountyohio.org/ema

Butler County EMA

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Butler County EMA Mission Statement

Coordinating people and resources to protect the lives and property within Butler County by working together to achieve one goal for Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Disasters and Emergencies

BUTLER COUNTY EMA TO HOST NWS STORM SPOTTER COURSE

Severe Weather is a significant hazard faced by the residents of Butler County and preparedness is essential to ensuring you and your family stay safe during a weather-related emergency. To increase preparedness in Butler County, Butler County EMA is excited to host the National Weather Service's Storm Spotter course.

The National Weather Service's Storm Spotter course is designed to train citizens on how to participate in the National Weather Service's SKYWARN program. According to the National Weather Service, "SKYWARN is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service."

These reports help the National Weather Service better interpret the radar signatures received in the National Weather



Over 75 people attended the 2016 NWS Storm Spotter course. The course is designed to train local citizens to identify severe weather and to share that information with the National Weather Service. This information is then used to better predict the weather.

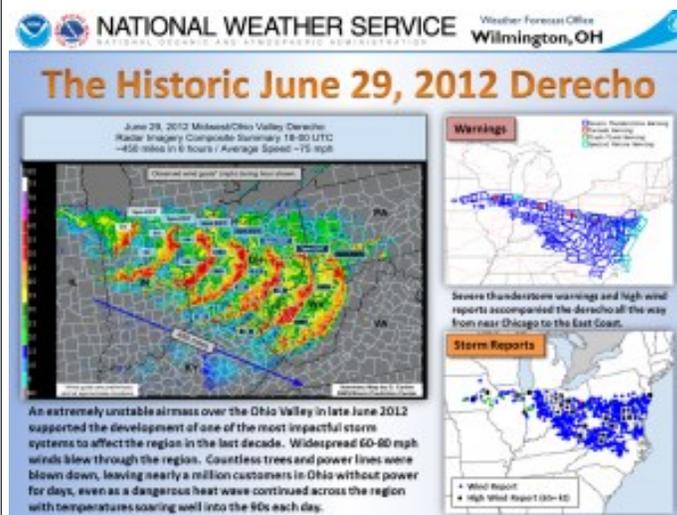
Service Wilmington Field Office. These reports, along with various weather stations and radar indications, help guide the watches, warnings and advisories issued by the National Weather Service.

"NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN program.

Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches and nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become a spotter."

This year's course will be held on February 8th at 7:00 pm in the Level A Plaza Conference Room at UC Health West Chester Hospital. Training is free, however prior registration is required. Those interested may register at the Butler County EMA website. Attendance is limited to 75 participants. ■

For more information, contact EMA Planning & Operations Manager Jim Bolen at BolenJA@ButlerCountyOhio.org or visit the National Weather Service's NWS SKYWARN website at <https://www.weather.gov/skywarn/>



OHIO EMA RELEASES OHIO SAFE ROOM REBATE PROGRAM

The Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program is once again accepting applications. The program provides a rebate for the purchase and construction/ installation of tornado safe rooms for Ohio homeowners selected for the program.

"The entire state of Ohio is at risk of an EF5 tornado, which produces 250 mile per hour winds capable of destroying most structures," said Steve

Ferryman, Ohio EMA mitigation branch chief. "A safe room is built to withstand these winds and resulting airborne debris and provides near absolute protection for occupants."

A safe room is an extreme-wind shelter or space that provides protection to people during a tornado. It can be constructed/installed in one of several places in the home: in the basement, beneath a concrete slab-on-grade foundation or garage floor, or in an interior room on the first floor. A safe room may also be buried in the yard or be a stand-alone structure near your home.

Residents selected for the program are eligible for a rebate up to 75 percent of the cost to install or construct a



A tornado safe room survives after being struck by a tornado

safe room – up to a maximum of \$4,875. To apply for the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program, homeowners have until 5 p.m. March 19, to register on the Ohio EMA website: <https://sharpp.dps.ohio.gov/ohiosharpp/> ■

For more information on the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program, please contact EMA Planning & Operations Manager Jim Bolen at BolenJA@ButlerCountyOhio.org or by phone at (513)785-5810.



An in-ground tornado Safe room can be installed in homes with no tornado-safe areas.

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT TO HOST ICE WATER RESCUE TRAINING



St. Clair Township Fire Department will be hosting Ice Water Rescue Training for local fire departments in Butler County. The 8-hour training course will include both classroom and live water training designed to train first responders on how to per-

form shore-based and on-ice rescue.

This training is essential to ensuring the safety of Butler County's citizens. Butler County EMA Director Matt Haverkos stated, "Many people don't understand the

sheer number of water hazards we have here in the county. Certainly everybody knows we have the Great Miami River running through the county, but the farm ponds, private lakes and dams are also hazards which must be addressed. Every fire department in the county has these hazards, in one form or another, within their jurisdiction. This is why training, such as the St. Clair Township Fire Department's Ice Water Rescue Training, is essential to ensuring Butler County is a safer place to live, work and play."

St. Clair Township's Ice Water Rescue Training will be held of February 3rd, at 8:00 am at St. Clair Township Fire Department Station #201. The training will last approximately 8 hours and is limited to

first responders. To register for this training, contact St. Clair Fire Department Lieutenant Dustin Pearson at dpearson@stclairtownshipohio.org ■ For more information on this course, go to <http://butlercountyohio.org/ema/index.cfm?>



First Responders from Butler County participate in the 2017 Ice Water Rescue Training