

Butler County EMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY



AUDITOR'S OFFICE STAFF SUPPORTS IMT FROM 750 MILES AWAY

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Training Opportunities:

- December 3-5—ICS 300 Intermediate ICS
- December 6-7—ICS 400 Advanced ICS
- December 11-13—PER 229 Intro to Cameo
- December 20—WebEOC & Raven911
- February 5—ICS Forms Review
- March 19-21—Finance & Administration Section Chief

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

Recently, the Butler County Incident Management Team returned from their deployment to Bay County, Florida. The team was deployed to support Hurricane Michael Relief efforts and worked in the hardest hit areas of Florida's Gulf Coast. During the deployment, the Butler County Incident Management Team faced many challenges. One such challenge was a lack of access to local Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialists.

GIS Specialists work with county officials to develop layered maps used to display critical information. These maps are essential during normal operations, but their value grows exponentially during disasters. As a result of Hurricane Michael's 155 mph winds and devastating storm surge, the Bay County GIS Department's offices were out of service and their staff's resi-

dences suffered significant damage. The team reached out to Katie Evers, GIS/P with the Butler County Auditor's Office. The Butler County Auditor's Office has long assisted the Butler County Emergency Management Agency and Butler County Incident Management Team in many local emergencies and participated in exercises and emergency preparedness drills, they have never deployed with the team to other jurisdictions. Butler County Incident Management Team staff contacted Ms. Evers and enlisted her help to support the team's mission in Florida.

Over the course of this deployment, Ms. Evers was able to obtain crucial information from the GIS Librarian, Enterprise Geodatabase Administrator, Office of Technology and Information Services and State of Florida. She downloaded this

"I commend the teamwork amongst Butler County offices who joined together and helped out folks impacted by the devastating effects of Hurricane Michael."
- Roger Reynolds,
Butler County Auditor

information and was able to create detailed PDF maps at the request of team members to assist with local response efforts in Bay County.

Ms. Evers also uploaded this valuable information into the Butler County Auditor's online Imagery system called Pictometry® by Eagleview®. For many years First Responders in Butler County have utilized this program to assist with preplans and emergency response within Butler County. This web and app-based software use three-dimensional, high-resolution, aerial photographs to view images Ms. Evers reached out to her contact at Pictometry® and was able to gain early access for the IMT staff to view aerial images from a post-Hurricane Michael flyover.



Sand and debris surround damaged homes after Hurricane Michael. Aerial photography, such as the picture above, is crucial in identifying impacted areas after a disaster. Ms. Evers was able provide first responders in Florida with critical images and maps from her desk in Butler County.

According to Claire Foster, a Senior Marketing Manager for EagleView, "Imagery and property data are helping government agencies make smarter, more empowered decisions in day-to-day operations and when time is of the essence. When a disaster strikes, EagleView is committed to helping communities recover

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AUDITOR'S OFFICE STAFF SUPPORTS IMT FROM 750 MILES AWAY (CONTINUED)

by capturing and delivering high-resolution Pictometry® aerial imagery as quickly as possible.

“By maintaining relationships with air traffic control centers throughout the nation, EagleView has the ability to be first in the sky after a natural disaster.

“Oftentimes, Pictometry imagery is available to customers before power is even restored to impacted areas. This post-disaster imagery enables officials to assess the magnitude of the damage, plan out recovery efforts, and much more, often leading to significantly reduced recovery times. EagleView customers receive disaster response imagery for qualifying events at no charge. EagleView delivers greater efficiency to agencies in their time of need, in turn helping them bring peace of mind to the communities they serve.”

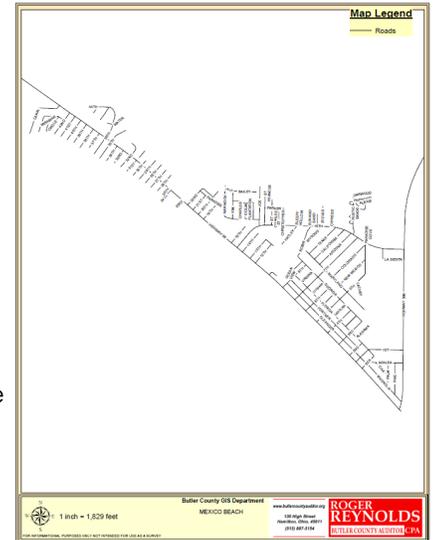
Chris Sander, a Firefighter/Paramedic for Liberty Township Fire Department, was assigned to the Operations Section during this deployment said “Ms. Evers was an invaluable asset to our team during a very chaotic time. The Bay County area where we were assigned sustained substantial damage. Ms. Evers knowledge and expertise in GIS, and, more specifically, Pictometry® gave us the ability to see the damage first-hand from our location within the Bay County Emergency Operations Center. These images and maps allowed us to request the appropriate resources and provide much-needed relief to the residents of Bay County.” He further stated, “Her assistance allowed the Operations section to choose the most suitable sites for several FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers that would eventually aide the residents of Bay County in getting some normalcy back in their lives.”

“We are very blessed in Butler

County to have such exceptional support from Butler County Auditor Roger Reynolds, his staff and Ms. Evers,” Butler County EMA Director Matt Haverkos said. “We have long enjoyed a great relationship with the Butler County Auditor’s Office GIS professionals and this relationship has allowed us to prepare for and respond to disasters in new and innovative ways. We truly appreciate the support we have received from Mr. Reynolds, Ms. Evers and the rest of his staff.”

Butler County Auditor Roger Reynolds praised the collaborative effort, “I commend the teamwork amongst Butler County offices who joined together and helped out folks impacted by the devastating effects of Hurricane Michael.”

■ For more information regarding Pictometry, contact Katie Evers at EversKM@ButlerCountyOhio.org



Simple maps, such as the one above, provided crucial information for first responders as worked to serve those impacted by Hurricane Michael. First responders from across the United States responded into the impacted areas without maps or understanding of the community. The maps provided by Ms. Evers allowed responders to organize information succinctly and share it with the public and other responders

BUTLER COUNTY RECEIVES OVER \$300,000 IN STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS



Special Operations Teams, such as the Butler County Technical Rescue Team are funded through collaboration with local jurisdictions, the Butler County Commissioners and grant funding

The Butler County EMA is pleased to announce that of the almost \$342,000 of the \$677,000 awarded to Homeland Security Region 6 will fund

Butler County projects this year.

In August, Ohio EMA released both the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the State Homeland Security Law Enforcement Grant to each homeland security region in Ohio. Project submissions were due by the middle of October and the eight (8) county EMA Directors in the southwest Ohio region met to discuss the proposed projects. The group determined which projects best achieved the core goals of the strategic mission identified in the latest Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, or THIRA. These ten (10) projects then moved on to Ohio EMA for review. Ohio EMA reviews the projects to ensure that the projects adhere to the Grant guid-

ance set forth by FEMA and Ohio Department of Public Safety.

Once the projects are approved by Ohio EMA, the fiscal agents for the grant will begin the procurement process.

Projects accepted by the region included sustainment for the Butler County Tech Rescue Team (Confined space air cart and Team portable radios), Butler County Incident Management Team (Generators and tablets), Butler County Type 1 Hazmat (chemical detection equipment and Team portable radios), Butler County Bomb Squad (IED disabling tools) and a region wide Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) response package, including Active Shooter bags for all first in Engines and

Squads and County and civilian drop kits for prepositioning. We hope to begin procurement around March of next year.

Butler County EMA wants to thank the following boards for their support of these projects to make Butler County and Southwest Ohio a safer place to live, work and play: the Butler County Police Chiefs Association, the Butler County Fire Chiefs Association, the South West Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, The Butler County EMS Council, the Butler County Hospital Summit, the Butler County Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the Butler County Emergency Management Executive Board. ■ For more information, go to the Butler County EMA website at <http://butlercountyohio.org/ema/>

The Butler County Emergency Management Agency would like to wish you all a safe holiday!
Happy Thanksgiving!