

Butler County EMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY



Volume 2, Issue 10
December 2018

Training Opportunities:

- January 31—G191: ICS/EOC Interface
- February 5—ICS Forms Review
- March 6—G557: Rapid Needs Assessment
- March 12-14—ICS 300
- March 13—WebEOC Training
- March 14-15—ICS 400
- 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

BUTLER/WARREN COUNTY EMAS HOST 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.

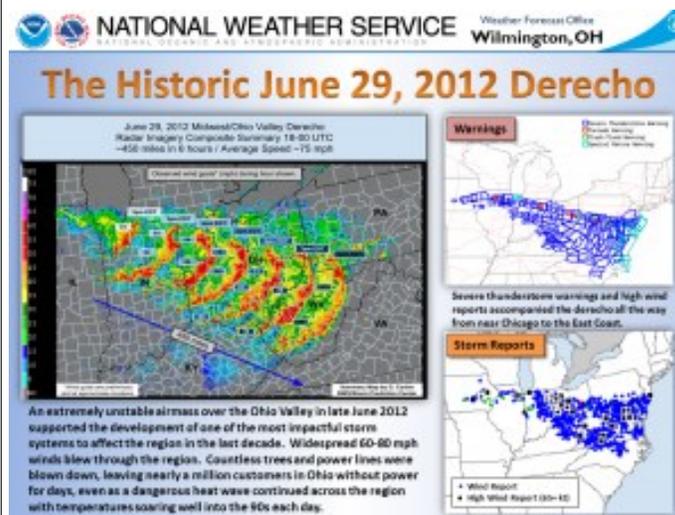
Service Wilmington Field Office. These reports, along with various weather stations and radar indications, help guide the watches, warnings and advisories issued by the National Weather Service.

"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 28th at 6:00 pm in the Medical Office Building auditorium at Atrium Medical Center. Training is free, however prior registration is required. Those interested may register at the Butler County EMA website. Attendance is limited to 150 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/>



STAY PREPARED THIS WINTER

As the temperatures continue to drop and the possibility of snow becomes more certain it is important to be prepared for any hazards you may encounter.

One way to remain prepared is to build an emergency kit for your vehicle. Snow and ice can severely impact road conditions and can lead to you being stranded on the side of the road. An emergency kit can help keep you safe as you wait for assistance.

There are several items that could be included in a Winter Vehicle Emergency Kit, but the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCWSA) recommends including the following items in your kit:

- Battery-powered radio, flashlight & extra batteries
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Snow brush and ice scraper
- Booster (jumper) cables
- Emergency flares, shovel, state map
- Extra windshield fluid

- Sand or non-clumping cat litter to help with tire traction
- Fire extinguisher (5-lb, A-B-C type)
- Bottled water or juice / Nonperishable high-energy foods (granola bars, raisins, peanut butter or cheese crackers)
- First-aid kit and necessary medications
- Extra clothing, particularly boots, hats and gloves or mittens
- Cell phone and car charger

Additionally, the OCWSA provides the following survival tips if you should find yourself stranded:

- The best advice is to remain in the vehicle. If nothing else, you are guaranteed shelter.
- Tie a bright colored cloth (handkerchief, towel, etc.) to the vehicle's driver door handle or outside mirror.
- Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow. Poisonous



A small Winter Emergency Car Kit can be purchased online or developed at home. These kits provide useful tools and supplies to help keep you safe in the event that your car becomes disabled. Adding such a kit to your car now ensures that you'll be prepared in the event of an emergency

gases can filter into the vehicle if the pipe is clogged.

- Run the engine and heater no more than 10 minutes every hour, leaving a downwind window slightly open for ventilation while the engine is running.
- Light a flare (outside of the vehicle) or turn on a flashlight to let others know you're stranded in the vehicle.
- Use blankets or seat covers for added warmth. If you must leave your

vehicle during a severe snow storm or blizzard, secure a line of rope or cord to yourself and the vehicle to avoid becoming lost or disoriented.

- Keep bottled water in your emergency kit or vehicle. Never eat snow. It will chill you and lower your body temperature.
- Remain calm. Chances for rescue are better if you remain calm and in your vehicle. ■ For more information, go to <https://www.weathersafety.ohio>.

BUTLER COUNTY EMA TO HOST WEBEOC TRAINING IN MARCH

The Butler County Emergency Management Agency is proud to announce we are hosting WebEOC training on March 13, 2018. According to EM Systems, WebEOC is a computer program "built to support the mission of crisis management, public safety and emergency response personnel, the solution has evolved to provide simplified information access promoting intelligent incident response and business resiliency. The enhanced user experience provides organizations of all sizes with a platform for daily operational and emergency management support through a uniquely customizable set

of utilities for complete situational awareness."

WebEOC is provided by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency as tool for sharing situational awareness during times of disaster. The program allows information to be shared vertically, between the State of Ohio and the individual counties, and horizontally, county-to-county. This service and the training is provided through the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's Technical Support Division.

Recently, the Butler County Emergency Management Agency shifted from the SO-

SINK regional WebEOC to the State of Ohio platform for information sharing. This change was made due to the SOSINK region's decision to no longer support the regional platform. Butler County was able to work with officials at the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency to transition the existing Butler County-specific boards to the State of Ohio system.

- This WebEOC training will teach students to:
- Log in to WebEOC during an activation

- Function in WebEOC during an EOC activation.
- Develop and maintain a position log
- Post reports to the significant events log
- Request and assign resources.
- Assign and complete tasks.
- Understand how the local and regional operational picture is formed in WebEOC ■ For more information on this course, go to <http://butlercountyohio.org/ema>