

Butler County EMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY



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Training Opportunities:

- April 11-12—G358: Evacuation and Re-Entry Planning
- May 4—NWS Advanced Weather Spotter
- May 7-8—G317: Disaster Management for Public Services
- May 17—Butler County Fire Investigation Team Training Seminar
- May 21, 22 & 23—Tactics & Response to Anhydrous Ammonia
- June 12—MGT 414: Advanced Critical Infrastructure Protection

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

RESCUE TASK FORCE CONCEPT BY DAVID GERSTNER AND ROSS BALES

The number of incidents involving active shooters - defined for our purposes as an armed person who continues to use deadly force while having unrestricted access to additional victims - has increased dramatically. Since 1966, there have been over 200 active shooter events in the US with a total of 600 dead and 700 wounded. Over 200 deaths have been caused by active shooters in schools in the past 25 years. They occur in urban, suburban, and rural settings.

Following the shootings at Columbine and other incidents, police response active shooter incidents underwent a paradigm shift. Throughout the U.S., law enforcement (LE) personnel are trained to respond aggressively to immediately pursue, establish contact with, and stop the shooter. Rapid response and takedown results in fewer casualties, and has saved hundreds and possibly thousands of lives.

Emergency medical services (EMS) response to active shooter situations changed more slowly. Even today for many agencies, the current fire or EMS response to the active shooter is to stage in a secure location until police mitigate the threat and secure the area. Unfortunately, securing such a complex scene can take an extended time. When EMS is waiting outside, casualties are not receiving care.

Quick integration and deployment of life-saving measures



and personnel into the initial response effort must be accomplished to minimize the impact of these types of incidents. Early medical intervention and rapid transportation to an appropriate treatment facility are the most important factors to limit loss of life. Agency policies should include adaptable options for evolving threats that make the best use of available personnel to immediately suppress the threat and to treat and transport the injured.

The Rescue Task Force (RTF) concept, pioneered in Arlington, VA, has been endorsed by the International Association of Firefighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the United States Fire Administration, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, among other agencies. Dayton Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) was one of the first areas to create a regional response plan. The Dayton MMRS RTF program used the best of numerous protocols, utilized grant funds to provide

protective equipment sets, and has provided collaborative efforts with law enforcement and EMS agencies to provide rapid treatment for casualties in an active shooter scenario. Dozens of agencies in the ten counties of west central Ohio have joined the DMMRS program, and hundreds of responders have completed the training. ■ The Ohio State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services (EMFTS) and Ohio Homeland Security created an RTF Ad Hoc Committee who developed awareness training for both law enforcement and EMS providers. Effective April 1, 2019, that training will be required for all Ohio EMS providers. The training program mirrors the concepts embodied in the Dayton MMRS program. The narrated RTF online course can be accessed on the Ohio Department of Public Safety Training Campus: <https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/WBT-HTML/WBT9060offline/>

BUTLER COUNTY EMA INTERN SPOTLIGHT: LUKE LAWSON

Luke Lawson is currently serving as an Intern with the Butler County Emergency Management Agency. Luke has been in an intern with the Butler County EMA since 2018 and previously completed an internship with Warren County EMA.

Luke recently graduated from the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School as a CBRN Specialist with the Ohio Army National Guard.

Luke is employed by Allied Universal Security Services as a Security Director. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Emergency and Disaster Management from the American Military University in 2017, with Honors, and graduated with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Sinclair Community College in 2013, with Honors.

Luke also holds a license as a Remote Small Unmanned

Aircraft System (sUAS) Pilot, Part 107.

Currently, Luke is working on several projects for the Butler County EMA including updating County Official Directory, updating the county's LEPC Tier II reports, inventorying CERT equipment and assisting in general EMA.

Born and raised in the Ohio area, Luke presently lives in West Chester, Ohio with his Fiancé. ■



FLOOD SAFETY

As we enter the spring season, it's important to review safety information for one of the largest hazards we face in Butler county: Flooding. Butler County is susceptible to two major types of flooding: flash flooding and areal flooding.

According to NOAA, flash flooding is "flooding that normally occurs within six hours of heavy or intense rainfall. This results in small creeks and streams quickly rising out of their banks. Dangerous flooding in areas near these creeks and streams, as well as low-lying flood prone areas, develops very quickly and is a significant threat to life and/or property."

Areal flooding is "flooding that

develops more gradually, usually from prolonged and persistent moderate to heavy rainfall. This results in a gradual ponding or buildup of water in low-lying, flood prone areas, as well as small creeks and streams. The flooding normally occurs more than six hours after the rainfall begins, and may cover a large area. However, even though this type of flooding develops more slowly than flash flooding, it can still be a threat to life and property."

Both types of flooding are dangerous, but there are some things you can do to keep you and your family safe. Before a flooding event, FEMA recommends identifying and understanding your

risk. The first way to do this is to look at maps which show your home's proximity to rivers, creeks and streams. Additionally, you can ask neighbors who have lived in your neighborhood and identify what your flooding risk truly is. Finally, you can always contact our office or the office of your local floodplain administrator to ask about historical flooding events and to discuss your flood risk.

Another option to reduce your vulnerability to floods is to contact local insurance providers and inquire about enrolling in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP is a federally subsidized insurance program for those who own homes in floodplains which covers flood damage which is not generally covered under renters and homeowners insurance policies. Anyone who lives in a community which participates in the NFIP program is eligible for the program.

FEMA and the National Weather Service (NWS) also recommends purchasing a NWS-approved weather radio to monitor for Flood or Flash Flood Watches and Warnings. According to NOAA, "Flood Watches are issued to inform the public, cooperating agencies, and other interests that the current and/or developing

weather pattern is such that there is a potential for rapid flooding (also known as flash flooding), more widespread areal flooding, or river flooding. The occurrence of flooding is neither certain nor imminent. Persons in the watch area are advised to check flood action plans, keep informed, and be ready to take necessary actions if a warning is issued or flooding is observed."

According to NOAA, "A Flood or Flash Flood Warning is issued to inform the public that flooding is imminent or in progress. It focuses on specific counties, communities, streams, or areas. Flash Flood Warnings are issued for flooding usually occurring within 6 hours of heavy rain. An Areal Flood Warning is issued for flooding that occurs more gradually, normally from prolonged and persistent moderate to heavy rainfall. A River Flood Warning is issued when a river is forecast to go above its designated flood stage at the forecast point."

Floods and Flash Floods can be devastating events which damage homes, vehicles and property. However, we can reduce these hazards with the right proactive steps. ■

For more information regarding flood safety, go to www.ready.gov/floods



The Butler County Water Rescue Task Force regularly trains on swift water rescue operations. The Butler County Water Rescue Task Force consists of members from several agencies within the county.