

Butler County EMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY



SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS

Volume 2, Issue 3
April 2018

Training Opportunities:

- May 8—Railcar Incident Response (West Chester)
- May 8-9—Mitigation Planning Workshop
- May 9, 14, 16 & 21 — ICS 400
- May 17—WebEOC/ Raven911
- May 22-23—L550—COOP Planning
- June 5—AWR 160—WMD Terrorism Awareness for First Responders

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

As we enter into the spring season, it's important to realize the risk for severe weather to our area. Warming temperatures and moist air are a recipe for severe storms, straight-line wind and even tornadoes.

Severe weather can strike anytime of the year, but it is more likely to occur during the spring season. As cold polar air travels through the Rocky Mountains toward the southeastern United States it is met with the moist, warm and unstable air from the Gulf of Mexico. This air movement results in conditions that carry the potential to foster strong storms, strong rains and tornados.

There are several things to keep in mind when dealing with severe weather. The first is that awareness is essential to remaining safe during severe weather season. There are several ways you can identify severe weather potential in your community. The first is to monitor local weather broadcasts on radio, television and the internet to ensure that you're aware of any potential severe weather threats to your



April 3, 1974 - Xenia, OH

While severe tornadoes are rare in Ohio, they are not without precedent. An F5 tornado struck Xenia, Ohio on April 3, 1974. This massive tornado killed 33 people and injured 1,300 others.

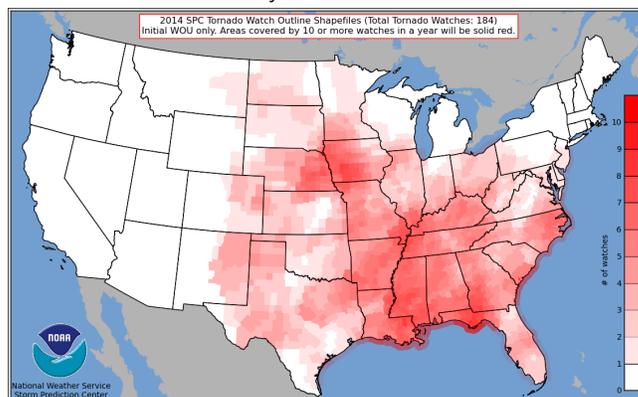
area. Additionally, the National Weather Service recommends keeping a NWS approved weather radio in your home. These radios alert citizens of weather advisories, watches and warnings

It's also important to remember what to do when severe weather strikes your area. When the National Weather Service issues a "Severe Thunderstorm

Watch" or a "Tornado Watch," this means that the conditions are correct for severe weather. Those who find themselves in areas under a severe weather watch should monitor weather conditions and be alert for any indications that severe weather is imminent.

A "Severe Thunderstorm Warning" or a "Tornado Warning" means that severe weather is imminent and you should seek shelter immediately. The National Weather Service advises anyone who is in an area under a severe weather warning should immediately take shelter in an interior room on the lowest floor, or basement, of a sturdy building. ■

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



A map produced by NOAA showing the prevalence of Tornado Watches during the 2014 Tornado Season. Butler and Hamilton Counties are shown to have been placed under a Tornado Watch six times during the 2014 Tornado Season.

OHIO RECEIVES FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARATION FOR OHIO RIVER FLOODING

President Trump has approved a Federal Disaster Declaration for 18 counties in Ohio in response to Ohio River flooding and severe storms which impacted the State of Ohio in mid-February. These storms resulted in over \$44 million in damages to county, village and township roads, bridges and public buildings. Federal Disaster Declarations are very important and can impact communities in a number of ways. The first is that a Federal Disaster Declaration opens up funds to repair local infrastructure. Disasters can wreak havoc on local infrastructure and funds from a Federal Disaster Declaration can be used to reimburse the community for the damage incurred. Another reason why a Federal Disaster Declaration is im-

portant is because it opens up assistance to those who are impacted. Federal Disaster Declarations, as discussed above, open up potential reimbursement for damage to local infrastructure, but Federal Disaster Declarations can also open up Individual assistance for impacted citizens. Moreover, a Federal Disaster Declaration can also allow the Small Business Administration to release SBA loans to small businesses impacted by the disaster. The final reason why Federal Disaster Declarations are important that we'll discuss is that the Federal Disaster Declarations can open up hazard mitigation funding statewide. Local jurisdictions and counties can apply for these Hazard Mitigation funds to reduce future vulnerability.



18 counties in Ohio, including Hamilton County (pictured above), received a Federal Disaster Declaration as a result of Ohio River Flooding. This declaration will open up funding and resources to counties throughout the entire state.

Federal Disaster Declarations are important to communities who have been impacted by the disaster, but they are also important to other communities within the state. These

declarations, and the funding they provide, are instrumental in making our communities safer. ■ For more information, go to butlercountyohio.org/ema/

Butler County Water Rescue Expo

This year's annual Spring Butler County Regional Water Rescue Exposition is Tuesday from 9AM to 11AM. This is an opportunity for Butler County police and fire agencies that respond to water rescue emergencies in and around Butler County collaboratively. Elected officials, first responders, and interested County partners are encouraged to stop by and talk with representatives from the various agencies and view equipment on hand.



You are invited to join us at the Fairgrounds (1715 Fairgrove Ave. Hamilton 45011). It will be in the infield and there is still room if your public safety agency has equipment they would like to bring.



We have invited some partners from our neighboring counties to join and promote the sharing of resources in the event of an emergency.

Mitigation Grant Opportunity

On April 17th President Trump declared a Major Disaster for the State of Ohio as a result of the February flooding (FEMA-4360-DR). A Presidential Disaster Declaration opens additional mitigation funding that is available to all Counties, Cities, Townships and Villages even those that were not affected by the specific event.

Jurisdictions in Butler County are eligible to apply through the Ohio Emergency Management Agency – Mitigation Branch for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Pre Applications are being accepted through May 11th. More info can be found at the Ohio EMA Mitigation website.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

