

Butler County EMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY



Volume 3, Issue 4
April 2019

Training Opportunities:

- May 4—NWS Advanced Weather Spotter
- May 7-8—G317: Disaster Management for Public Services
- May 9—Paradigm Pipeline Awareness Training
- 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

315 High Street, Suite 670
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
Office (24 Hr) - (513) 785-5810
EMA Hotline - (513) 785-5800

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

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: THE BUTLER COUNTY TECHNICAL REASCUE TEAM

The Butler County Technical Rescue Team is a special response team which provides technical rescue services throughout Butler County. The team was formed in 2004 and funded by a grant through the Butler County Emergency Management Agency. The grant was used to buy a piece of apparatus and a cache of equipment. The apparatus for the Butler County Technical Rescue Team is stationed in West Chester.

The Butler County Technical Rescue Team consists of sixty (60) certified rescue technicians and a cache of equipment to support technical rescue operations. This equipment ranges from simple hand tools to complex hydraulic and pneumatic tools used to shore structures, stabilize incidents and gain access to victims during a rescue.

The Butler County Technical Rescue Team trains regularly throughout the county and is able to respond in conjunction with any other specialty re-



The Butler County Technical Rescue Team is made up of sixty (60) members from several local fire departments within Butler County. Several of these team members are also members of Ohio Taskforce 1, a Type I FEMA USAR team. The Butler County Technical Rescue Team is able to respond to any technical rescue incident in the county.

source within the county, including the Butler County Mass Casualty Units and Mass Decontamination Unit. Team members are capable of re-

sponding to any incidents which require Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Structural Collapse, and Wide Area Search Incidents.

The Butler County Technical Rescue Team is designed to integrate with local first responders to assist with any technical rescue response. When activated, team members will respond directly to the incident scene and meet the apparatus on scene. On scene, members of the Butler County Technical Rescue Team will work for the local Incident Commander under the direction of a Team Manager. ■ For more information regarding the Butler County Technical Rescue Team, go to butlercountyohio.org/ema/



BUTLER COUNTY EMA INTERN SPOTLIGHT: DREW VONDERSCHMIDT

Drew Vonderschmidt has been volunteering with Butler County Emergency Management for the past two years. A graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a BA in Anthropology, he came to the EMA to hone his skills with GIS. Since then, he has worked on mapping projects for not only the EMA, but also area fire departments, schools, and hospitals. His skills are not limited to GIS, however, and he has expanded his role at the EMA by taking the lead on organizing and processing annual LEPC Tier II facility filings. Drew has also participated in a variety of exercises, both in the planning phase and as a player. One such exercise has been the recent full-scale LEPC exercise that saw nearly 200 participants from dozens of local and state

agencies as well as the extensive involvement of a pipeline company and their clean-up contractors.

Additionally, he has taken part in real-world events in Butler County and the Cincinnati area. Notably, these include the response to some of the heaviest floods to hit Clermont County in recent years and the USA Triathlon Youth Nationals that have been held in West Chester for the past several years. Drew has also supported the EMA's efforts to help plan for and participate in many festivals and holiday events throughout the county. Although Drew did not originally set out to work in emergency management, he has been able to lend his particular skills to the EMA while developing new ones along the way. ■



Butler County EMA Intern Drew Vonderschmidt (center) works with Butler County responders during the 2017 Butler County EOC Functional Exercise. Drew has supported many EMA activities throughout his time with Butler County EMA, including managing Butler County's Tier II filing database, developing maps for planned events, and supporting local jurisdictions with GIS support for planning and analysis.

BUTLER COUNTY EOC ACTIVATION LEVELS

The Butler County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is the central coordination point for resources during a large-scale incident or disaster. The Butler County EOC is staffed in preparation for potential severe weather or at the request of any public safety official. The Butler County EOC is located at 1810 Princeton Road.

There are three (3) levels of activation outlined in the Butler County Emergency Operations Plan: Level I – Monitoring Activation, Level II – Partial Activation, and Level III – Full Activation. Each activation level differs in the services provided by the EOC and staffing level. During a Level I EOC Activation, staff from the Butler County EMA will open the EOC and begin to monitor and assess any incidents occurring in the county. But-

ler County EMA staff also invites staff from Ohio EMA and other partners to join us in the EOC. A Level I – Monitoring Activation is typically used for planned events or impending weather events.

During a Level II EOC Activation, Staff from the Butler County EMA will reach out to members of the Butler County Incident Management Team and utilize available members to staff important roles in the EOC. Additionally, the Butler County EOC will begin to take a more active response in the incident or disaster by tracking resources, managing requests from the field, and assisting in information sharing by communicating with stakeholders and partners. The Butler County EMA will also provide a liaison to the incident to facilitate information sharing and requests

from the local Incident Commander.

A Level III – Full EOC Activation is the highest level of activation listed in the Butler County Emergency Operations Plan. During a Level III EOC Activation, the Butler County EMA will reach out to community partners to staff what are called Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). These ESFs represent the many facets of a response to a large-scale incident or disaster, including transportation, health and medical services, law enforcement, firefighting, and search and rescue, among many others. The personnel at the ESF positions serve as subject matter experts to assist in the response to and recovery from an incident or disaster. It is important to note that the staff sitting at these ESF positions are not commanding or

controlling resources, but rather providing technical support to those in the field. Butler County EMA is required to test this capability through a functional exercise once every four years.

Staffing and supporting an EOC is an essential function of any emergency management program and requires significant coordination and planning. Furthermore, relationships with key stakeholders, public safety officials, and community partners are vital in ensuring that necessary positions within the EOC are staffed with qualified individuals and that the EOC is able to support those in the field.

■
For more information regarding the Butler County EOC, go to butlercountyohio.org/ema/