

Butler County EMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY



PAST DISASTERS SHOW THE LIMITATIONS OF NFIP FLOOD MAPS

Volume 2, Issue 6
August 2018

Training Opportunities:

- September 10-14—L967 Logistics Section Chief
- September 20—OH-276—Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Workshop
- October 2—OH-101 Developing and Maintaining EOPs
- November 2-4—G428 CERT Train-the-Trainer
- November 5-9—L388 Advanced PIO
- November 5-9—L388 Advanced PIO

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

Almost 50 years ago, Congress introduced the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Flood Maps to determine flood risks in communities. These maps, and the flood insurance regularly required to purchase homes located in the floodplains identified on the maps, are responsible for saving billions of dollars, however new disasters are routinely showing the limitations of these maps to accurately predict flooding.

Recent hurricanes, such as Hurricane Harvey and Irma, have presented with extensive flooding outside of areas identified as at risk. Moreover, heavy rains in Colorado have further demonstrated that hurricanes are not the only weather patterns which can inflict flood damage in areas typically immune to such concerns. There are several reasons as to why this is now occurring.

One such reason is that FEMA uses population to prioritize updates to NFIP maps. Rural communities, which are more subject to growth, may be seen as a lower priority and therefore may be utilizing outdated maps to inform community planning decisions. Furthermore, development on areas formerly containing greenspace are generally less capable of containing rainfall, further exacerbating issues with flooding.

Another reason as to the discrepancy between the NFIP flood maps and reality is that FEMA may be utilizing outdated methods for estimating flood potential. Innovations to the FEMA flood mapping process



Heavy rains in Colorado led to widespread flash floods in 2018. Many of the areas impacted by the flash flooding were not designated as being in a floodplain. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Flood Maps are considerably narrow in scope and, some argue, insufficient for today's weather conditions. Many factors impact the effectiveness of these maps, including which engineering studies are utilized, the age of the maps and recent development in the community.

have been limited to digitizing existing maps and not updating the engineering studies utilized to determine floodplains. This means that the maps may be more accessible, but the technology used to assess risk may be outdated.

Ultimately, the confluence of these issues have left Americans in a situation where the flood maps developed and maintained by FEMA are not adequately representative of the real-world conditions we can expect to face. This leaves people and property in danger. There are several things we can do to limit this danger. The most important thing a homeowner can do is to purchase a weather radio and heed any watches, warnings or advisories issued by the National Weather Service. Another suggestion is that residents remain aware of

weather conditions and identify any hazards which may impact their property. Additionally, residents can talk with their insurance agent to discuss the possibility of acquiring a flood insurance policy for their property.

The communities in which we live are constantly changing, and with those changes to the community comes changes as to how disasters impact those communities. Residents must be aware of these changes and remain cognizant of how these changes impact their property.

■ For more information regarding the National Flood Insurance Program, go to <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>

INTERN SPOTLIGHT: STACY TUTTLE

Stacy Tuttle has been an intern with Butler County EMA since September 2017. Over the course of her internship, Stacy has worked on numerous projects for Butler County EMA. One such project is updating the Butler County EMA filing system and developing policies and procedures to ensure good and accurate recordkeeping.

Stacy has also worked with Butler County Educational Services Center Public Safety Director Katherine Piaskowy to help facilitate State required School Safety exercises.

Stacy also works at Cincinnati Children's Hospital as a paramedic at the Burnet Campus Emergency Department and has been with Children's since 2015. She previously graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in Biotechnology, and worked as a Laboratory Researcher before making her career change in 2015.

Stacy has always had a passion for disaster management and preparedness, and has been very excited for the opportunity to work alongside the EMA. Stacy lives with her husband Eric in Liberty Township with their three cats. ■

Butler County EMA takes on several interns each year. If you or someone you know is interested in an internship, please contact Butler County EMA Planning & Operations Manager Jim Bolen at BolenJA@ButlerCountyOhio.org

Butler County Safety Services September 11th Memorial

The Butler County Fire Chief's Association will be holding their annual September 11th Memorial on Tuesday September 11 at 7:00pm. The Memorial will be held at the Butler County Firefighter's Memorial located on Monument Drive in the City of Hamilton.

The memorial service provides an opportunity for both public safety professionals and the general public to remember firefighters lost in the line of duty not only on

September 11th, 2001 but throughout the history of Butler County.

The event begins at 7:00 pm, however fire departments participating in the memorial line up should arrive no later than 6:45. The Fitton Center, located at 101 South Monument Avenue, Hamilton, Ohio 45011, will serve as the rain-out location.

■ For more information, go to the Butler County EMA website at <http://butlercountyohio.org/ema/>



Butler County Safety Services
September 11 Memorial

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 11, 2018
TIME: 7PM START (FD LINEUP AT 6:45 PM)
WHERE: BUTLER COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S MEMORIAL
MONUMENT DRIVE
HAMILTON, OH 45011

The memorial event is sponsored by the Butler County Fire Chief's Association. This event is our promise to never forget the responders who died at the World Trade Center Attack on September 11, 2001. The event is also a way to remember those firefighters in Butler County who died either in the Line of Duty or those firefighters who passed away, but served their community by being a volunteer or paid firefighter for any department in Butler County.

RAINOUT LOCATION:
FITTON CENTER
101 MONUMENT AVE.
HAMILTON, OH 45011