



Licking County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Jeffrey W. Walker, Director
Steven E. Smith, Deputy Director

155 E. MAIN STREET, NEWARK, OH 43055 -6245
Office (740) 670-5575



Severe Weather

Hazardous Materials

April 2011

Licking County Citizens, Property Owners, and Business Owners:

The Licking County Office of Homeland Security / Emergency Management / 911 Center would like to take this opportunity to share a variety of information with you to help make community safety a focus this year and into the future.

HOMELAND SECURITY is a term for security efforts to protect the United States and our local communities against terrorist activity, foreign or domestic. Specifically, is a concerted local and national effort to prevent terrorist attacks within the US, reduce America’s vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur.

The term arose following a reorganization of many U.S. government agencies in 2003 to form the United States Department of Homeland Security after the September 11 attacks. In Ohio, Homeland Security is implemented locally by each Emergency Management Agency within each County.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT allows us to implement procedures to reduce, eliminate, minimize, or manage the impact of emergencies, disasters, or other events on our Citizens and our communities. Emergency Management serves as a resource or tool for our First Responders (Fire/Rescue, EMS, Law Enforcement, etc.) to enhance the Scene Security, Life Safety, and Property Conservation of our Citizens and our communities.

The four phases of **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** include:

- 1) **MITIGATION** – pre event actions taken to eliminate (prevention) or reduce the degree of long term risk to human life and property (including pets and livestock) from any type of hazard or incident. Examples include: Building Codes, Public Education, Risk Area Mapping, Insurance, Tax Incentives, etc.
- 2) **PREPAREDNESS** – pre event activity taken in advance of an emergency or event that facilitates the implementation of a coordinated response. Examples include: Hazard Identification, Emergency Exercises, Emergency Operations Plans (EOP), Emergency Broadcast System/Sirens, Continuity of Government or Business Planning, etc.
- 3) **RESPONSE** – typically during an event, actions taken before, during, or after an emergency occurs, which helps to Secure the Scene, SAVE LIVES, and minimize property damage, as well as enhance the effectiveness of Recovery. Examples include: FIRE/RESCUE/EMS Operations, Implementing the EOP, Activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Evacuation or Shelter in Place, etc.
- 4) **RECOVERY** – post event actions - short term to return vital life supporting systems to minimum operating standards (such as clearing debris from the roadways to allow for emergency vehicle operations and response), and long term to return the Community of safe and normal levels of activity (such as rebuilding damaged or destroyed buildings to a higher level of safety before the next disaster event).

911 CENTER OPERATIONS include a call center with specially trained operators to receive emergency assistance requests and dispatch the appropriate First Responder agencies (Fire/Rescue, EMS, Law Enforcement, etc.) to the scene to safely and effectively deal with the emergency situation.

MITIGATION



PREPAREDNESS



RESPONSE



RECOVERY



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We are pleased to be able to serve the People of Licking County. Our staff includes:

Jeff Walker – Director,
1-740-670-5577, jwalker@lcounty.com

Steve Smith – Deputy Director & 911 Operations Manager,
1-740-670-5576, ssmith@lcounty.com

Lori Dixon – Contract CERT Coordinator,
1-740-670-5573, lceoc@lcounty.com

Important information to share with everyone includes:

SEVERE WEATHER SIRENS–We now have a total of 51 tornado/severe weather sirens located throughout our County. We are continuing to seek grant funding to continue this project by adding sirens at additional locations. We will be notifying Township Trustees when we identify funding sources. We started in 2000 with 8 sirens. We have come a long way with your support of these important Mitigation and Preparedness activities.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS - Over the last 4 ½ years, a group of Fire and Law Enforcement agencies and personnel have been developing and improving emergency operations communications capabilities here in Licking County. All agencies have received new portable and mobile radios over three years ago. The radio communications repeater system is completed and operational as of November 2010. We have utilized Homeland Security grant funding to accomplish all of this work.

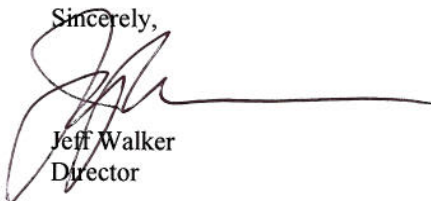
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM – We currently have a Licking County team that is recognized as a Type 2 team. This means that the team is equipped and has the personnel and training levels to adequately serve and protect our County from hazardous materials incidents, accidents, and spills. A Type 1 Team is typically for larger metropolitan areas. Our Licking County Type 2 Haz Mat Team continues to improve due to the commitment of Fire Fighters from all departments in Licking County.

CERT – COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS – We have over ninety citizens trained and have two classes scheduled for the early part of 2011. This training allows you to support your family first in an emergency or disaster and if you can, to support your community as well in a disaster event. We also have started a Teen CERT group. Please contact Lori Dixon for further details.

911 CENTER OPERATIONS - In the fall of 2010 we completed the staff reorganization of the 911 Center to improve the efficiency and quality of services to you, the Citizens of Licking County.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Homeland Security, Emergency Management, or 911 Center Operations in Licking County.

Sincerely,



Jeff Walker
Director

MITIGATION



PREPAREDNESS



RESPONSE



RECOVERY