

Butler County EMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY



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Training Opportunities:

- February 5—ICS Forms Review
- February 28—NWS Weather Spotter Training
- March 6—G557: Rapid Needs Assessment
- March 12-14—ICS 300
- March 13—WebEOC Training
- March 14-15—ICS 400
- March 19-21—Finance & Administration Section Chief

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

MIAMI UNIVERSITY PURSUES STORMREADY CERTIFICATION

Miami University is joining Butler County and several other communities in Southwest Ohio in becoming StormReady certified. The National Weather Service's StormReady Certification is voluntary program which focuses on preparing a community or organization for severe weather.

According to the National Weather Service's StormReady Website, "StormReady communities, counties, Indian nations, universities and colleges, military bases, government sites, commercial enterprises and other groups are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives."

The website goes on to further describe the program, stating that "StormReady uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather—from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations."

Miami University reached out to the Butler County Emergency Management Agency and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency to assist in the process of becoming StormReady. Butler County Emergency Management Agency Planning & Operations Manager Jim Bolen stated, "We were very excited when



Miami University is currently pursuing StormReady Certification through the National Weather Service. The StormReady Certification is a national community preparedness program in the United States that encourages government entities and commercial gathering sites to prepare for severe storms. The program, sponsored by the United States National Weather Service, issues recognition to communities and sites across the country that demonstrate severe weather readiness. The program is voluntary, and provides communities with clear-cut advice from a partnership with the local National Weather Service Office, state and local emergency managers, and the media.

Miami University reached out to our agency for assistance in this process. Our agency has long enjoyed a great partnership with Miami University and this project offered us another opportunity to collaborate to make our community safer."

Phil Johnson, Associate Director of Athletic Events and Guest Services for Miami University, spoke of the value of the StormReady certification. Mr. Johnson stated, "In an effort to improve our severe weather preparedness and emergency action plans we wanted to first coordinate our communication internally and externally. By pursuing the NWS Storm Ready certification for Miami Universi-

ty, we are able to align our weather communication with the NWS field office in Wilmington, Butler County EMA and Miami University Police Department. Much of the communication is already in place so it is also an opportunity to recognize our university for its existing severe weather protocols. Butler County EMA has been guiding us through the application process and sharing many resources that will add to our program. We look forward to meeting the NWS and advisory board on February 25th for their site verification visit as we also host a Spotter Training course that evening on campus." **Continued on Page 2**

