

Butler County EMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY



FLOOD SAFETY

Volume 2, Issue 2
Feb./March 2018

Training Opportunities:

- April 5—Railcar Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol and other flammable liquids
- April 9, 11, 16, 18 & 23—ICS 300
- April 24-26—HSEEP
- May 3—PA Cost Documentation and Damage Assessment
- May 8—Railcar Incident Response (West Chester)
- May 9, 14, 16 & 21 — ICS 400

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 the spring season, it's important to review safety information for one of the largest hazards we face in Butler county: Flooding. Butler County is susceptible to two major types of flooding: flash flooding and areal flooding.

According to NOAA, flash flooding is "flooding that normally occurs within six hours of heavy or intense rainfall. This results in small creeks and streams quickly rising out of their banks. Dangerous flooding in areas near these creeks and streams, as well as low-lying flood prone areas, develops very quickly and is a significant threat to life and/or property."

Areal flooding is "flooding that develops more gradually, usually from prolonged and persistent moderate to heavy rainfall. This results in a gradual ponding or buildup of water in low-lying, flood prone areas, as well as small creeks and streams. The flooding normally occurs more than six hours after the rainfall begins, and may cover a



The City of Houston experienced a 500-year flood during the landfall of Hurricane Harvey. The 500-year flood impacted many neighborhoods and likely resulted in damages in excess of \$10 billion.

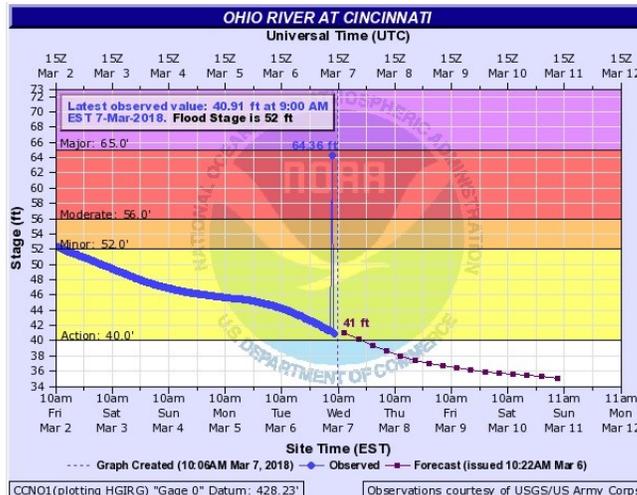
large area. However, even though this type of flooding develops more slowly than flash flooding, it can still be a threat to life and property."

Both types of flooding are dangerous, but there are some things you can do to keep you and your family safe. Before a flooding event, FEMA recommends identifying and understanding your risk. The first

way to do this is to look at maps which show your home's proximity to rivers, creeks and streams. Additionally, you can ask neighbors who have lived in your neighborhood and identify what your flooding risk truly is. Finally, you can always contact our office or the office of your local floodplain administrator to ask about historical flooding events and to discuss your flood risk.

Another option to reduce your vulnerability to floods is to contact local insurance providers and inquire about enrolling in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP is a federally subsidized insurance program for those who own homes in floodplains which covers flood damage which is not generally covered under renters and homeowners insurance policies. Anyone who lives in a community which participates in the NFIP program is eligible for the program.

FEMA and the National Weather Service (NWS) also recommends purchasing a **Continued on page 2**



River gauges are monitored by the National Weather Service and used to develop river forecasts.

FLOOD SAFETY (CONTINUED)



The Butler County Water Rescue Task Force regularly trains on swift water rescue operations. The Butler County Water Rescue Task Force consists of members from several agencies within the county.

NWS-approved weather radio to monitor for Flood or Flash Flood Watches and Warnings. According to NOAA, "Flood Watches are issued to inform the public, cooperating agencies, and other interests that the current and/or developing weather pattern is such that there is a potential for rapid flooding (also known as flash flooding), more widespread areal flooding, or river flooding. The occurrence of flooding is neither certain nor im-

minent. Persons in the watch area are advised to check flood action plans, keep informed, and be ready to take necessary actions if a warning is issued or flooding is observed." During a Flood or Flash Flood Watch, FEMA recommends the following steps:

- Turn on your TV/radio. You will receive the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.

- Know where to go. You may need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot.
- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor. This will help protect them from flood damage.
- Disconnect electrical appliances and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. You could be electrocuted.
- If instructed, turn off your gas and electricity at the main switch or valve. This helps prevent fires and explosions.

According to NOAA, "A Flood or Flash Flood Warning is issued to inform the public that flooding is imminent or in progress. It focuses on specific counties, communities, streams, or areas. Flash Flood Warnings are issued for flood-

ing usually occurring within 6 hours of heavy rain. An Areal Flood Warning is issued for flooding that occurs more gradually, normally from prolonged and persistent moderate to heavy rainfall. A River Flood Warning is issued when a river is forecast to go above its designated flood stage at the forecast point."

During a Flood or Flash Flood Warning, FEMA recommends the following steps:

- Move immediately to higher ground or stay on high ground.
- Evacuate, if directed.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Turn Around, Don't Drown! Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Floods and Flash Floods can be devastating events which damage homes, vehicles and property. However, we can reduce these hazards with the right proactive steps. ■

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

BUTLER COUNTY EMA TO OFFER ICS 300 & 400 COURSES

Butler County EMA is excited to offer ICS 300 & 400 courses to First Responders and Community Partners. ICS 300 & 400 are courses that are designed "to provide training for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System (ICS)." This course expands upon information covered in the ICS 100 and ICS 200 courses and is designed to allow students to better understand how the Incident Command System can be applied to intermediate and complex incidents.

"As an incident grows, it naturally becomes more complex," said Butler County EMA Director Matt Haverkos. "It can be extremely challenging to apply the Incident Command System to these expanding incidents. These courses help the leaders of our First Responders identify ways to bring order to chaos."

Bringing these courses to Butler County is essential to ensuring our local First Responders are able to coordinate and communicate effectively during large-scale emer-

gency responses. Additionally, having staff trained in ICS is required by FEMA and Department of Homeland Security grants.

ICS 300 will be held on April 9, 11, 16, 18, and 23 from 6 to 10 pm. ICS 400 will be held on May 9, 14, 16, and 21 from 6 to 10 pm. Both Courses will be held at Monroe Fire Department Station #62. Attendance at each class is mandatory ■ For more information, go to butlercountyohio.org/ema/



Students in ICS 300 and 400 will learn how to apply the principles of the Incident Command System to large-scale events and incidents.