

Butler County EMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY



OPERATION UNIFIED RESPONSE

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July 2019

Training Opportunities:

- August 7—PER-234 Testing an Emergency Operations Plan in a Rural EOC
- August 9—AWR-362 Flooding Hazards: Science & Preparedness
- August 14—WebEOC/Raven911
- August 21—WebEOC
- August 22—AWR-325 Site Protection & Document Screening Techniques

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

Members of the Butler County IMT recently participated in Operation Unified Response at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. Operation Unified Response was a multi-national Urban Search and Rescue exercise which simulated a response to a significant earthquake and included teams from the United States, Canada, and Australia. The exercise began on June 1st and concluded on June 6th.

Assets from all over the world traveled to Butlerville, Indiana to participate in the "World's Largest Urban Search & Rescue Exercise." Crews from California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, Tennessee, and Ohio joined teams from Canada and Australia on simulated rubble piles and flooded venues to practice life-saving skills and techniques. These resources were also supported by aerial assets, including Blackhawk, Lakota and Chinook helicopters, provided by USNORTHCOM



Crews work to stabilize a simulated collapse. Operation Unified Response included Urban Search & Rescue Teams from seven states and three countries.

and the Tennessee Army National Guard Aviation Unit, providing a rare opportunity to practice coordinating resources



A UH-60 Blackhawk from the Tennessee Army National Guard Aviation unit practices "sling-loading" vital response equipment. These aviation assets can be used to move people and equipment into affected areas during a disaster.

among several different command and control structures. Operation Unified Response was also the first exercise designed to integrate local Incident Management Teams, such as the Butler County IMT, into the operations of FEMA and Department of Defense resources. Butler County IMT member and Butler County EMA Director Matthew Haverkos said that this exercise was a great opportunity to hone our skills as an Incident Management Team. "Our team is always looking for opportunities to learn and train, and Operation Unified Response gave us an opportunity to train with the best in the world. This training is essential to ensuring that we are ready to respond to any emergency which may impact our community."

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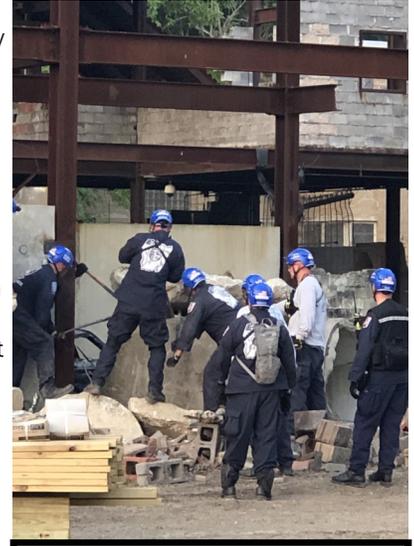
OPERATION UNIFIED RESPONSE (CONTINUED)

Operation Unified Response provided an unprecedented opportunity to practice complex emergency response

procedures in a safe and controlled environment while also coordinating resources from various levels of government.

The exercise design team, which included Butler County IMT Team Commander Jeff Galloway, developed a new and innovative way to test the current emergency response system which will surely result in a better, more efficient response.

Exercises, such as Operation Unified Response, are incredibly vital to ensuring that our nation is ready to respond to any hazard we may face. ■ For more information regarding Operation Unified Response, go to <https://www.ems1.com/ems-training/articles/394077048-First-responders-participate-in-largest-ever-search-and-rescue-exercise/>.



Crews from a FEMA Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) team work to stabilize a collapsed structure. FEMA USAR Teams represent the most skilled and qualified technical rescue teams in the country.



BCEMA3
Sunday, June 02, 2019, 03:28PM

Simulated rubble piles, such as the one pictured above, were used during training evolutions at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center to simulate collapsed buildings after an earthquake.

BUTLER COUNTY EMA/IMT TO PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE EXERCISE

Staff from Butler County EMA and team members from the Butler County IMT will participate in the Vigilant Guard training exercise co-hosted by the Ohio National Guard and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. The exercise is scheduled to take place from August 5th through the 8th at various locations throughout the state and is also co-sponsored by US Northern Command and National Guard Bureau.

The purpose of the exercise is to test the state's disaster and emergency response capabilities with a simulated cyberattack event that subsequently causes utility failures and disruptions. Emergency response to hazardous material accidents, civil disturbances, and radiological incidents will also be tested. Exercise activities will take place in Athens, Clark, Columbiana, Franklin, Greene,

Guernsey, Hamilton, Knox, Licking, Portage, and Washington counties.

Butler County will be establishing a Logistical Staging Area (LSA), an area used to store equipment and materials essential to response and recovery efforts, in Clark County. The Butler County IMT has substantial experience in establishing and managing LSAs for disaster response and relief. In 2012, a twelve-member team from the Butler County IMT established Citi Field LSA for the New York City Office of Emergency Management and managed operations for 14 days. More recently, the Butler County IMT was requested to manage an LSA at UD Arena to support tornado relief operations in Montgomery County. ■ For more information regarding Vigilant Guard, go to <https://www.ong.ohio.gov/stories/2019/2019-oh-vigilant-guard.html>



The Ohio National Guard and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency will host the largest disaster and emergency response exercise in state history, Aug. 5-8, at more than 10 locations throughout the state. The exercise is hosted locally by the Ohio National Guard and Ohio Emergency Management Agency and sponsored by U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau.