

Ice Storm 2005

Slip sliding away and snap, crackle, and pop are just two ways to describe the ice storm that started January 5th and ended January 8th. The experience was anything but fun, however. In fact, this particular storm was so damaging to Auglaize County and its residents that the county received a Presidential Declaration, the sixth since 1964.

Power outages were severe, amounting to over 90% of the county (estimate over 42,000 residents) being without electricity. Cell phone usage was limited as well: the towers were unable to stay charged due to the power outage. To answer the community's needs for shelter, emergency shelters were put in place. To accommodate the western portion of the county, a shelter was opened at the Mercer/Auglaize County YMCA. The eastern portion of the county had shelters at the Auglaize County Junior Fair Building and at Auglaize Acres in Wapakoneta. Fire departments also put shelters in place at their respective departments: Cridersville, St. Johns, Uniopolis, and Waynesfield.

The upside of this storm was receiving the Presidential Declaration. Once a county is officially declared, officials can start the process of receiving Federal Assistance that is provided through the Stafford Act to help offset the cost of hardship a resident or agency experiences due to the causing event. Auglaize County was one of sixty-two counties out of eighty-eight that make up Ohio to receive this declaration. Beyond this, Auglaize was one of thirty Ohio counties that qualified for Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA).

On the Individual Assistance side, 1288 residents applied for assistance and 966 were approved for a total of \$786,313.67. This money does not have to be paid back. Six applicants were approved for low interest loans for personal property losses that total \$43,900.00. There were no requests from small businesses.

On the Public Assistance side, there were thirty one agencies asking for assistance to help offset the cost for labor, equipment, fuel, food, and structural damage. To date, these agencies have received \$1,052,154.00 in Federal money. The state of Ohio has given \$81,905.00 for mitigation projects. Note some agencies have filed an appeal in order to have FEMA re-evaluate projects for reimbursement qualifications.

County Agencies Receiving FEMA Money

Agricultural Society	\$4,821.00	Pusheta Township	\$10,316.00
EMA	\$18,183.00	Salem Township	\$4,733.00
Engineer	\$81,819.00	St Marys Township	\$48,136.00
Sanitary Engineer	\$9,095.00	Union Township	\$29,183.00
City of St. Marys	\$145,838.00	Uniopolis VFD	\$844.00
City of Wapakoneta	\$89,644.00	Cridersville	\$26,508.00
Duchouquet Twp	\$8,671.00	Minster	\$87,025.00
Goshen Township	\$6,314.00	New Bremen	\$71,234.00
Jackson Township	\$0.00	New Knoxville	\$12,708.00

Joint Twp Hospital	\$12,627.00	Uniopolis	\$2,694.00
Logan Township	\$3,780.00	Waynesfield	\$21,068.00
Moulton Township	\$915.00	Wapak City Schools	\$13,537.00
Noble Township	\$5,298.00	Washington Twp	\$2,738.00
Otterbein-Cridersville	\$2,108.00	Wayne Township	\$11,456.00

Certification

Auglaize County has been officially declared to be StormReady by Federal officials. The National Weather Service Warning Coordinator Meteorologist Mary Jo Parker bestowed the honor on the county in early October 2005.

The StormReady program, which began in 1999 and encompasses 950 locations in 48 states, encourages counties and municipalities to upgrade their severe weather procedures. Auglaize County, which is serviced by the National Weather Service post in Wilmington, is the seventh county in Ohio to earn the title.

To be considered for StormReady, county officials had to improve the line of communication with residents in the event of severe weather. Some of these changes included establishing a 24-hour warning center as well as promoting the importance of communications system that would work even in the event of a power failure was accomplished. A formal hazardous weather plan was implemented and adopted by the municipalities throughout the county. The continuation of the dedicated work that the Auglaize County SkyWarn Spotters, headed by Bob Warren, provide to the residents of the county was also a plus.

While the project consumed a lot of man hours from various personnel, including but not limited to Director Troy Anderson, Retired Director Denny Mallory, and Auglaize County SkyWarn Coordinator Bob Warren, the outcome is worth every hour and more in that it not only provides a better warning system, but lowers insurance rates.

SERC Reporting on Local Facilities

Businesses and industries that manufacture or store large quantities of hazardous or extremely hazardous materials have been mandated since 1988 to report their chemical storage quantities to the Ohio EPA, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the fire department having jurisdiction over them. Auglaize County had 62 businesses reporting their activities for the year. Out of these, 20 businesses preferred to report by the new electronic filing system and the other 42 businesses preferred using paper forms.

Members of the Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and local fire departments completed seven random inspections of these businesses in 2004. Last year, there were no inspections done due to not receiving a grant. An additional seven inspections are planned for the year 2006. All county businesses and industries are reminded that if you

have hazardous materials stored on site, you are required to submit a SERC report to the Auglaize County Emergency Management Agency. For any questions, please call 419-739-6725.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

The Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has attended twelve monthly meetings for the year. This office helps with the recovery cost efforts under the Ohio Revised Code that helps county agencies recoup their costs associated with hazardous materials accidents, spills, and/or deliberate acts. The Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management responded to 19 reported incidents in the county with \$8,467.90 being collected for local responding agencies thus saving taxpayers dollars. Of these incidents, three have gone to court for additional citations and possible further reimbursements. The following is a list of agencies in the county that have had funds recovered this year.

Community Warning Sirens

Auglaize County has updated its community weather monitoring sirens system this past year with the installations of three new siren locations and three replacements. The replacements were in the villages of New Knoxville, Waynesfield, and Buckland. With these new siren additions, it brings the total in the county up to 22. The Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is looking at further sites for siren placement and grants to help fund these projects. These sirens along with future sirens will continue to help enhance the StormReady Certification that the county has obtained. These sirens that were installed this year came from grant monies provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Homeland Security, and Community Development Block Grants as well as funds from villages and townships.

City/Townships	New	Old
City of St Marys		5
Wapakoneta		3
New Bremen		5
Minster	2	
New Knoxville	1	
Buckland	1	
Cridersville		2
St Marys Township	1	
Uniopolis		1
Waynesfield		1

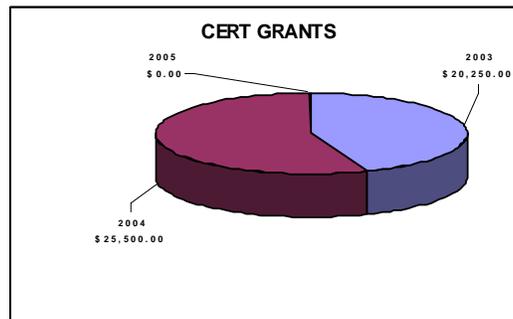
Auglaize County CERT



Under the guidance of the Auglaize County EMA Director Troy Anderson, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) consists of county-wide volunteers who train together in order to be able to take care of themselves, their families, and others in their communities during the devastating times following a disaster.

Auglaize County's Team is made up of 120 trained members at the current time. They are trained in the following areas: disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, terrorism, and storm spotting. Classes are taught by emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency personnel, and law enforcement personnel.

The team meets once every other month for class/training, plus involvement in large-scale exercises with local fire departments, parades, county fair, and Safety Day. There is also the possibility of being deployed to a disaster anywhere in the United States, such as hurricanes. This past year saw three of the county CERT volunteers being deployed in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Several volunteers helped during the ice storm locally.



Auglaize County Speaker's Bureau

The Speaker's Bureau of the Auglaize County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management kept busy in 2005. If you are interested in a speaker for your group, call 419-739-6725 and ask for Director Troy Anderson. A variety of topics are available including but not limited to:

- Storm Spotting
- Severe Weather Safety
- Disaster Preparedness
- Hazardous Materials
- Environmental Issues (including emergency spills response and mercury)
- Homeland Security
- CERT

Some of the places we spoke at in 2005 include: Minster Civic Club, St. Marys City Schools, Wapakoneta Rotary Club, Auglaize County Township Trustees, Elderly Citizens Group in Buckland, New Knoxville Council, New Bremen Council, Wapakoneta Council, Buckland Council, Auglaize Acres, Auglaize County Jail, SETEX, Soroptimist, McDonald's Restaurant, Wapakoneta City Schools, and Miller's Textile.

Hazardous Materials Team

Auglaize County's HazMat Team is sponsored by the Aug. Cty Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The team consists of members from 9 of the 11 county fire departments. The team responded to 1 run for 2005. The team meets monthly for training as well as being involved with large exercise training with county departments.

Officers 2005

Troy Anderson, Coordinator
Bill Lehmkuhl, Operations
Bryon Kuck, Asst. Ops.
Shawn Fannon, Safety
Jeff Orphal, Medical
Larry Weimert, Training

Officers 2006

Bill Lehmkuhl, Coordinator,
Shawn Fannon, Operations
Bryon Kuck, Asst. Ops.
Kevin Axe, Safety
Jeff Orphal, Medical
Charlie Bardon, Training

Dennis Mallory Retires

After more than a decade, Dennis Mallory retired from his position as Aug. Co. Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Director. Looking back, Mallory thought the two worst disasters he had to deal with were the Dairy Farmer's fire, New Bremen, in the mid 1990's and the 2005 ice storm. And he says that even though a lot has changed office-wise, it still comes back to the residents of Auglaize County and serving them in the best capacity that he could. "I love the 47,000 people in this county and making it safe for them has always made it worthwhile", Dennis Mallory. He hopes to be able to spend more time fishing, gardening, and being a grandpa. Denny, congratulations and thank you!

Auglaize County 2005 Homeland Security Grant

As in past years since 9/11, Auglaize County has been on the recipient end for the Homeland Security Grants. Each year every county in the United States has been able to receive monies from the Federal Government by doing a County Risk Assessment. Auglaize County has a committee of 14 individuals who in the past have filled out a matrix of sorts that listed the needs of every First Responding agencies needs, and then priorities these needs based on the categories that the Federal Government mandates. The chart below shows the disciplines that received 2005 monies. These projects ranged from radio communications for both EOCs, to mass causality tagging equipment, safety

vest and cooling systems for Level A suits to recertification costs, and to Phase 2 of an in-car wireless communications system.

