



AUGLAIZE COUNTY EMA/LEPC SPECIAL DELIVERY

Auglaize County Office of
Homeland Security and
Emergency Management/Local
Emergency Planning Committee

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Train the Trainer

Twenty five students from thirteen counties gathered together over the weekend of Feb 12-13 for a CERT Train-the-Instructor course that was held in Auglaize County at the Administration Building. T-N-T Safety, Inc. presented the class sponsored by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Instructors were firefighters from the Toledo and Cincinnati areas.

The purpose of the training was for students to gain a greater understanding of the CERT instruction material and to provide practical ideas in presenting the curriculum. Classroom instruction, team exercises, and hands on training kept



personnel, and CERT volunteers. Area participants were Kevin Axe, Bryon Kuck, Don Luedeke, Toni Simpson, Cheri Drinkwine, and Karen Weinstock.

CERT training is designed to provide private citizens with basic skills needed to respond to their community's immediate needs after a major disaster, when emergency services are not immediately available or are overwhelmed.



Volunteers Make a Difference

A special thank you to CERT members Mike Chinn, Don Luedeke, Shirley Luedeke, Melody Westerbeck, and Karen Westerbeck for their many hours of labor helping out with shelters and sandbagging during the recent ice storm and flooding.

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Director's Notes

By Denny Mallory, Director
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As of this writing we have been hit with three disasters since the first of the year. The ice storm hit us followed by flooding and most recently the train wreck in Cridersville. I am sure that many of you come away from each of these events with mixed emotions. Probably the thing that I reflect on the most was not the lack of sleep and long hours, but the fact that Auglaize County had so many people who jumped up and said "How can I help?"

The ice storm presented probably the biggest challenge because of electric and telephone lines down. Law Enforcement throughout much of the county took the initiative to meet in my office and by radio and cell phone decided the best shelters with electricity that was available. Because they had generator power, six Fire Stations opened their doors and provided shelter and food for residents. St. Marys decided to direct residents to the YMCA which had not lost power. Residents were initially directed to go to the Holy Rosary Church and to the Wayne St. Methodist Church when power went out and they had to be moved.

Wapakoneta faced the same dilemma. The St. Joe Church was opened and shortly thereafter the Jr. Fair building was opened with support from the EMA generator. Later Auglaize Acres was opened because they had generator power and heat.

Throughout the event the County Commissioners were there a great deal of the time to provide any assistance that may have been required. The County Administrator practically lived at the Administration Building and directed the round the clock services of the maintenance crew who were maintaining the generators by keeping them filled with gas and oil and performing other required duties.

The CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) manned the Jr. Fair Building. The ACARES (Auglaize County Amateur Radio Emergency Services) Ham radio group headed by Mike Nagel provided immediate communications for any type of need that may have arisen at the shelter. Numerous people took food and games to the shelters in addition to what the Red Cross provided. The Red Cross also provided nursing assistance. Amy Ruppert from Job and Family Services was in the EOC the entire time

Search and Rescue

On Wednesday evening, February 2, 2005, a Search and Rescue Exercise highlighting Alzheimer's disease was held at Otterbein St. Marys Community Living Center.

The exercise was designed to test the Retirement's Center emergency plan. It began at the St. Marys Township Fire Station 1 with a briefing for the participants. In the scenario, a call came in to the fire station that an Alzheimer's patient was missing from the Retirement facility. Firefighters, CERT members and amateur radio operators gathered at the retirement center. Search groups were formed and mapping was planned at the Incident Command Center which was located in one of the fire trucks. The participants were divided into seven groups of three, and sent out on an organized search of the area. Two incidents were conducted; the first search took 22 minutes to find the victim with a total exposure time of 40 minutes. The second search took 15 minutes to locate with 20 minutes exposure. A critique took place at the fire station after the exercise. Lessons learned from the event included: checking out corners more closely, send out larger teams on the main streets, check in parked vehicles for the victim, have each search team carry blankets for the victim, work on improving communications, and use a police cruiser during the search.



HazMat

The Auglaize County Wide Hazardous Materials Response Team has been serving the county since the late 1990's. Equipment purchased with Federal grant money gave new capabilities to the team that can be offered to our communities and other Emergency Response Departments. To date, all the incident runs for the HazMat team have been transportation spill related, however, their services are used throughout the county in a variety of ways. During the recent ice storm, generators were used to supply power to shelters. Gas monitoring equipment was used to help local fire departments on carbon dioxide runs. The HazMat team is beneficial to the county and these volunteers are to be commended for the services they provide.

Upcoming Schedule of Events and Trainings

CERT class	Feb 25, 28, Mar 1, 4	Administration Bldg 6:30 pm
HazMat Team Meetings	3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2	Administration Bldg 7:00 pm
RARA Meetings	March 10, Apr 14, May	7:30 pm
ARES Meetings	March 17, Apr 21, May 19	7:30 pm
Fire Chiefs Meeting	March 24	7 pm
NWS Weather Spotting Class	April 4	Administration Bldg 10:30 am Administration Bldg 7:00 pm

Homeland Security Task Team

The Terrorism Task Team recently changed their name to the Homeland Security Task Team.

Discussions are ongoing as the team decides what the SHSP FY05 grant finds will be used for. Requirements of the grant include that counties continue to reach toward goals set in the 2003 County Needs Assessments and that projects support the State Strategic Goals.

Spills

The Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management responded to 29 calls in 2004. Calls since the new year began:

- Diesel fuel was spilled when a truck swerved to avoid hitting a car, went off the road, and struck a tree.
- A train derailment in Cridersville left 20 railroad cars filled with new automobiles laying on their sides on January 30. Investigation is ongoing to the cause of the derailment.

Regional Grant

Auglaize County, along with Mercer, Van Wert, Shelby, and Darke Counties were awarded a Regional Grant for a light truck which can be used by each of the five counties. The vehicle is a motor home purchased from Arbogast, who was awarded the bid. It will be converted into a truck used for lighting purposes and be outfitted with a telescoping lighting system. St. Marys Township Fire Department will house and care for the lighting truck, and will also respond with the vehicle anywhere within the five county area that has a need for it.





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