

1.6.June.2025

“Plans are worthless, but planning is everything. There is a very great distinction because when you are planning for an emergency you must start with this one thing: the very definition of “emergency” is that it is unexpected, therefore it is not going to happen the way you are planning.”

~Dwight D. Eisenhower,
Remarks at the 1957 *National Defense Executive Reserve Conference*

Dear ESF-6 Partners and Stakeholders:

June is here, and along with it, the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, summer heat waves, the longest day of the year, and a smattering of other assorted Ohio standard issue hazards!

Oh, and Festival Season is here! The information you can find in this month's awareness campaigns below can be helpful for when you're spending time outdoors at one of Ohio's many summer festivals. If you're unsure where to start with the abundance of Summer Festival options, [Tourism Ohio](#) has tons of information that can help you find something to do.

For those of us at the State, it also means heading into a new Fiscal Year. A second “New Year” can bring an opportunity to refocus on the first one's resolutions. How are they going? Do we need to change or modify anything? Did we drop the ball on anything? What about our partnerships? After the Winter holidays, there can be a sense of renewal and wanting to reconnect with colleagues and partners after the vacations and time off that accompanies the start of the season. How are those efforts going? Are there partners we still need to reconnect with? Are there people and organizations that we can invite to our tables? What are we doing with our second New Year to expand our tent and bring in new personnel, organizations, mission sets, and resources to serve our communities? Partnerships and strengthened relationships are essential elements of planning and one of the most valuable assets to come from the process!



To President Eisenhower's point above about our plans themselves: does the new Fiscal Year bring changes that necessitate a review, and possibly revision(s), to those plans? Are we truly engaged with the planning process (especially building the relationships and fostering the information sharing that comes with it) to make these living, breathing plans the best they can be? Of course, the planning side of it matters. But so do those plans, which, if done well: with good input from the whole community, and are targeted and focused through a clear and limited scope ~ they can be something other than worthless. They might even guide us accomplish the thing(s) they claim they will.

-Josh D. Vittie

Current Events:

The 2025 National VOAD Conference: A Partnership for Disaster Resilience

The 2025 National VOAD Conference in Louisville, KY was a testament to the power of collaboration in disaster response and recovery. Hosted by the **National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD*)**, the conference brings together a broad range of partners, including nonprofits, faith-based groups, government agencies, and private sector organizations—all sharing a commitment to serving communities in times of crisis.

National VOAD was established in 1970 in response to coordination challenges following Hurricane Camille. Over the years, it has grown into a coalition of more than seventy member organizations and state/territory VOADs, each dedicated to efficient and effective disaster response. Rather than duplicating efforts, National VOAD fosters **collaboration, communication, cooperation, and coordination**—the “4 Cs” that guide its work in providing relief and long-term recovery assistance.

Ohio VOAD is an active alliance dedicated to disaster planning, response, and recovery. It is a Support Agency in our State Emergency Operations Plan, and they’re regularly present in the State Emergency Operations Center. Fostering collaboration among its members, Ohio VOAD ensures that resources and expertise are effectively utilized to support communities in need.

-Matt Sturgeon

A Wide Range of Partners

The 2025 National VOAD Conference showed a vast network of essential partners. **Nonprofit leaders** such as the American Red Cross, Team Rubicon, and Catholic Charities discussed best practices. It was my sincere pleasure to meet with Charles and his k9 handler Karen of Hope Animal Assisted Crisis Response. **Faith-based groups**, including the Salvation Army, the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, and the United Church of Christ shared best practices in mental, emotional, and spiritual support for everyone. I’m looking forward with enthusiasm to discuss the needs of children in disasters with our colleagues from Child Life Disaster Services and Church of the Brethren Children’s Disaster Services.

Government agencies, like State and local emergency management offices, discussed State Service Commissions and building Community Emergency Response Teams. Additionally, **corporate partners**—from planning giants to tech innovators—offer supply chain and technological advancements that enhance disaster response efficiency.

* More information about National VOAD can be found at: <https://www.nvoad.org/>

Incidents and other Tidbits:

- The 2025 NATO Parliamentary Assembly occurred in Dayton from May 21-May 26 (no significant incidents reported throughout the event)
- ESF-6 was represented at a planning meeting for the Catholic Diocese of Columbus on June 7 (event was well-attended with several stakeholder groups present)
- ESF-6 assisted coordination with Ohio EMA and Ohio VOAD in support of Pickaway and other counties that experienced flooding from June 6-June 8
- The annual Ohio School Safety Summit was held from June 9-June 10 at the Columbus Convention Center
- Ohio EMA conducted a non-Radiological Functional Exercise for the State EOC on June 10 (ESF-6 Coordinators, ARC, Ohio Department of Aging, & Ohio VOAD participated)
- On June 11 there was a hazardous materials incident in Vinton County that required monitoring
- ESF-6 was represented at the Hamilton County COAD Meeting on June 17
- Co-presented with Ohio EMA about preparedness for community members and those with Access and Functional Needs to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities at their All-Staff Policy Meeting on June 18



Charles of Hope Animal-Assisted Crisis Response laying aside his handler, Karen (Photo by Matt Sturgeon)

Resource Updates:

The first update this month is from our friends over at the National Weather Service. The updated guidance for heat advisories brings language and formatting to be more in line with the recently changed winter / cold weather products. Essentially, the major change is an update from the term “Excessive” to the new terminology of “Extreme” for watches and warnings, while the old terms for “Heat Advisory” will remain intact.

and guidance around: inclusion, climate change, equity, historically underserved / marginalized communities, removing “diverse racial and ethnic populations” and “Immigrants” from AFN definitions, and other assorted changes throughout. All FEMA National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) Planning guides can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/plan>

HAZARD SIMPLIFICATION



How are NWS Heat Products Changing?



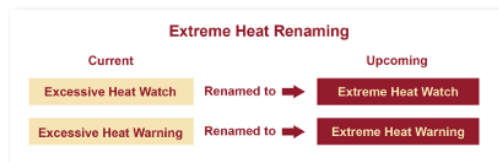
The National Weather Service (NWS) is renaming its heat watch and warning products to improve messaging of these hazards and provide better decision-making services.



What is new?

The Excessive Heat Watch and Warning will be renamed to the Extreme Heat Watch and Warning. No changes will be made to Heat Advisory.

Nationwide Implementation in March 2025



What Do You Need To Know?

- As part of the ongoing NWS Hazard Simplification Project, the NWS is acting upon data collected during public and partner engagements, surveys, and social science research, leading to the renaming of Heat Watch and Warning products.
- The name change seeks to improve communication and messaging of hazardous heat and better convey that heat is dangerous.
- The name change will align our terminology with the Extreme Cold Watch and Warning products and what other agencies, media, academia, and organizations are using.

What would this look like?

Changes highlighted in yellow.

URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE
National Weather Service Sioux Falls SD
158 PM CDT Mon Jun 24 2025

IAZ026>022-031-032-NEZ013-014-SDZ069>071-250108-
/O.NEW.RFSD.XH.W.0001.250624T1858Z-250625T0100Z/
Plymouth-Cherokee-Buena Vista-Woodbury-Ida-Dixon
Dakota-Yankton-
Including the cities of Ponca, Wakefield, Sioux City, Le
Mars, Storm Lake, Allen, North Sioux City, Cherokee, South
Sioux City, Jefferson, Vermillion, Searsville, and Yankton
158 PM CDT Mon Jun 24 2025

...EXTREME HEAT WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 8 PM CDT
THIS EVENING...

* WHAT...Dangerously hot conditions with heat index values
up to 111.

* WHERE...In Iowa, Buena Vista, Cherokee, Plymouth, Ida,
and Woodbury Counties. In Nebraska, Dakota and Dixon
Counties. In South Dakota, Clay, Union, and Yankton
Counties.

* WHEN...Until 8 PM CDT this evening.



Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans

Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101

May 2025, Version 3.1



FEMA

Finally, there's some updates to FEMA's Independent Study courses:

- [IS-39: Disaster Responder Heat Safety](#) is an entirely new course
- [IS-403.a Introduction to Individual Assistance \(IA\)](#) received a full revision for the .a designation
- [IS-907.a Active Shooter: What You Can Do](#) received a full revision for the .a designation

Our second update this month comes from FEMA. CPG101v3.1 is now available on their website. Several months ago, FEMA pulled our primary guidance for planning ~ Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans: Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101 version 3.0 (updated September 2021) ~ from their website, which left a substantial gap for EM Planners. Version 3.1 was released in late May 2025 and remains largely intact. However, largely intact does not minimize the significant changes that were made, specifically in terms of removing all references to,

National Weather Service

weather.gov/hazsimp

Getting to Know Ohio EMA Training Section:

Ohio EMA offers a wide variety of training throughout the state of Ohio. Currently they have nearly 50 trainings listed in their [CATALOG](#). These trainings cover critical topics such as; Incident Command, Mass Fatality Planning, Public Information Officer, Mass Care and Volunteer Management along with many more topics related to emergency management. To ensure the value of these courses, instructors are vetted and certified prior to delivery. They currently have over 100 certified instructors and are always looking for more, so please have a look at the [CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR POLICY](#) for additional details.

During 2024, Ohio EMA Training Coordinators supported 144 trainings throughout the state. These trainings consisted of 2,268 classroom hours and instruction to 2,755 students with an average of 19 students per training. Thirty-nine counties applied for and received training. The next training application period is July 1-21, 2025. More details about that can be found in the [OHIO EMA TRAINING APPLICATION POLICY](#).

Ohio EMA also works with the [Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium \(RDPC\)](#) and the [National Domestic Preparedness Consortium \(NDPC\)](#) to broaden the scope of available trainings to Ohio residents. Many of the courses provided by the consortiums can be offered in Ohio, but many are also no-cost resident courses at the consortium partner facilities.

New courses are always being made available for registration. You can monitor and search the current calendar [HERE](#).

-David Nunley, Ohio EMA, Training and Exercise Section

Awareness Campaigns:

The [Ready.Gov 2025 Preparedness Calendar](#) is one source for you to keep up with the various awareness campaigns and share with your partners!



July 2025:

- [#SummerReady](#)
- [Fireworks Safety](#)
- [Extreme Heat Safety](#)

August 2025:

- [#SummerReady Concludes](#)
- [Back to School – Children and Youth Preparedness](#)
- [Extreme Heat Safety](#)
- [International Overdose Awareness Day](#)

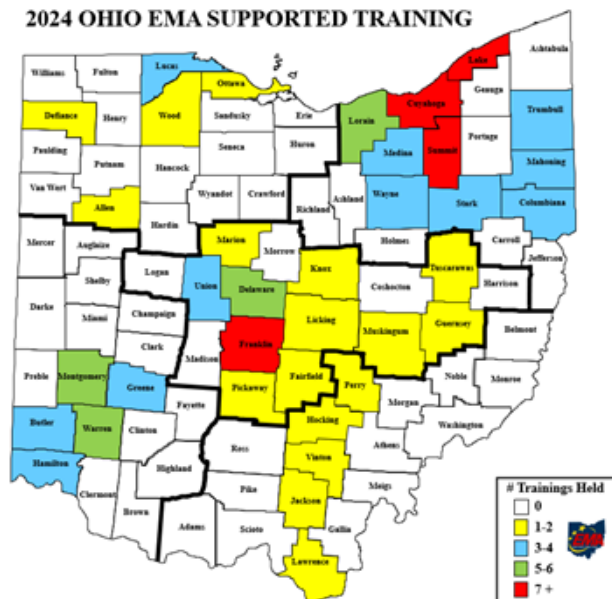
This Month's Closing Thoughts:

The year may be half-over when the 30th ticks by in a couple weeks, but we keep going! Starting to see a lot of announcements for 2026 conferences and events. Registrations are starting to open. Planning continues, as it's an ever-ongoing process.

A couple of things are in the works for the new Fiscal Year: the new ESF-6 Website will be launching soon, we should be able to kick off work to form our long-anticipated AFN Advisory Council, and hopefully, we can offer an ESF-6 Partner and Stakeholder specific exercise inject development workshop.

Stay tuned for more information and please reach out to us with your ideas and what you want to see with the mid-year New Year!

2024 OHIO EMA SUPPORTED TRAINING



EVENT CALENDAR

DATE(S)	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT/REGISTRATION
6/25/25	900 - 1200	WebEOC Training	Ohio EMA / State EOC	Contact Ann Lechner: amlechner@dps.ohio.gov
7/9/25 - 7/10/25	1200 - 1500	4th Annual National Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Symposium	Zoom	https://nyu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ov0X8AJAR-FiRCztoUmTabA#/registration
7/10/25	0800 - 1700	AWR-232 Mass Fatalities Planning & Response for Rural Communities	Akron, Ohio	https://ruraltraining.org/course/AWR-232/?scheduled=true&id=13768
7/16/25	0800 - 1700	MGT-416 Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities	Georgetown, Ohio (Brown County)	https://ruraltraining.org/course/MGT-416/?scheduled=true&id=12731
7/18/25	TBD	Ohio Military Reserve / State Defense Force Annual Training Partner Visit	Camp James A Garfield	Contact Gary Lehman at gary.lehman@sdf.ohio.gov
7/21/25	0800 - 1700	AWR-328 All-Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters	Bowling Green, Kentucky	https://ruraltraining.org/course/AWR-328/?scheduled=true&id=12678
7/22/25 - 7/23/25	0800 - 1700	G-108 Community MC/EA Planning	Troy, Ohio (Tri-County Board of Recovery & Mental Health)	Register at Public Safety Training Campus https://learning.dps.ohio.gov/PSTC/
7/29/25	1300 - 1500	State EOC Partners / Stakeholders	TBD	Mike Staff (Ohio EMA)
7/30/25	0700 - 1630	Ohio Attorney General's 2025 Human Trafficking Summit	Columbus, Ohio (Hyatt Regency)	https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Human-Trafficking-Summit
8/6/25	0800 - 1700	G-108 Community MC/EA Planning	Troy, Ohio (Tri-County Board of Recovery & Mental Health)	https://ruraltraining.org/course/MGT-448/?scheduled=true&id=13780
8/6/25 - 8/9/25	Varies	National Community Emergency Response Team Conference	Indianapolis, Indiana	https://nationalcert.org/
8/13/25	0900 - 1200	WebEOC Training	Ohio EMA / State EOC	Contact Ann Lechner: amlechner@dps.ohio.gov
8/28/25	0830 - 1600	Ohio Corporate Security Symposium	Columbus, Ohio (Convention Center)	Registration information: https://www.dhs.gov/css-schedule
8/29/25	0800 - 1700	OH-726 Commodity Points of Distribution	Cuyahoga County	Register at Public Safety Training Campus https://learning.dps.ohio.gov/PSTC/
9/10/25 - 9/11/25	0900 - 1600	OHCON25: Ohio Public Safety Drone Conference	Ohio Fire Academy (Reynoldsburg, Ohio)	Registration forthcoming: https://www.ohgru.org/event-details/ohcon-2025-ohio-public-safety-drone-conference
9/19/25	TBD	2025 Continuity Professionals of Ohio Summit	TBD	2024 Information still on website Homepage: https://www.cpohio.org/
10/7/25 - 10/9/25	0800 - 1700	OH-139 Exercise Design and Evaluation	Jackson County, Ohio	Register at Public Safety Training Campus https://learning.dps.ohio.gov/PSTC/
10/16/25	TBD	Ohio EMA Autumn Conference	TBD	Register at Public Safety Training Campus https://learning.dps.ohio.gov/PSTC/
10/22/25 - 10/23/25	0800-1700	OH-288/489 Volunteer and Donations Management Series	Fairfield County EMA	Register at Public Safety Training Campus https://learning.dps.ohio.gov/PSTC/
10/28/25	1300 - 1500	State EOC Partners / Stakeholders	Virtual (MS Teams)	Mike Staff (Ohio EMA)
10/29/25	0900 - 1200	Annual ESF-6 Partners & Stakeholders In-Person Meeting	TBD	Josh Vittie (ODJFS)
11/6/25	TBD	Ohio 211 Conference	United Way of Central Ohio	Information forthcoming