



Franklin County Emergency Management  
and Homeland Security

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2023



# From The Chairman



**William F. Vedra, Jr.**  
**Chairman**

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2023 Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) Annual Report. This report encapsulates the tireless dedication and exceptional service rendered by the Agency to all 42 jurisdictions within Franklin County.

Throughout the year, FCEM&HS remained steadfast in its mission to create disaster-resilient communities, ensuring the safety and well-being of every resident. These efforts were guided by strategic planning, innovation, and collaboration to meet the evolving needs and challenges faced by our communities.

In 2023, the Agency finalized the mandated update of the Franklin County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan as required by FEMA. This plan encompasses detailed insights into the hazards with the highest likelihood of affecting Franklin County, offering a comprehensive hazard analysis for all 42 jurisdictions.

Additionally, the technology overhaul for the Training Room/Joint Information Center (JIC) was successfully executed. These improvements strengthen operational capacities, facilitating a transition to a more virtual environment suitable for public information professionals, first responders, and agency partners.

The Agency launched its freshly revamped website, in collaboration with the Franklin County Data Center in October. Featuring a modern and sleek design alongside an intuitive interface, the website serves as a prime destination for individuals seeking to access emergency information, explore volunteer opportunities, and access crucial resources for emergency preparedness. These efforts are aimed at safeguarding our community against potential hazards and ensuring its safety.

It is essential to mention that this report offers just a glimpse into the Agency's accomplishments in 2023. The work is ongoing, and we look forward to another successful year in 2024. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Executive Committee, Director Young, the dedicated staff, partner agencies, volunteers, and residents whose unwavering support and commitment make our mission possible.

Together, we will continue to build a safer, more resilient Franklin County for generations to come.

William F. Vedra, Jr.  
FCEM&HS Executive Committee Chairman

# From The Director

As the Director for Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS), I am proud to present you with the following 2023 Annual Report. This report represents a brief overview of the work the staff at Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security have put forth in supporting the 42 jurisdictions that comprise Franklin County as well as our numerous partner agencies, the surrounding communities, and finally state and federal authorities.

Much of the work done by FCEM&HS is broken down into multiple programs, all designed to support our Franklin County communities and their residents by having the knowledge, tools, and resources to be prepared and resilient for all hazards. This is accomplished through programs in areas of Alerting/Warning, Public Information, Incident Management (Operations), Training and Exercises Planning, Regional Communications, Homeland Security, Resource Management, and Grants Management.

Each new year presents us with opportunities for growth and development in our programs, as well as the chance to explore new and innovative approaches to enhance our preparedness. As we look ahead to 2024, we are committed to leveraging technology and information to support our efforts further. However, it's essential to remember that in times of crisis, we all rely on each other.

As we reflect on our accomplishments in 2023, I am filled with confidence that our entire staff is driven and motivated as we enter 2024. We are committed to supporting our existing programs while also embracing new opportunities to enhance preparedness and resilience in Franklin County and Central Ohio.

Together, we aim to create an environment where individuals can work, live, and thrive with confidence in their safety and well-being.

Jeffrey J. Young  
FCEM&HS Director



**Jeffrey J. Young**  
**Director**

# Mission/Authority

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) coordinates and prepares for all-hazards disaster planning, community education, warning, training, grant funding, response, and recovery efforts in order to prepare and protect the citizens of Franklin County before, during, and after natural and man-made disasters.

FCEM&HS, in accordance with Chapter 5502 of the Ohio Revised Code is organized as a regional agency under the 1988 Countywide Agreement and coordinates all-hazards emergency management and disaster preparedness functions for the 42 local government jurisdictions of Franklin County.

## Jurisdictions Supported

|                           |                         |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| City of Bexley            | Village of Harrisburg   | Pleasant Township       |
| Blendon Township          | City of Hilliard        | Prairie Township        |
| Village of Brice          | Jackson Township        | City of Reynoldsburg    |
| Brown Township            | Jefferson Township      | Village of Riverlea     |
| City of Canal Winchester  | Village of Lockbourne   | Sharon Township         |
| Clinton Township          | Madison Township        | Truro Township          |
| City of Columbus          | Village of Marble Cliff | City of Upper Arlington |
| City of Dublin            | Mifflin Township        | Village of Urbancrest   |
| Franklin Township         | Village of Minerva Park | Village of Valleyview   |
| City of Gahanna           | City of New Albany      | Washington Township     |
| City of Grandview Heights | Norwich Township        | City of Westerville     |
| City of Grove City        | City of Obetz           | City of Whitehall       |
| City of Groveport         | Perry Township          | City of Worthington     |
| Hamilton Township         | Plain Township          | Franklin County         |



# Executive Committee

The Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Executive Committee is comprised of 14 representatives from various municipalities, townships, and villages in Franklin County. The committee oversees the overall operations and policies for the Agency.



**William F. Vedra, Jr. - CHAIR**  
Deputy City Administrator  
City of Grove City



**Monica Irelan - VICE CHAIR**  
City Manager - City of Westerville  
Alternate: Fire Chief Brian Miller



Kevin Boyce  
Franklin County Commissioner  
Alternate: Ken Wilson



John O'Grady  
Franklin County Commissioner  
Alternate: Erik Janas



Erica C. Crawley  
Franklin County Commissioner  
Alternate: Autumn Mitchell



Andrew J. Ginther  
Mayor - City of Columbus  
Alternate: Kenneth Paul



Meghan O'Callaghan  
City Manager - City of Dublin  
Alternate: Police Chief Justin Paez



Ike Stage  
Mayor - City of Grove City  
Alternate: William F. Vedra, Jr.



Kim Maggard  
Mayor - City of Whitehall  
Alternate: Fire Chief Preston Moore



Steve Schoeny  
City Manager - City of Upper Arlington  
Alternate: Fire Chief Chris Zimmer



Nancy White  
Mifflin Township Trustee  
Alternate: Vacant



Kate McSweeney-Pishotti  
Safety Director - City of Columbus  
Alternate: Michael Halloran



Dallas Baldwin  
Franklin County Sheriff  
Alternate: Chief Jim Gilbert/Major Carl Hickey



Christian Selch  
IT/Planning Director - City of Columbus  
Alternate: Vacant



Dr. Mysheika Williams Roberts  
Health Commissioner - City of Columbus  
Alternate: Tiffany Krauss

# Alerting/Warning

As an all-hazards and threats Agency, FCEM&HS actively assesses a multitude of man-made, natural, or technological hazards that could potentially impact public safety. When a situation reaches or has the potential to impose critical life safety concern to the public, FCEM&HS has a variety of ways to alert and warn the public of the need to take immediate action.

## Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren System

The Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren System consists of 198 outdoor warning sirens located throughout all 42 jurisdictions, and Franklin County. The system is divided by four warning zones (NW, NE, SW and SE) to more closely align siren activations with warning polygons issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) or the actual location of tornadic activity in Franklin County.

FCEM&HS tests the system each Wednesday at noon (weather permitting) to ensure the system is functioning properly. Results of weekly testing showed an average of a 98.8% fully operational siren system in 2023.

**2023**

**Outdoor Warning Sirens  
Fully Operational**

**98.8%**



FCEM&HS oversees the maintenance, technological enhancements, compliance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations, and strategic planning for the relocation or augmentation of sirens to enhance coverage across the county.

During 2023, FCEM&HS collaborated with six local jurisdictions to strategize the relocation, enhancement, replacement, and installation of additional sirens to extend coverage. The City of New Albany implemented two new sirens in its eastern region. In Brown Township, a siren was damaged by a direct lightning strike and required complete replacement. Additionally, two sirens in the City of Columbus were relocated due to ongoing construction projects and in the City of Gahanna, a siren was moved and upgraded with a solar charging kit due to the installation of a roundabout.

Planned projects for 2024 include relocating a siren in the City of Obetz and the City of Hilliard due to upcoming park renovations, as well as replacing and upgrading an existing siren while adding two new ones in Jefferson Township.

# Alerting/Warning

## ALERT Franklin County FCReady Keyword Text

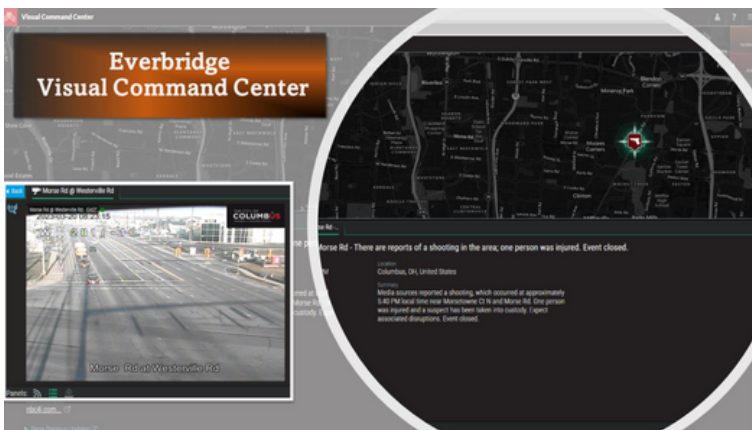
ALERT Franklin County is a web based mass notification and warning program used by FCEM&HS to inform residents about severe weather and important emergency/disaster alerts in Franklin County. ALERT Franklin County is customizable and allows the recipient to choose the alert type and delivery method. ALERT Franklin County requires a user profile with a valid Franklin County address.



FCReady is a text only message alert system that provides a quick and easy way for residents and visitors in Franklin County to receive emergency information. Severe weather alerts are not sent through FCReady since the system does not require a profile or personal information. Registration is done by texting FCReady to 888777.



## Everbridge Visual Command Center



With the support of the Franklin County Commissioners, FCEM&HS invested in an advanced module within the Everbridge Suite known as the Visual Command Center (VCC). VCC serves as a robust situational awareness tool, utilizing a single-pane-of-glass map-based interface to provide near real-time risk intelligence. Drawing from various open-source platforms, it accumulates data on a wide range of risk events, encompassing weather patterns, power outages, criminal activities, and global incidents related to safety and security.

FCEM&HS is working with jurisdictions across Franklin County to explore the full potential of VCC technology and develop a real-time CAD integrated platform. This platform will enhance situational awareness for public safety leadership throughout the county. Upon completion of development and integration efforts, Franklin County jurisdictions will have access to a unified system providing a common operating picture.

# Alerting/Warning

## Central Ohio Everbridge Users' Symposium

In November 2023, FCEM&HS hosted the first Central Ohio Everbridge Users' Symposium, a collaborative gathering that convened both public and private Everbridge clients from across the Central Ohio Region. The event served as a platform for participants to exchange best practices, stay informed about new features, and offer valuable feedback on their experiences with the system.

The symposium attracted users from diverse sectors within Central Ohio, including healthcare, primary and higher education, banking and finance, public and private transportation, science and technology corporations, as well as public safety agencies at the city, county, and state levels of government. Due to the success of this inaugural event, there are plans to host future recurring quarterly events, in a combination of virtual and in-person formats, ensuring accessibility and flexibility for participants.



## StormReady Recertification

In 2023, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Wilmington recertified Franklin County as a StormReady® Community. The program, sponsored by the NWS, empowers community leaders and emergency managers to bolster local safety initiatives through proactive planning, education, and heightened awareness.

To attain certification, communities are required to fulfill specific criteria, encompassing educational initiatives, community outreach efforts, advanced planning, comprehensive training, and the establishment of multiple channels for receiving and disseminating severe weather information.





# Public Information

The Public Information Program ensures the delivery of accurate, well-coordinated, and timely information to its citizens before, during, and after any disaster or emergency situation. Operating year-round, the Public Information Office actively promotes disaster preparedness through diverse outreach campaigns and engagement efforts across both traditional and social media platforms.

In 2023, FCEM&HS launched multiple public information campaigns targeting ALERT Franklin County, FCReady, Severe Weather Awareness Week, Flood Safety, Pet Preparedness, Lightning Safety Awareness Week, Fireworks Safety, National Preparedness Month, the Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill, Cybersecurity, Fire Prevention, Winter Safety Weather Awareness Week, Holiday Cooking, and Online Shopping Safety.

## FCEM&HS Website Redesign

In October, FCEM&HS revealed the Agency's freshly revamped website. Showcasing a sleek, modern design and a user-friendly interface, it serves as an ideal hub for individuals seeking information about ALERT Franklin County/FCReady Alerts, the Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren System, volunteer opportunities, and crucial emergency preparedness resources aimed at safeguarding our community against potential hazards.

The refreshed site offers convenient access to upcoming training sessions, online class registration, and valuable links to national consortium training resources for our dedicated first responders and emergency partners.

**DISASTERS MAY STRIKE AT ANY TIME AND ANY PLACE.  
GETTING THE RIGHT INFORMATION TO THE RIGHT  
PEOPLE AT THE RIGHT TIME IS CRITICAL.**

Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Emergency Notification System

**Stay Informed!**  
**Text FCReady to 888777**

- Critical Countywide Information
- Disaster/Incident Awareness
- Snow Emergency Alerts
- Disaster Recovery Information
- Profile/Address Not Required
- No Personal Information Collected

In addition to the revamped website, the Agency embarked on a modernization effort for its outreach materials. Fresh content including QR codes were developed to inform the public about the Agency, volunteer programs, and the array of tools available to stay informed in the event of a disaster.

**Severe Weather Alert Week**  
Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security will recognize Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 19 - 25, 2023.  
The 2023 Spanish Tomato Drill is Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.  
Residents are reminded to prepare for severe weather before it happens. Hazardous conditions can occur anytime, anywhere, and without advance notice.  
[Learn More About Severe Weather](#)

**Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEMHS)**  
FCEMHS coordinates and prepares for all-hazards disaster planning, education, warning, response, and recovery efforts in order to prepare and protect the citizens of Franklin County before, during, and after natural and man-made disasters.

**Quick Links**

- Franklin County Risks
- 911 Regional Communications
- Annual Report
- Homeland Security
- Hazardous Materials
- Operations
- Press Releases
- Careers

# Operations

The Operations Program plays a critical role in supporting operational activities spanning multiple jurisdictions, aimed at mitigating immediate hazards, safeguarding lives and property, establishing situational awareness, and restoring normal operations in the aftermath of natural or man-made disasters.

The program is tasked with implementing plans and procedures, overseeing warning systems and resource allocation, leveraging information technology to enhance the common operational picture, and managing the activities of both the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC). Additionally, the program is tasked with ensuring a response to all-hazard events around the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To meet this requirement, FCEM&HS employs an On-Call System, assigning two staff members to monitor telephone and email communications outside of regular working hours.

## 2023 Event Response

### 2023 INCIDENTS



Tornado Warning



Winter Weather Advisory



Tornado Watch



Level 1 Snow Emergency



Flood Warning



High Wind Warning



Heat Advisory



Air Quality Alert



Severe Thunderstorm Warning



## Technology Upgrades

In response to the evolving virtual landscape and the need to modernize technology, FCEM&HS initiated a comprehensive technology overhaul throughout the Agency in 2021. The first phase, completed in 2022, focused on updating the Assessment Center/Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC). Building on this success, phase two commenced in early 2023, targeting enhancements to the Training Room/Joint Information Center (JIC).



The upgraded features include:

- Installation of a new laser projector
- Implementation of a refined control panel
- Additional audio/video outputs
- Integration of bluetooth video capabilities
- Installation of four 75" screen displays
- Upgrade of the video conferencing system
- Implementation of a segregated audio system

These enhancements will significantly elevate the capabilities of the Training Room for emergency management professionals, first responders, public health experts, volunteer organizations, and other partners dedicated to ensuring the safety of Franklin County. Additionally, the upgrades strengthen the operational capacity of the JIC during times of disaster or emergency. Phase three, which encompasses the EOC, is slated for updates in 2024.



# Training/Exercises

Training and exercises play a pivotal role in strengthening community preparedness. FCEM&HS is dedicated to facilitating essential training in the region for emergency management professionals, first responders, public health professionals, volunteer organizations, and other key partners who contribute to the safety of Franklin County.

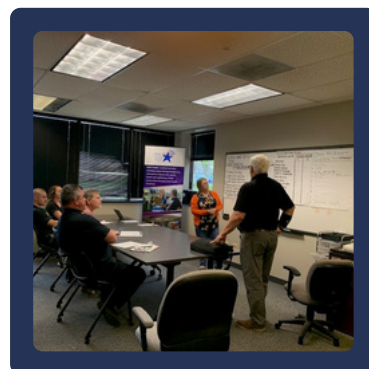
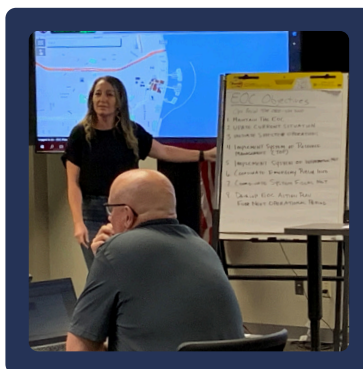
Throughout 2023, FCEM&HS coordinated numerous training opportunities across Franklin County. The Agency actively conducted and participated in various exercises, all geared towards validating the community's preparedness and response capabilities. These initiatives also served to evaluate the effectiveness of existing plans and procedures, regardless of the specific threat or hazard at hand.

## 2023 TRAINING NUMBERS

**38**  
Classes

**816**  
Participants

**13,196**  
Hours





## Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council (CEPAC)



**Chemical Emergency  
Preparedness  
Advisory Council**

Franklin County's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is represented by the Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council (CEPAC).

### LEPC Annual Exercise

On June 15, 2023, Franklin County held its annual Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) required exercise. The full scale exercise was held to validate HAZMAT response capabilities within Franklin County and Grove City. The scenario utilized a simulated accidental release of nitric acid at a facility in Grove City. Cascading events required the responders to establish a scalable Incident Command System (ICS) to manage the incident, take measures to control the spill, triage, treat and transport simulated victims, plan for responder and community safety, manage traffic flow around the incident, and handle emergency public information issues in the community.

As the host, American Nitrile assisted on the design team and provided immense help to the successful completion of the exercise. Participating emergency partners included Franklin County and Columbus Public Health, Jackson Township Fire, Grove City Police, Worthington Fire/NAS-T, Mount Carmel Hospital Grove City, Ohio Health, COTS, American Nitrile, Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA), Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), and the State Emergency Response Committee (SERC).



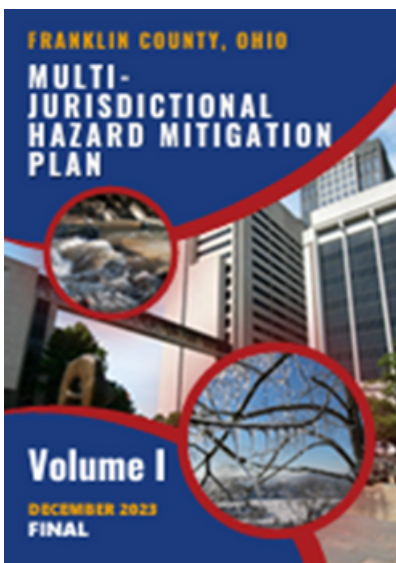
# Planning

FCEM&HS is responsible for the development, coordination, and maintenance of over 60 local plans, including the Franklin County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and associated Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and Annexes. In times of crisis, staff members are tasked with creating specific plans tailored to the situation, generating Situation Reports to convey critical information, and utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to enhance decision-making.

## Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

In 2023, FCEM&HS collaborated with local jurisdictions and private partners to update the county's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Key revisions included enhancing the natural hazard ranking system for the community and conducting a comprehensive hazard analysis for all 42 jurisdictions within Franklin County.

Notably, the updated plan now includes a dedicated section addressing climate change, detailing its impact on each hazard listed in the plan. This holistic approach aims to better understand the causes and effects of hazards, thereby improving mitigation strategies. Remarkably, the participation of 90% of the jurisdictions in Franklin County reflects a strong commitment to enhancing each community's resilience. This plan is reviewed and mandated at the federal level for any jurisdiction seeking federal mitigation funding and requires a complete update every five years.



## 2023 Franklin County Snow Emergency Briefing

In November, ahead of Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week, FCEM&HS Director Jeff Young and members of the Franklin County Snow Emergency Advisory Group hosted a briefing for the media and leaders of local jurisdictions to discuss snow emergency planning for the upcoming winter season. This year's briefing featured a presentation on the Ohio Valley Winter Outlook from the National Weather Service (NWS) in Wilmington.



Sheriff Dallas Baldwin reviewed the snow emergency levels, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 and explained how the impact on businesses, government, and schools plays a role in the decision-making process.

Franklin County Administrator Ken Wilson and representatives from the Franklin County Engineer's Office, the City of Columbus Department of Public Service, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and AEP Ohio, shared insights into their current procedures and highlighted the collaborative efforts in sharing information when winter weather may affect local roadways.



# Regional Communications

Effective communication systems are paramount for Franklin County's first responders and the timely delivery of critical information during emergencies is vital. Modern communication systems are expected to handle a wide range of hazards, from tornadoes to terrorism, necessitating coordinated efforts from government agencies at all levels. Interoperability, which allows emergency responders to communicate across jurisdictions, disciplines, and government levels using various frequency bands as needed and authorized, is essential.

The Franklin County Regional Communications Program is dedicated to fostering seamless communication between neighboring jurisdictions and various disciplines during emergencies. This initiative ultimately enhances response capabilities and fosters safer communities.

## Public Safety Communication Training

In 2023, FCEM&HS conducted training tailored specifically for public safety communication professionals. The Incident Communication Center Manager class was designed to equip communication unit leaders, dispatch supervisors, and other public safety communication professionals with the skills needed to effectively manage all aspects of an Incident Communications Center.

Additionally, the Incident Tactical Dispatcher training program was introduced. This class aimed to train individuals to operate in various settings such as command posts, base camps, or directly at incident scenes in support of specific incidents or tactical operations. Incident Tactical Dispatchers are specially trained and qualified personnel who leverage their multitasking abilities, communication skills, accountability, and documentation expertise acquired as telecommunicators to provide crucial support during planned events and prolonged incidents.





# Homeland Security

FCEM&HS works with agencies and jurisdictions throughout the county to coordinate information sharing, planning, training, and equipment needed for protecting Franklin County from acts of terrorism. In 2023, FCEM&HS conducted multiple collaboration efforts, working with local agencies on numerous special events and provided operational support, common operating picture, situational awareness, and alerting for large crowd events.

## See Something, Say Something

FCEM&HS collaborates with Ohio Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the "See Something, Say Something" campaign. This national initiative aims to increase public awareness regarding indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime, emphasizing the significance of reporting suspicious activities to local and state law enforcement agencies.

Informed and vigilant communities are essential in safeguarding our nation's security. It's important to recognize that public safety is a shared responsibility. If you observe any suspicious activity, please report it to local law enforcement by calling 877-OHS-INTEL (877-647-4683).

## HOW TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



**WHO**  
did you see



**WHAT**  
did you see



**WHEN**  
you saw it



**WHERE**  
it occurred



**WHY**  
it's suspicious

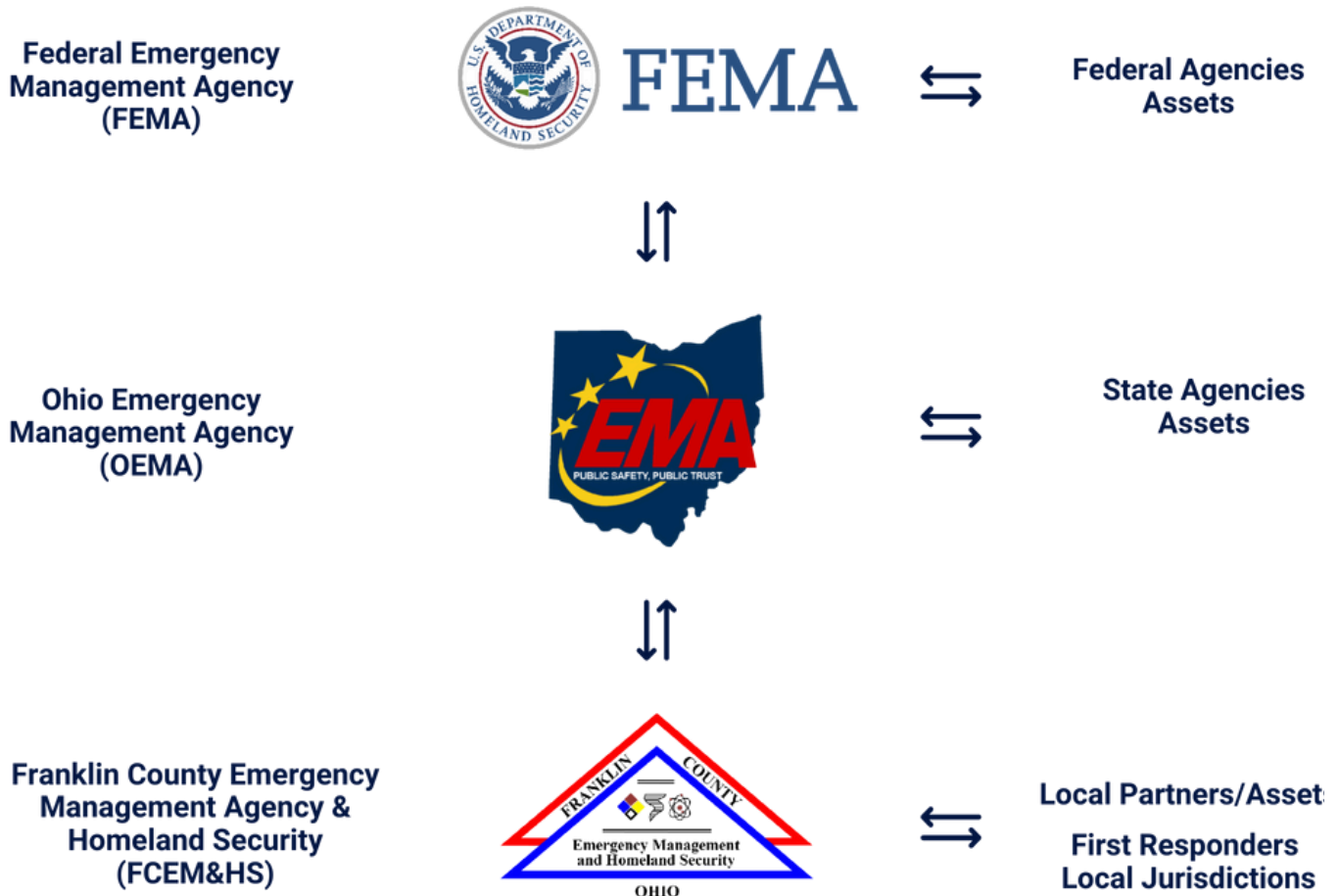
**TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY PLEASE CONTACT  
YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES** and describe specifically what  
you observed. If there is an emergency, call **9-1-1**.



# Resources

The Resource Management Program is responsible for identifying, organizing, and coordinating resource and logistical needs during a disaster or emergency in Franklin County. The program ensures essential commodities continue to flow to Central Ohio by connecting to private sector distribution centers. Essential commodities are resources such as meals, water, tarps, generators, etc. that support the population until systems are restored.

## Emergency Management Organization



# Volunteer Resources

FCEM&HS depends significantly on volunteers throughout all stages of disaster management: before, during, and after emergencies. Often serving as frontline responders immediately after a disaster strikes, volunteers play a vital role in emergency management. Their dedication and contributions are indispensable to FCEM&HS and Franklin County.

## Franklin County Community Emergency Response Team (FC CERT)

The Franklin County Community Emergency Response Team (FC CERT) program is a nationally supported, locally implemented initiative that teaches people how to better prepare themselves for hazards that may affect their communities. In addition to the traditional in-person classroom style training, FC CERT conducted Hybrid CERT Basic Training in 2023. The hybrid training featured online training followed by two days of hands on training.



FC CERT was also requested to assist other jurisdictions and counties to develop their own CERT Programs. Instructors were provided to the City of Bexley, Pickaway County as well as the Civil Air Patrol.

## Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&C MRC)



The Franklin County and Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&C MRC) is a network of local volunteers organized to support the health and safety of the community through public health preparedness. The organization provides medical and nonmedical volunteers to support public health threats, public health emergencies, major emergencies, disasters, and when requested by local officials.

Nearly 100 members participated in the COTS Regional Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Exercise and the John Glenn Port Columbus Full Scale Exercise last year. Participants were moulaged to simulate burns and wounds and transported to local hospitals to exercise mass casualty responses.

# Volunteer Resources

## Volunteers In Public Safety Support (VIPSS)



The Volunteers in Public Safety Support (VIPSS) program provides volunteer support during major emergencies, disasters, and planned high-profile major events. VIPSS volunteers serve as the eyes and ears on the ground and report suspicious activity to law enforcement.

The program trains citizens in homeland security, terrorism awareness, crowd and traffic management, Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) I & II, emergency communications, basic first aid, CPR, AED training, and other important topics.

In 2023, VIPSS members supported local events including the Arnold Sports Festival and early voting and election day activities.

## Franklin County Auxiliary Communications (FC AUXCOMM)

Franklin County Auxiliary Communications (FC AUXCOMM) is a team of amateur radio operators and communicators trained and prepared to provide emergency communications capabilities when there is a major gap in connecting with the public, public safety, critical infrastructure, the state or federal government.

Each year, members participate in the American Radio Relay League Field Day. The exercise tested the Agency's amateur radio equipment to ensure its emergency communications readiness.

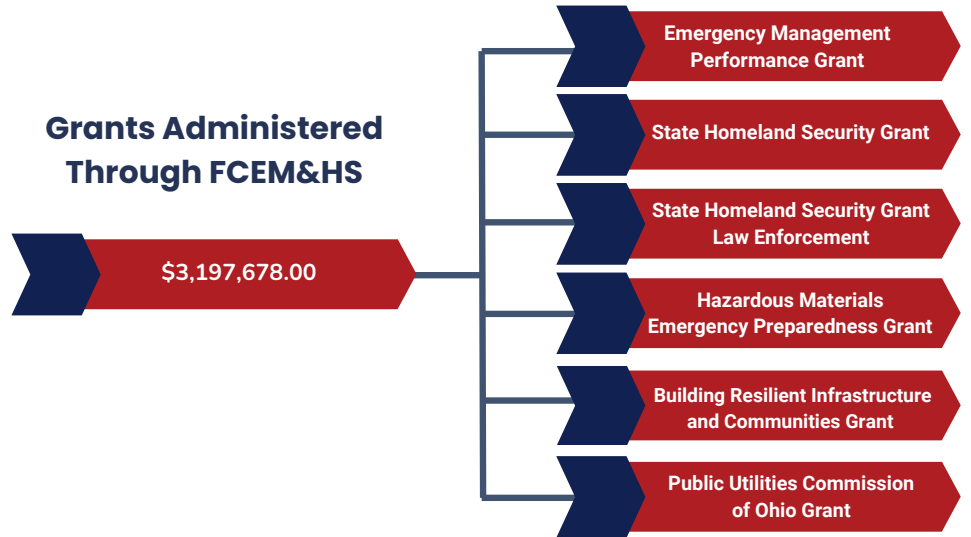
Members also took part in the Black Swan Radio Communications exercise involving communications facilities from local, state, and federal resources. This exercise tested amateur radio equipment and pushed simulated emergency communications and data to the Ohio Military Reserve as part of a multi-state regional communications exercise.





# Grant Funding

Annually, FCEM&HS manages the allocation and dispersal of grant funding to Franklin County and the surrounding counties constituting Homeland Security Region 4 (HSR4). These grants, distinct from disaster-related funding, are provided to enhance the capabilities of local governments in preventing, protecting against, responding to, and recovering from both natural and man-made disasters.



The funding originates from various sources including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), and is distributed through the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA).



**Bomb Robot**

In 2023, FCEM&HS purchased a bomb robot through grant funding for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad. The robot will be used by bomb squad personnel to assess and remove or destroy explosive material/devices. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad is one (1) of the two (2) FBI certified Bomb Squads in HSR4 and also serves Homeland Security Region 7 (HSR7) and Homeland Security Region 8 (HSR8).

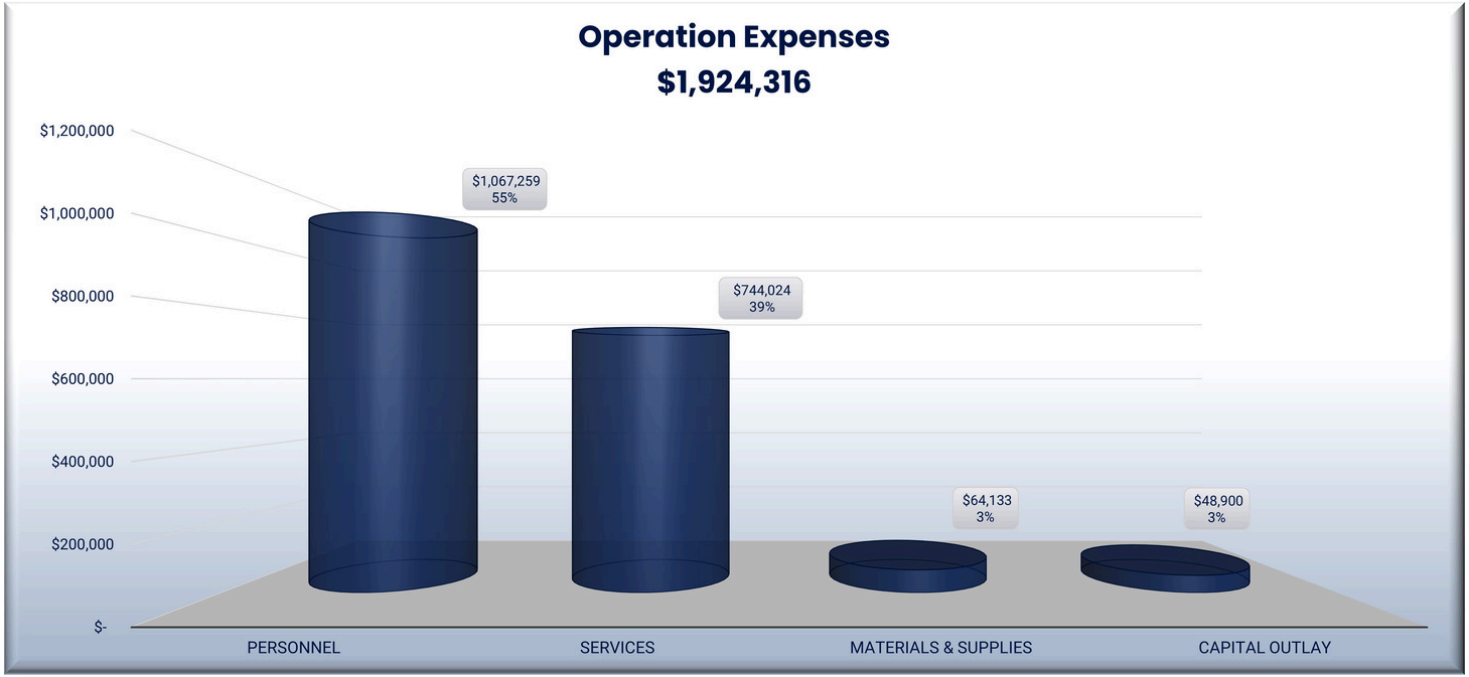
Public safety agencies in Homeland Security Region 4 (HSR4) utilize Motorola radios during an emergency. Throughout the years, agencies have upgraded to newer radios but still possess a significant amount of older operational devices. These radios can continue to serve effectively with the installation of software upgrades to ensure compliance with Ohio MARCS system. Through grant funding, FCEM&HS purchased the new software which will enable older radios to meet current authentication requirements. This measure strengthens system security, alleviating the risk of intrusion by external parties seeking to undermine public safety efforts and response to incidents.



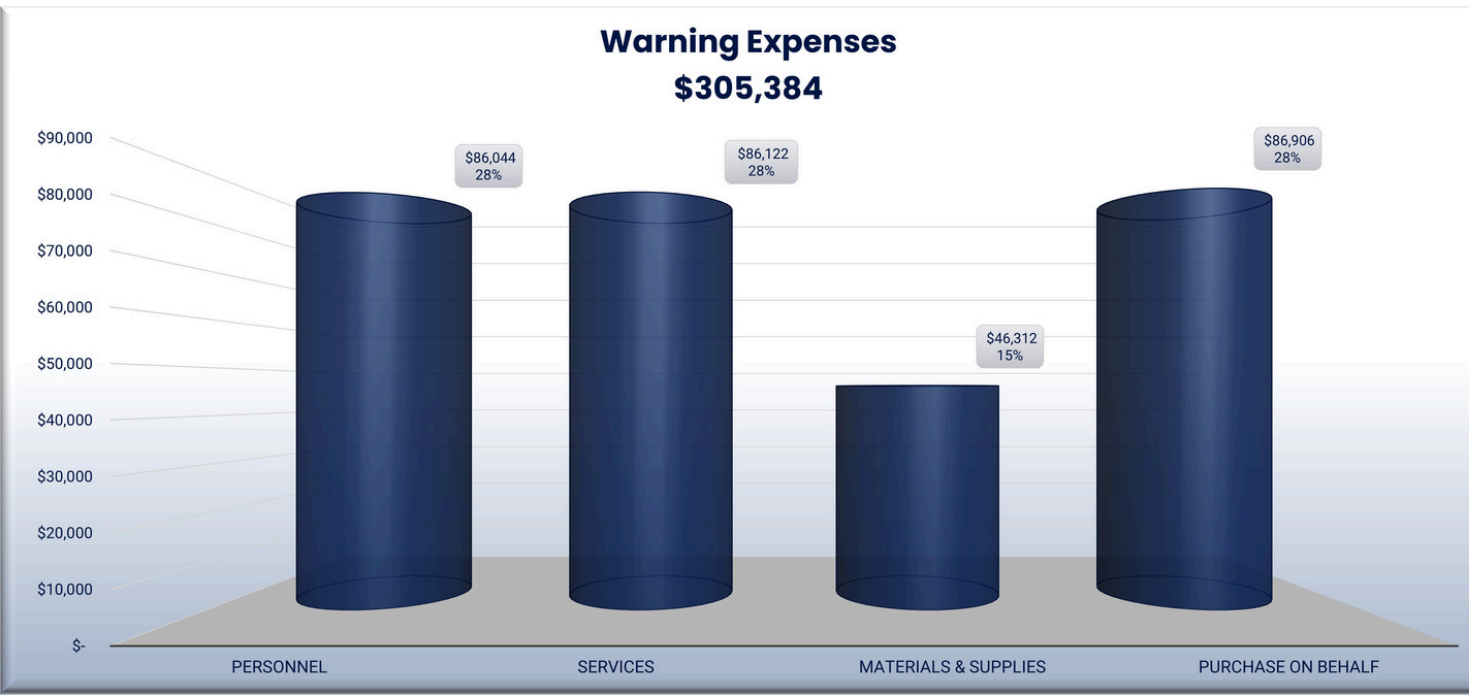
**Radio Software**

FCEM&HS purchased three additional structural collapse search camera systems for the Central Ohio Strike Team. The digital technology included in these cameras enhance capabilities in rescue operations and provide 360 degree visibility and audio capabilities, allowing team members to locate and communicate with survivors trapped in difficult-to-reach areas.

## Operation Expenses \$1,924,316



## Warning Expenses \$305,384



# A Look Ahead

2024 looks to be an exciting year for FCEM&HS. Not only will the Agency's technology upgrade be finalized, but the Agency's building will undergo renovations and be transformed. In addition, FCEM&HS will collaborate with multiple agencies and partners on plans as well as provide operational support and situational awareness for numerous large crowd events.

## 2024 Event Coordination

- Arnold Fitness Expo – February 29 – March 3, 2024
- Primary Election – March 19, 2024
- Solar Eclipse – April 8, 2024
- Franklin County 911 Plan Update – April 15, 2024
- Agency Building Purchase/Renovations Complete – May 31, 2024
- Columbus Air Show – June 14 – 16, 2024
- Red White and Boom – July 3, 2024
- MLS All-Star game – July 24, 2024
- FC Series Futbol – August 3, 2024
- General Election – November 5, 2024

Franklin County  
OHIO  
CITY  
VILLAGE





## Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd  
Columbus, Ohio 43230

### Contact Us



614-794-0213



[fcemhs@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:fcemhs@franklincountyohio.gov)



[www.fcemhs.org](http://www.fcemhs.org)

