

Annual Report 2011



Michael R. Pannell, Director

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FCEM&HS

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Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 2011 Progress, 2012 Goals

This executive summary provides highlights of accomplishments in 2011 by Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS), and notes about the Agency's goals for 2012.

FCEM&HS, a local government agency, coordinates countywide planning, education, warning, response and recovery to minimize the impacts of emergencies and disasters.

Integrated Risk Management (IRM):

FCEM&HS continued to make IRM a top priority in 2011. IRM calls for integrating identified risks into local emergency preparedness decision-making by jurisdictional leaders. The Agency secured grant funding from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency to work in 2012 to enhance the current Franklin County Risk Assessment, incorporate IRM principles into local community preparedness efforts, and create a best-practices document to be used as a model for other local efforts throughout the state.

Regional Training & Exercise Strategy:

FCEM&HS completed a year-long planning process to develop a risk-based Regional Training & Exercise Strategy to foster increased coordination and collaboration to improve the region's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from all hazards. The Agency will develop an online training and exercise portal in 2012 to provide a one-stop shop for emergency management/homeland security training and exercises in the region.

Outdoor Warning Siren (OWS) System:

The Agency enhanced the Franklin County OWS system and its testing protocols in 2011. Siren activation and radio functionality were improved for better signal strength and reliability, front panel upgrades were performed at 20 siren locations, and a radio narrow-banding program was set up to meet an FCC mandate.



Director Pannell discusses Operation Flood Fight with reporters.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC):

FCEM&HS improved the technological capabilities of the Franklin County EOC in 2011 to improve multi-agency response and recovery coordination and allow for faster collection and dissemination of critical information. The improvements were fully funded by grants.

Social Media:

The Agency launched its Twitter function in 2011 as a new channel for emergency information and preparedness education, gaining nearly 900 followers at its first year of use.

Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan:

In collaboration with local jurisdictions, FCEM&HS drafted an update of the county's 2007 plan as required every five years by 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201. The plan was

sent to FEMA for review and will be presented to local jurisdictions for adoption in 2012.

Grant Funding:

Many of the Agency's accomplishments in 2011 are the result of grant funding. For every one dollar contributed by jurisdictions to the Agency's operational fund, FCEM&HS was awarded approximately \$2.32 in grant funds — a significant return on investment.

Operation Flood Fight:

The Agency created this volunteer program in 2011 to support ongoing preparedness efforts to protect the Franklinton area and other flood-prone neighborhoods in case of catastrophic flooding. The program involves recruiting, training and exercising local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers to support sandbagging operations

when needed. Director Pannell stresses this is a long-term endeavor.

Geographic Information System (GIS):

FCEM&HS expanded its GIS capabilities in 2011 to integrate, repurpose, and share geospatial data through a web-based mapping application. This expansion increased the operational and planning capabilities of FCEM&HS.

Mass Notification System:

FCEM&HS and the City of Columbus conducted a preliminary assessment of multiple mass notification systems throughout Franklin County. The study recommended unifying our local systems, with jurisdiction opt-in, to markedly increase effectiveness and reduce costs.

Citizen Preparedness, Alerts Now Include Twitter



The Agency began using Twitter to disseminate severe weather alerts and preparedness information.

FCEM&HS is using social media as well as more traditional channels to communicate to the public about severe weather warnings, timely safety tips, alerts and other crucial information to foster citizen emergency preparedness in Franklin County. Here are highlights of some special projects and programs in 2011:

Twitter: FCEM&HS launched its Twitter page in 2011 to transmit emergency alerts and preparedness information to citizens. Follow FCEM&HS on twitter at [Twitter.com/fcemhs](https://twitter.com/fcemhs) for updates on severe weather watches and warnings, emergency protective actions, and disaster preparedness tips. The agency gained nearly 900 followers in its first year of use.

Statewide Tornado Drill: FCEM&HS urged the community to participate in the annual Statewide Tornado Drill in March, when the Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren System was activated in a special test. The Agency reached out directly to more than 1,000

area businesses, schools and agencies in March, urging them to participate in the drill and share their results in an online survey. FCEHMS advocates citizens, schools, and businesses design their own tornado safety plans to help citizens respond safely in a real event.

Severe Weather Spotter Training: FCEM&HS and the National Weather Service co-sponsored this annual training event with OSU Emergency Management at OSU's Fawcett Center in March, leading a half-day seminar on how to spot, report, and prepare for tornadoes and other severe weather.

FCEM&HS also continued promoting other longstanding channels for alerting the community of impending hazards:

NOAA Weather Radio: Weather alert radios broadcast 24/7 weather reports and severe weather alerts from the National Weather Service, and some radios have alert capability for functional-needs populations. The agency urges every

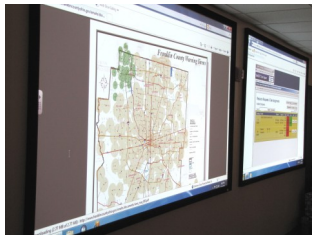
home, school, and business to install one of these low-cost, life-saving devices.

Telecommunication Emergency Notification System (TENS):

This is the Agency's reverse-911-type notification system, capable of reaching all landlines in county. Notifications also use cell phone, voice messaging and texting for users who register their cell phones through FCEM&HS's website, www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs.

Emergency Alert System (EAS):

The national public warning system, under FCC rules, is made up of TV and radio broadcasting stations, cable and wireless TV systems, and other audio/video service providers. The system is activated by the President (FEMA) for national emergencies and by NWS for weather emergencies. It can also be activated by state/local authorities, including FCEM&HS and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, for non-weather-related events.



Larger, clearer displays are one of many new improvements in the Franklin County Emergency Operations Center (see page 4).

Multi-Year Integrated Risk Management Project Launched

FCEM&HS introduced the principles of Integrated Risk Management (IRM) to the community's jurisdictional and public safety leadership in 2011 as an innovative model for informed decision making and a whole-community approach to addressing the risks that impact Franklin County.

IRM involves knowing Franklin County's probable risks and threats, identifying our capabilities to respond to and prepare for those threats, identifying where we lack key capabilities, and making informed budgeting, prioritizing, and other decisions based on the information gathered.

After being chosen by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to participate in a Risk Management and Analysis Technical Assistance Pilot Program in 2010, FCEM&HS launched its multi-year IRM project in 2011.

The project received technical support from DHS and a grant of \$120,000 from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

The grant will be used to produce a best-practices document to be offered as a guide for local jurisdiction leaders across Ohio to integrate risk management into their disaster preparedness decision-making processes at the local level.



Director Pannell briefs the Franklin County Executive Committee on IRM.

Warning System Enhanced, Expanded

FCEM&HS took significant steps in 2011 to improve and expand its warning system, including Outdoor Warning Siren (OWS) system enhancements and the launch of its Twitter tool as a new channel for emergency alerts.

Also, Steve Smith, former Deputy Director of Licking County EM&HS, was appointed in 2011 to manage the FCEM&HS Warning Program.

Enhancements to the OWS system in 2011 included:

- Planning for nine new sirens in the City of Columbus.
- 20 Front Panel Upgrades in four different cities.
- Siren activation radio modification to improve signal strength and reliability.
- Adding audible short “whoop” sound checks during regular maintenance in the field.
- Detailed inspections of the system’s three repeater sites, and subsequent improvements.
- Analysis of potential new repeater locations, working with City of Columbus Communications.

Also, FCEM&HS and the City of Columbus conducted a preliminary assessment of multiple mass notification systems throughout Franklin County.

The study, conducted by Battelle, examined capabilities and costs of various local systems vs. unified systems used elsewhere in the U.S. and available for purchase.

The study recommended unifying our local systems, with jurisdiction opt-in, to markedly increase effectiveness and reduce costs in this area of community-wide emergency alerts.



FCEM&HS laid the groundwork for installing several new outdoor warning sirens in Columbus in 2012.

FCEM&HS Develops Regional Training & Exercise Strategy

FCEM&HS completed a year-long planning process to develop a risk-based Regional Training & Exercise Strategy to improve the region’s ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from all hazards.

The strategy is designed to foster better coordination of regional emergency trainings and exercises, expand regional collaboration, and more efficiently use scarce federal, state, and local funding to prepare the region for disasters and emergencies.

The strategy provides comprehensive guidance for emer-

FCEM&HS 2011 CASH ANALYSIS (unaudited)

OPERATIONAL FUND	
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE JAN. 1, 2011	\$ 831,456
2011 REVENUE SOURCES	
Emergency Management Performance Grant	\$ 537,081
2011 Local Proportionate Shares	855,173
Other Income	31,017
Federal Grants Pass Through Revenue	<u>1,186,209</u>
Total Operational Revenue Received in 2011	\$ 2,609,480
2011 EXPENDITURES	
Salaries	\$ (621,801)
Benefits	(226,202)
Operations	(559,769)
Pass-Through Expenditures	<u>(1,093,226)</u>
Less Total 2011 Expenditures	(2,500,997)
ENDING CASH BALANCE DEC. 31, 2011	\$ 939,939

WARNING FUND	
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE JAN. 1, 2011	\$ 231,805
2011 REVENUE SOURCES	
Annual Warning Fees	\$ 204,000
Purchase/Installation/Removal Reimbursement	275,550
EMPG	50,000
Other Revenue	<u>40,471</u>
Total Warning Revenue Received in 2011	570,020
2011 EXPENDITURES	
Warning Maintenance Expenditures	\$ (281,227)
Overhead Relegated to Warning	(9,135)
Pass-Through—New Sirens, Installs, Billable Purchases	<u>(276,482)</u>
Less Total 2011 Expenditures Warning	(566,845)
ENDING CASH BALANCE DEC. 31, 2011	\$ 234,981

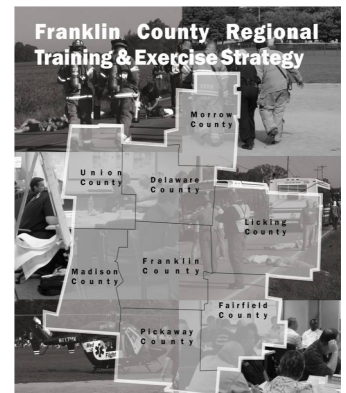
Note: all calculations are rounded.

gency management/homeland security training and exercise planning and programming within the region, comprised of Franklin and other counties in the Columbus metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

A Regional Training & Exercise Committee was created in October 2011 as part of a 3-year Training and Exercise Plan.

FCEM&HS will continue developing the Regional Training & Exercise program in 2012, focusing on building response and recovery efficiency for likely, identified risks to the region from natural and man-made hazards.

A web portal for online registration and tracking for trainings and exercises in the region is being developed in 2012.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The public officials from across Franklin County who comprise the Executive Committee are dedicated to making our county the safest, most prepared in America.

In 2011, the Agency continued to take the steps necessary to improve its efficiency and effectiveness in order to further ensure the safety of our citizens. Those steps and improvements are concisely described in this report.

Of special note were the Agency's efforts: 1) to promote the integration of identified community risks into the emergency management decision made by our leaders — "Integrated Risk Management" — and 2) the development of a risk-based Regional Training & Exercise Strategy to foster expanded collaboration in disaster preparedness.

The Executive Committee's utmost concern will continue to be ensuring the safety of our citizens; we look forward to another year of progress and leadership to meet that end.

Douglas K. Browell
Village Administrator, Village of Obetz
FCEM&HS Executive Committee Chair

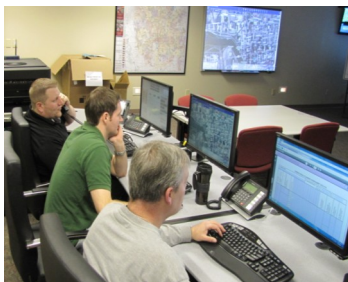
Franklin County EOC Modernized

FCEM&HS significantly improved the technological capabilities of the Franklin County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in 2011.

Modernization of the EOC allows for faster collection, display, and dissemination of critical information during emergencies.

It also enhances the EOC's common operational picture and improves multi-agency response and recovery coordination.

Improvements include new computers, projectors, screens, SmartBoard technology, and Bluetooth technology. The improvements were fully funded by grants.



Franklin County EOC improvements will allow for faster communication.



CERT volunteers pause for a team picture after a training exercise.

CERT Volunteers Add to Community Preparedness

FCEM&HS continued to build its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in 2011 to improve citizen preparedness, create neighborhood-based teams, and develop CERT instructors and team leaders.

CERT and FCEM&HS volunteers spent 2,500 staff hours in training and volunteer service to the agency and the community in 2011.

The training included disaster preparedness, CERT organization, and disaster psychology. FCEM&HS and CERT will recruit more volunteers and intensify the training in 2012.

FCEM&HS also began Operation Flood Fight in 2011, a volunteer program in support of the City of Columbus' s ongoing preparedness efforts to protect the Franklinton area in the event of catastrophic flooding.

The program includes recruiting, training, and exercising CERT volunteers to support sandbagging operations at six locations along the Franklinton Floodwall and other flood-prone areas when needed. Director Pannell stresses this will be a long-term endeavor.