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Michael R. Pannell, Director

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## Executive Summary: 2014 Progress, 2015 Goals

*In This Report*

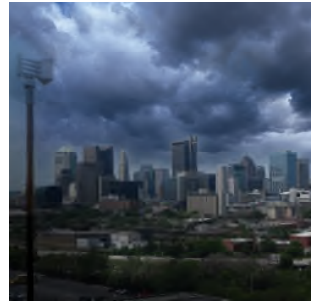
Executive Summary	PG 1
IRM Decision Maker Meeting/THIRA	PG 2
Mass Notification System/Warning	PG 3
Cybersecurity Initiative Flooding	PG 4
Citizen Preparedness Outreach	PG 5
2014 Grant Funding Training Teamwork '14	PG 6
Message from the Executive Committee, Financial Cash Analysis	PG 7

This executive summary provides highlights of accomplishments in 2014 by Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS), and notes about the Agency's goals for 2015.

**IRM Decision Maker Meeting:** FCEM&HS held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Integrated Risk Management (IRM) Decision Maker Meeting on April 2, 2014. The meeting provided the leadership of Franklin County jurisdictions with the information necessary to make informed decisions regarding planning, training, exercises, resource allocation, and funding related to emergency management and homeland security policies and issues.



**Ebola Outbreak:** The 2014 Ebola outbreak is the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa. Although there were no confirmed cases of Ebola in Ohio, FCEM&HS increased its posture to Crisis Action System Level 1 (CAS – 1) for increased monitoring. FCEM&HS received a formal request from Columbus Public Health (CPH) and Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) to assist in the Ebola response by coordinating ESF activities and publishing weekly Situation Reports (SitReps) to maintain a common operational picture. FCEM&HS was also asked to develop a subset of an Isolation and Quarantine Plan, specifically sheltering individuals being monitored by Health.



**FCEM&HS Mass Notification System for Franklin County:** FCEM&HS and Battelle Memorial Institute conducted a needs assessment and system specifications study through surveys and in-person forums to support the development of a unified, comprehensive mass notification system for all 42 jurisdictions of Franklin County. Results showed 91% of the public and 88% of the participating jurisdictions surveyed feel a mass notification system is important for Franklin County and 90% of the public and 93% of the jurisdictions prefer text messaging as the primary means of mass notification.



**2014 Statewide Tornado Drill: Over 172,000 Franklin County citizens participated in the 2014 Statewide Tornado Drill** on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. The annual drill was part of Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week. Tornadoes continue to be a top risk for Franklin County. FCEM&HS reached out to area businesses, schools and agencies and encouraged them to participate in the annual drill.

**2014 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grants:** FCEM&HS was awarded nearly \$845,000 in State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funding from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA). The grant program was competitive and projects had to focus entirely on regional capabilities that can be made available to the region, state and nation as needed. FCEM&HS submitted applications from throughout the county totaling over \$1 million and received 73% of the requested funds. This is a 143% increase in funding from 2013.



**Central Ohio Cybersecurity Initiative:** Due to the ever increasing threat against critical infrastructure and other key public/private sectors, FCEM&HS is serving as the lead agency for the development of a grant funded, regional (Franklin, Fairfield, Licking, Delaware, Madison, Union and Pickaway), public/private sector partnership focused on Cybersecurity. The mission of the regional workgroup is to establish common goals, objectives, and solutions in combating cyberterrorism. The first work group meeting was held on October 14, 2014. Over 60 participants from local, state and federal government as well as business leaders from higher education, utility and financial industries discussed the importance of a public/private partnership to increase regional preparedness.

**FCEM&HS**

Michael R. Pannell, Director  
5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.  
Columbus, OH 43230-1049  
Phone 614-794-0213  
Fax 614-882-3209

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## THIRA

In 2014, The Columbus Urban Area was awarded 1 million dollars in grant funding and the return to the status of an Urban Area Security Initiative City contingent upon the completion of an updated **Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)** submitted to OEMA and FEMA. Working with a committee of subject matter experts throughout Franklin County, FCEM&HS completed the mandatory THIRA work ahead of the November deadline. Much of the work needed to complete this process was completed in the FCEM&HS 2013 THIRA; however there was still a great deal of work to be done in order to comply with the federal requirements. The work included assessing the risks in Franklin County, identifying our capabilities to handle those risks, determining where our gaps exist and identifying the resources needed to help Franklin County respond effectively during likely events.

- The THIRA Process:**
- 1. Identify Threats and Hazards of Concern:** Based on a combination of experience, forecasting, subject matter expertise, and other available resources, identify a list of the threats and hazards of primary concern to the community.
  - 2. Give the Threats and Hazards Context:** Describe the threats and hazards of concern, showing how they may affect the community.
  - 3. Establish Capability Targets:** Assess each threat and hazard in context to develop a specific capability target for each core capability identified in the National Preparedness Goal. The capability target defines success for the capability.
  - 4. Apply the Results:** For each core capability, estimate the resources required to achieve the capability targets through the use of community assets and mutual aid, while also considering preparedness activities, including mitigation opportunities.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IRM Decision Maker Meeting



*Mayor Coleman and Chairman McDaniel during the 2014 Decision Maker Meeting*

FCEM&HS hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Integrated Risk Management (IRM) Decision Maker Meeting on April 2, 2014. The meeting brought together elected officials throughout Franklin County including Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Franklin County Commissioners Marilyn Brown and Paula Brooks, the FCEM&HS Executive Committee as well as many Elected Officials and Decision Makers. Director Pannell briefed the Franklin County leadership about achievements in the IRM Initiative and discussed the program's goals for 2014.

**Integrated Risk Management is a process which takes a risk-based approach to assess capabilities and identify gaps in order to inform decision making and shape emergency management and homeland security strategic planning for the Homeland Security Enterprise.**

In 2014, FCEM&HS continued the Integrated Risk Management Initiative with the progression of the IRM Implementation Plan. The IRM Implementation Plan provides a roadmap for making progress towards closing some of the gaps in Franklin County's capabilities identified in the Gap Analysis. Each gap has a specific action plan providing a step-by-step path to making a substantial impact on closing the gap.

Significant progress was made in closing numerous gaps including the completion of a needs assessment study ensuring a mass warning and notification system met the needs of 42 jurisdictions in Franklin County including the development of a functional needs registry. FCEM&HS worked to develop mutual aid assistance agreements with jurisdictions and non-governmental agencies, created the Central Ohio Cybersecurity Initiative to help protect communities from cyber-attacks and cybercrime, offered trainings in disaster management for electric power systems, public service, schools, faith-based organizations and the community, continuation of the Franklin County and Regional Training and Exercise Planning Workshops and a four-year Franklin County and Regional Training and Exercise Plan and completed improvement plans for previous local and regional exercises. The agency continued to develop a Whole Community preparedness program focused on outreach, education, and volunteerism.



OHIO  
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# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## Warning

FCEM&HS received official authorization from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to utilize the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) system. The system allows federal, state, and local alerting authorities to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies using the Emergency Alert System, the Commercial Mobile Alert System, NOAA Weather Radio and other public alerting systems from a single interface.

FCEM&HS upgraded the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to a digital format which will allow FCEM&HS to receive IPAWS emergency notification messages.



In the summer of 2014, FCEM&HS secured an agreement with Metropolitan Emergency Consortium Communications (MECC) center to serve as an additional outdoor warning sirens activation point. Equipment and training was provided to MECC staff to ensure proper methods are used in the event activation is required. Franklin County now has a total of four activation points to ensure timely activation of the outdoor warning sirens. Locations include: FCEM&HS, Columbus Fire Alarm Office, Westerville Dispatch Center and MECC.

## FCEM&HS Mass Notification System for Franklin County



Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) partnered with Battelle Memorial Institute to conduct a needs assessment study to ensure a new mass warning and notification system met the needs of 42 jurisdictions and emergency partners in Franklin County. Mass warning and notification systems are increasingly used in the emergency response community to notify residents of all-hazards events including severe weather and hazardous material spills. The system can reach residents instantaneously in the form of social media platforms, phone and text messages and email.

Residents and officials from various cities, villages and townships were asked to contribute input through public meetings, focus groups and an online survey to better define Franklin County's needs and expectations. Results showed 91% of the public and 88% of the participating jurisdictions surveyed feel a mass notification system is important for Franklin County and 90% of the public and 93% of the jurisdictions prefer text messaging as the primary means of mass notification. FCEM&HS and a committee reviewed results of the assessment study, vetted Battelle's specification recommendations, authored system technical specifications and a scope of work for vendors.

At its December 17, 2014 meeting, the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Executive Committee passed a resolution to select Everbridge as the preferred vendor and to fund the project. Since the company's inception in 2001, Everbridge has become a market leader in Emergency and Mass Notification Systems.

FCEM&HS will begin implementation of the new system this spring.





OHIO

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## Gould Park Flooding

On June 25, 2014, Gould Park in Columbus and other flood prone areas of Franklin County experienced localized flooding after Central Ohio experienced a large amount of rainfall. Flood Advisories were issued. FCEM&HS activated the Joint Emergency Operations Center (JEOC) and worked with local partners to assess and monitor the situation. FCEM&HS remained in constant contact with officials from Columbus, Gahanna and Whitehall who were impacted by flooding as well as Columbus Department of Public Utilities (DPU) regarding the necessity of a controlled release at Hoover Dam. FCEM&HS alerted Gould Park residents to seek higher ground as flooding was imminent through Code Red (Reverse 911 system) and voice messages through the outdoor warning siren in the area. FCEM&HS developed a programmed evacuation plan to be utilized if it became necessary to evacuate Gould Park.



*Flooding in Gould Park in June 2014*

## Central Ohio Cybersecurity Initiative



*Central Ohio Cybersecurity Initiative Chairs, Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks, Columbia Gas President Jack Partridge, and Columbus City Councilmember Zach Klein during the kickoff*

The threat of Cyberterrorism is increasing at alarming rates and has become the most important risk facing modern society. Cyberterrorism uses various means to exploit system vulnerabilities in compromising information systems. FCEM&HS is serving as the lead agency for the Central Ohio Cybersecurity Initiative. Cybersecurity is truly a shared responsibility and the development of a regional work group is vital to regional preparedness. The first work group meeting was held on October 14, 2014 at FCEM&HS. Columbia Gas President Jack Partridge, Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks, Columbus City Councilmember Zach Klein joined over 60 participants from local, state and federal government as well as business leaders from higher education, utility and financial industries to discuss the importance of a public/private partnership to increase regional preparedness. The facilitated discussion featured important concerns including, what current capabilities are available for response to a cyber-event, how to educate employees and citizens to recognize a cyber-intrusion and how public agencies and private businesses can measure their performance in combating intrusions to their cyber systems.

**“Developing this initiative at the local level will enable both the public and private sectors to strengthen the Homeland Security Enterprise and build efforts to protect the whole community against a cyber incident or attack,”** said Michael R. Pannell, Director Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security.

FCEM&HS received funding for the Central Ohio Cybersecurity Initiative through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and will result in the development of a Cybersecurity Guide for jurisdictions throughout the State of Ohio.



OHIO

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## Citizen Preparedness



### Severe Weather Spotter Training:

The National Weather Service (NWS) depends in part on eyewitness information from citizens, public safety and emergency management personnel trained to recognize and report potentially life-threatening severe weather conditions. In March, FCEM&HS in concert with NWS, OSU Emergency Management and the Central Ohio Severe Weather Network (COSWN) conducted the annual Severe Weather Spotter Training at the OSU Fawcett Center. The half-day training seminar educated more than 260 participants on how to spot, report, and prepare for tornadoes and other severe weather.



2014 Weather Spotter Training

**FCEM&HS Now on Facebook:** FCEM&HS launched a Facebook page to communicate with local officials and citizens during emergencies and disasters and share information about emergency preparedness and other emergency management and homeland security topics. Like us at [www.facebook.com/fcemhs](http://www.facebook.com/fcemhs)



Siren Watch Volunteer monitoring an outdoor warning siren

**Siren Watch Program:** Citizen volunteers known as Siren Watchers monitor and report on one assigned outdoor warning siren every Wednesday after the noon test to confirm each outdoor warning siren is working properly. FCEM&HS staff investigates potential system errors. According to FCEM&HS Director Michael R. Pannell, **“Siren Watchers are a force multiplier and provide an invaluable service in keeping the Franklin County Outdoor Warning System operating at 100 percent.”**

Currently, FCEM&HS has over 100 volunteers participating in the Siren Watch Program. Anyone interested in the FCEM&HS Siren Watch Program can call (614) 794-0213 or visit our website at [www.fcemhs.org](http://www.fcemhs.org).

**Franklin County CERT:** FCEM&HS conducted four CERT Basic Training courses during 2014. Members of the Ohio Hispanic Coalition attended one of the courses. Each course covered 9 units totaling 27 hours of instruction on disaster preparedness over a 9 week period. Franklin County CERT has over 360 graduates of the CERT Basic Training course.

### NWS StormReady Program:

Last fall, FCEM&HS began the application process for Franklin County to achieve StormReady certification from the National Weather Service (NWS). StormReady is a “grass roots” program sponsored by NWS that focuses on improving communication and severe weather preparedness in communities. The program encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operation by helping provide communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property—before, during and after the event.



To receive certification, communities must meet certain criteria including education, community outreach, advanced planning and training as well as multiple avenues to receive and distribute severe weather information. NWS reviews the application and conducts a visit to the community to ensure all requirements have been met. FCEM&HS expects to receive certification in early 2015.



Members of the Franklin County CERT Damage Assessment Specialists

**Damage Assessment:** In 2014, FCEM&HS continued to develop the Damage Assessment Operations Plan and train volunteers as Damage Assessment Specialists. Damage Assessment Specialists are deployed immediately into impacted areas to record disaster damages. The information is used to determine the need for supplemental federal or state assistance. On September 23, 2014, Franklin County CERT Damage Assessment Specialists responded to a 3-alarm fire on Tamarack Blvd. and conducted damage assessments for the 42 unit apartment building which was destroyed. Team members were recognized for their response at an Executive Committee Meeting on November 19, 2014. FCEM&HS has trained over 90 volunteers as Damage Assessment Specialists in 2014.

**FCEM&HS Volunteers:** In 2014, over 260 FCEM&HS sworn volunteers assisted with projects, training and exercises totaling over 5,800 volunteer hours.



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# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## Training

### 2014 Franklin County and Regional MSA Training & Exercise Programs

FCEM&HS continued to develop the Franklin County and the Regional Training & Exercise Programs in 2014, continuing collaboration to improve the region's ability to prevent, respond to and recover from all hazards.

FCEM&HS conducted both the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Franklin County and the Regional Training and Exercise Planning Workshops. Both the Franklin County and Regional MSA Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plans (2014-2017) were updated and expanded to provide a four year outlook for training and exercises in Columbus, Franklin County and the Regional Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).



In 2014, FCEM&HS held 34 training classes for a total of 1125 first responders, emergency partners, schools, volunteers, faith-based organizations and the community to better prepare Franklin County to respond to all-hazards.

## 2014 Grant Funding

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) continued to receive grant funding for several projects to help improve local jurisdiction's abilities to prevent, protect, respond and recover from natural and man-made disasters.

In 2014, FCEM&HS was awarded nearly \$845,000 through the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and received funding to update the Franklin County Risk Assessment and FCEM&HS Commodity Flow Study. The Risk Assessment ranks the hazards facing Franklin County allowing FCEM&HS to prioritize efforts based on the highest risks. The FCEM&HS Commodity Flow Study assesses the type and volume of hazardous materials transported through Franklin County to better prepare emergency response personnel for a hazardous materials emergency.

### Grants Awarded FCEM&HS in 2014

Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness (HMEP)	\$9,345.00
FY13 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Supplemental	\$337,789.00
FY13 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDMG)	\$34,999.30
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) 2013/14	\$24,200.00
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) 2013/14 second award	\$65,000.00
FY14 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)	\$262,221.00
FY14 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP)	\$843,873.00
	<b>\$1,577,427.30</b>

## Teamwork '14 LEPC/CEPAC Exercise



Teamwork '14 Annual LEPC/CEPAC Tabletop Exercise

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) conducted its annual Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) exercise, Teamwork '14, on April 18, 2014. The tabletop exercise was designed to evaluate implementation of emergency plans and establishment of a unified response with local emergency partners in the event of a hazardous material spill. The exercise was based on a tractor trailer accident resulting in a significant release of Anhydrous Ammonia near a local neighborhood elementary school. The Exercise Evaluation Team and Ohio EMA determined FCEM&HS met all the evaluated objectives. The exercise demonstrated the abilities of each agency to integrate their resources and familiarize each agency's protocols and procedures for response to a hazardous materials incident.





# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

OHIO

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The members of the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Executive Committee who represent all 42 jurisdictions are committed to ensuring our county remains prepared to protect the citizens of Franklin County before, during, and after natural and man-made disasters.

In 2014, Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) continued its pursuit to establish the Agency as the center of excellence and influence for emergency management and homeland security programs with the continuation of the Integrated Risk Management (IRM) Initiative. FCEM&HS held the Second Annual IRM Decision Maker Meeting to inform local officials about progress made towards closing the gaps in our capabilities to respond to the risks facing Franklin County. The Agency launched the Central Ohio Cybersecurity Initiative to develop a regional public/private sector work group to build efforts at the local level to help to protect communities from cyber-attacks.

In addition, FCEM&HS partnered with Battelle Memorial Institute to conduct a needs assessment study to ensure a new mass warning and notification system met the needs of all 42 Franklin County jurisdictions. The county-wide Mass Notification System will provide instantaneous emergency alerts in the form of social media platforms, phone and text messages and email. These advancements and others are concisely described in this report.

The Executive Committee anticipates another dynamic and successful year in 2015 as FCEM&HS implements a county-wide Mass Notification System and expands the Outdoor Warning Siren System to further ensure a better prepared and more resilient community for the citizens of Franklin County.

Jeff Young  
Fire Chief, City of Upper Arlington  
2015 FCEM&HS Executive Committee Chair

Dana McDaniel  
City Manager, City of Dublin  
2014 FCEM&HS Executive Committee Chair

## FCEM&HS 2014 CASH ANALYSIS (unaudited)

### OPERATIONAL FUND

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE JAN. 1, 2014		\$ 1,154,517
2014 REVENUE SOURCES		
Emergency Management Performance Grant	\$ 583,414	
2014 Local Proportionate Shares	930,550	
Other Income	47,318	
Federal & State Grant Revenue	<u>463,485</u>	
Total 2014 Operational Revenue Sources		\$ 2,024,766
2014 EXPENDITURES		
Salaries	\$ (727,370)	
Benefits	(246,582)	
Operations	(582,644)	
Grant Funded Expenditures (Materials & Services)	<u>(341,821)</u>	
Less Total 2014 Expenditures		<u>(1,898,418)</u>
ENDING CASH BALANCE DEC. 31, 2014		\$ 1,280,866

### WARNING FUND

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE JAN. 1, 2014		\$ 244,079
2014 REVENUE SOURCES		
Annual Warning Fees	\$ 236,400	
Purchase/Installation/Removal Reimbursement	171,270	
Emergency Management Performance Grant (Special)	-	
Other Revenue	_____	
Total Warning Revenue Received in 2014		\$ 407,670
2014 EXPENDITURES		
Warning Maintenance Expenditures	\$ (111,677)	
Overhead Relegated to Warning	(5,402)	
Pass-Through—New Sirens, Installs, Billable Purchases	<u>(29,192)</u>	
Less Total 2014 Expenditures Warning		<u>(146,272)</u>
ENDING CASH BALANCE DEC. 31, 2013		\$ 505,477

Note: all calculations are rounded.



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