

# 2010 Annual Report



## Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 2010 Progress, 2011 Goals

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This executive summary provides highlights of accomplishments in 2010 by Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS), plus some planning notes for 2011. FCEM&HS, a local government agency, coordinates countywide planning, education, warning, response and recovery to minimize the adverse impacts of emergencies and disasters.

**Integrated Risk Management Program:** FCEM&HS was selected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to participate in a Risk Management and Analysis Technical Assistance Pilot Program to build capabilities for risk-based emergency planning countywide, using Integrated Risk Management principles.

**Risk Assessment:** The Agency completed the Risk Assessment for Franklin County, a document that has earned praise from top risk management experts at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**Community Outreach:** FCEM&HS connected with the community through several special outreach programs.

**Budget & Operations:** Many of our accomplishments in 2010 are thanks to a 33 percent increase in grant funding for the Agency, from \$1.34 million in 2009 to \$1.8 million in 2010.

**GIS:** The Agency established a Geographic Information System



(GIS) department to modernize our capability to build situational awareness during emergencies and disasters.

**Regional Training and Exercise Program:** Begun in 2010, the Training and Exercise Program will provide coordination for training and exercises; build capabilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from all hazards; and enhance regional collaboration.

**Outdoor Warning Sirens:** The Agency substantially improved the tracking and collection of testing data to help improve the outdoor warning siren system.

► **AGENCY PLANS FOR 2011: Integrated Risk Management Program:**

With assistance and financial support from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, this project will get underway in 2011. Our goal is to integrate Franklin County's identified risks into emergency planning, training, exercises and grants spending countywide.

**Mitigation Plan:** The Agency will update the 2007 Franklin County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan — which addresses flooding, tornadoes, other high-risk natural hazards in Franklin County — with support from a \$58,000 federal grant.

**Siren Narrowbanding:** The Agency will continue work in 2011 on the federally mandated narrowbanding of radios essential to the operation of all 172 sirens in the Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren system. The work will be done by 2013.

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### FCEM&HS Selected for Homeland Security Pilot Program

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) selected FCEM&HS as one of a handful of emergency management and homeland security agencies nationwide for participation in a new Integrated Risk Management technical assistance pilot program.

Experts from the DHS Office of Risk Management & Analysis



traveled to Franklin County in late September to meet with

FCEM&HS officials about the program.

The federal agency will provide technical assistance to build capabilities for risk-based emergency planning by jurisdictions and agencies countywide.

The selection was a direct result of the 2010 update of the Franklin County Risk Assessment, released in May.

## Risk Assessment for 2010 First Update in 15 Years



*Flooding is the No. 1 risk for Franklin County.*

FCEM&HS produced the 2010 update of the official Risk Assessment for Franklin County, the first comprehensive update of the assessment since 1996.

The document is a detailed study of the hazards most likely to impact Franklin County.

Sixteen hazards – dangerous events such as winter storms, floods and terrorist attacks – were analyzed and ranked according to the potential risk they pose.

The top ten hazards are:

1. Flooding
2. Severe Winter Weather
3. Dam Failure
4. Terrorism
5. Infectious Diseases
6. Tornadoes
7. Severe Summer Weather
8. Extreme Heat
9. Hazardous Materials Incident
10. Drought



*Severe winter weather is the No. 2 risk for Franklin county.*

***The updated assessment brought positive attention from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.***

## Agency Implementing Countywide Geographic Information System (GIS) Program

FCEM&HS worked with several local agencies in 2010 to implement its new countywide geographic information system (GIS) program.

GIS is a set of tools that captures, stores, analyzes, manages and presents data that are linked to multiple geographic locations.

GIS data is used to maintain situational awareness and a common operational picture during an emergency.

FCEM&HS established its GIS department in June to implement this public safety function and has collaborated with several other agencies and jurisdictions to develop the capability, including the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), Franklin County Auditor's Office, Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and the City of Columbus.

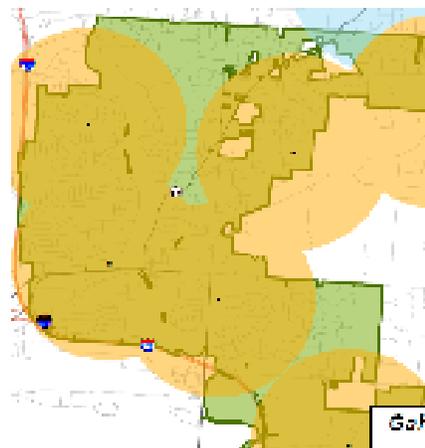
The system serves several important disaster preparedness functions, including helping keep an up-to-date database of outdoor warning sirens to allow for the effective placement of new sirens in Franklin County.

GIS is also used to map evacuation routes in case of emergencies, and to create damage assessment maps that can be used to support disaster recovery efforts.

FCEM&HS has already used the technology to improve emergency preparedness in Central Ohio.

GIS data was used to assist the Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health with the Cities Readiness Initiative, a federally funded program designed to prepare the largest 72 U.S. cities to respond to an aerosolized anthrax attack.

FCEM&HS will continue to develop its GIS technology in 2011.



*FCEM&HS continued work on narrowbanding of radios used in the Outdoor Warning Siren System. The project is due for completion by 2013. Story on page 4.*

## Countywide Extreme Heat Plan

FCEM&HS partnered with local jurisdictions and agencies to create a countywide plan for responding to an extreme heat emergency in the county.

Specifics of the plan include how the public will be informed during a heat emergency, how to maximize and coordinate countywide emergency resources specific to extreme heat and how to avoid duplication of effort and build response capabilities.

The effort was widely viewed as a prime example of coordinated, risk-based emergency planning.



*Extreme heat is the No. 1 non-severe-weather-related killer in the U.S.*

## FCEM&HS 2010 CASH ANALYSIS (unaudited)

<b>OPERATIONAL FUND</b>	
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE JAN. 1, 2010	\$ 885,117
<b>2010 REVENUE SOURCES</b>	
Emergency Management Performance Grant	\$ 405,442
Local Proportionate Shares	855,173
Other Income	<u>55,794</u>
	\$ 1,316,409
Pass-Through Revenue Received in 2010	
Hazardous Materials Recovery Fees	\$ 47,520
Other Grants	44,509
Federal Homeland Security Grants	<u>683,667</u>
	<u>775,695</u>
Total Operational Revenue Received in 2010	2,092,104
<b>2010 EXPENDITURES</b>	
Salaries	\$ 634,192
Benefits	218,162
Operations	307,532
Pass-Through Expenditures	<u>985,878</u>
Less Total 2010 Expenditures	<u>(2,145,765)</u>
ENDING CASH BALANCE DEC. 31, 2010	\$ 831,456
Less Pass-Through Distribution from OEMA	<u>(12,033)</u>
AVAILABLE CASH BALANCE DEC. 31, 2010	\$ 819,423
<b>WARNING FUND</b>	
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE JAN. 1, 2010	\$ 143,731
<b>2010 REVENUE SOURCES</b>	
Annual Warning Fees	\$ 206,400
Purchase/Installation/Removal Reimbursement	98,227
Other Revenue	<u>246</u>
Total Warning Revenue Received in 2010	304,874
<b>2010 EXPENDITURES</b>	
Warning Maintenance Expenditures	\$ 147,783
Overhead Relegated to Warning	8,812
Pass-Through—New Sirens, Installs, Billable Purchases	<u>60,205</u>
Less Total 2010 Expenditures Warning	<u>(216,799)</u>
ENDING CASH BALANCE DEC. 31, 2010	\$ 231,805

## Community Outreach and Citizen Preparedness



*FCEM&HS Director Michael R. Pannell emphasizes a point about tornado safety at a community meeting with Somali residents.*

The Agency intensified its outreach to the community in 2010, investing resources in a wide range of preparedness projects, both new and existing. They included:

- Weather Spotter training with the National Weather Service to promote community preparedness for severe spring weather in Ohio.
- Preparedness training at Somali community centers to help Somali residents better protect themselves and the community in a disaster.
- Recruiting volunteers for the Franklin County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program to help conduct preliminary damage assessments to document the severity and magnitude of disasters.

- Participation in the Meta-Leadership Program to help promote inter-agency cooperation in local emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

- Enhancement of the Agency website and newsletter to offer current, quick-read, relevant preparedness information to citizens and emergency partners.

- With donated support from Clear Channel Outdoor, posting of digital highway billboards across the county in March to promote severe spring weather awareness.

- Negotiating 2011 prices with the provider of the Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) to continue our capability to notify citizens by telephone of emergencies.

### ► PLANNING FOR 2011:

- The Agency made plans to further develop the Franklin County CERT program, following federal guidelines for building household- and neighborhood-level emergency and disaster preparedness.

- FCEM&HS made plans to communicate in new ways with the community in 2011 about emergency preparedness, including using Twitter. Follow the Agency's newsfeeds on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/fcemhs](http://www.twitter.com/fcemhs).



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The public officials from across Franklin County who make up the Executive Committee take to heart FCEM&HS's mission of coordinating countywide planning, education, warning, response and recovery to minimize the adverse impact of emergencies and disasters on our citizens.

The Agency made bold, continual improvements in efficiency and effectiveness in 2010. These improvements are covered concisely in this report and are described in more detail on the FCEM&HS website at [www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs).

The Executive Committee's utmost concern is ensuring the safety of our citizens. We look forward to another year of progress and leadership by FCEM&HS toward that end in 2011.

**Virginia Barney**  
**City Manager, City of Upper Arlington**  
**FCEM&HS Executive Committee Chair**



## Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow

FCEM&HS worked with the University of Findlay's All Hazards Training Center to publish and distribute a report in September outlining the types and amounts of hazardous materials that enter and exit Franklin County via road and rail transportation.

The report included a Top Ten Case Study based on the products and situations that would likely pose the greatest risks to residents and first responders in Franklin County.

Also included were recommendations on actions Franklin County may take to mitigate the effects of an actual event.

## Outdoor Warning Siren Improvements Continue

The Agency improved its tracking and collection of outdoor warning siren testing and usage data.

This allows the Agency to better analyze maintenance trends, better diagnose technical problems and more closely manage repair parts inventories.

The more critical thinking is applied to warning siren procedures and policies, the more effective and efficient the outdoor warning siren system will be.

FCEM&HS is also continuing work on the federally mandated narrowbanding of radios essential to the operation of all 172 sirens in the Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren system.

The county's outdoor warning sirens, which are part of a larger Franklin County emergency notification system, warn people who are outside to seek shelter and tune into local TV and radio stations or weather alert radios for more information.

Because the sirens are located outdoors and can be adversely affected by the environment, FCEM&HS routinely performs a system-wide siren test at noon each Wednesday, monitoring them electronically for potential system errors.

***The narrowband testing is funded in part by a \$133,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.***

## Regional Training and Exercise Program Planned

Development of the new FCEM&HS Regional Training and Exercise Program began in 2010 with the convening of a regional workgroup of subject-matter experts representing ten emergency response disciplines.

The workgroup developed

three planning scenarios specific to the region.

The scenarios will help define the goals and objectives for the program, ultimately guiding the way we train and exercise to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from disasters.

