

News from Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

FCEM&HS Report

Winter Storm Safety Tips

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Michael R. Pannell, Director

Agency's 2011 Accomplishments, 2012 Goals Outlined

FCEM&HS Director Michael R. Pannell briefed the Franklin County Commissioners on Nov. 29 on the Agency's 2011 accomplishments and 2012 goals. The Agency's goals for the coming year include expanding its Flood Fight Program (see below), establishing a web portal to enhance region-wide training and exercise planning, improving the county's emergency sheltering protocols for people with functional needs, and developing new processes to establish an Integrated Risk Management program in the county. Click [here](#) for more info.

December 2011



Preparing for 'The Big One': Operation Flood Fight

FCEM&HS is looking for volunteers for Operation Flood Fight in support of the City of Columbus's ongoing preparedness efforts to protect the Franklinton area in the event of catastrophic flooding. The program will involve recruiting, training and exercising Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers to support sandbagging operations, if needed, at up to six locations along the Franklinton Floodwall. Click [here](#) for fact sheet. Watch the [Channel 4 story](#).



Save the Date: Severe-Weather Spotter Training Mar. 3

The National Weather Service depends in part on eyewitness information from citizens and public safety and emergency management personnel trained to recognize and report potentially life-threatening severe weather conditions. NWS will lead a half-day seminar on how to spot, report, and prepare for tornadoes and other severe weather on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at OSU's Fawcett Center. OSU Emergency Management will co-sponsor the event with FCEM&HS and NWS. More details to come.



New Outdoor Warning Sirens To Come Online

The City of Columbus is slated to complete installation of nine new outdoor warning sirens – at all-new locations – in the next few weeks, closing gaps in siren-warning coverage as analyzed by FCEM&HS and the City earlier this year. Also, FCEM&HS made several other needed improvements in the outdoor warning siren system across the county. Click [here](#) for more info.

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Warning Program Manager Appointed

Steve Smith, former Deputy Director of Licking County EM&HS, has been appointed manager of the FCEM&HS Warning Program, including overseeing the countywide Outdoor Warning Siren system. His 11 years with Licking County EM&HS included management of the Licking County 911 Center, grant administration, department budgets, LEPC information, and county training & exercise development. Smith assisted in disaster recovery in two declared disasters in Licking County.

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