

# News from Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

## FCEM&HS Newsletter

Winter Safety Awareness Week is November 15 -21, 2015

[Details](#)



### ALERT Franklin County SMART Weather Alerting Capability

Severe weather can strike at any time and jeopardize the safety of the citizens of Franklin County. To help Franklin County be better prepared, FCEM&HS has purchased, and is currently implementing, Everbridge SMART Weather Alerting module for enhancing ALERT Franklin County's capabilities. SMART Weather Alerting leverages Accuweather and Weather Decision Technologies meteorological resources to notify registered users for over 150 severe weather alerts such as lightning, tornados, thunderstorms, hail, ice, snow, extreme temperatures, high winds, flash floods, and flooding. SMART Weather sends out weather alerts based on NWS-issued polygons to all registered, affected recipients in an affected area instantly. Residents are encouraged to register online at [www.alertfranklincounty.org](http://www.alertfranklincounty.org), which can also be found on [www.fcemhs.org](http://www.fcemhs.org) or any Franklin County local jurisdiction's website.

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*Joint Emergency Operations Center (JEOC) operations during Risk Ex'15 Full Scale Exercise*

### FCEM&HS Risk Ex'15 Fall Full Scale Exercise

The Risk Ex'15 Fall Full Scale Exercise was held on October 22, 2015. The exercise was designed to test information sharing and evaluate current response plans and capabilities of multiple jurisdictions. The simulated exercise scenario featured an EF-4 tornado and cyber attack affecting large parts of Franklin County and Central Ohio. The exercise occurred at multiple locations, including the Emergency Operations Centers of Franklin, Delaware and Licking Counties. The exercise also tested mass casualty and mass fatality capabilities at the Kinnear Road Center at The Ohio State University. Primary exercise participants were FCEM&HS, CFD, CPD, FCSO, COTA, COTS, FCPH and CPH, HandsOn Central Ohio, COC DPU/DPW, COARC, MRC and CERT. Hot Wash feedback suggests Risk Ex 15' was successful in validating earlier training on the critical elements of emergency response in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).



*FCEM&HS and ESF Partners develop a plan to fulfill a mission request during Risk Ex'15.*

### Amateur Radio Capabilities Exercised

Members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC), the Central Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service (COARES) and the Central Ohio Traffic Net (COTN) also participated in Risk Ex'15 on October 22, 2015. FCARC and COTN handled damage assessment reports from the Franklin County Community Emergency Response Team (FC CERT) while COARES handled radio traffic from FCEM&HS to EOC's from Delaware and Licking Counties. COARES utilized a service called FLDIGI to transmit situation reports through amateur radio to Delaware and Licking Counties.



*COARES prepares to transmit a situation report through amateur radio communications during the Risk Ex'15 Full Scale Exercise.*

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## FC CERT Damage Assessment Training

On October 22, 2015, the Franklin County Community Emergency Response Team (FC CERT) performed damage assessments at the Ohio Historical Connections Ohio Village during the Risk Ex'15 Fall Full Scale Exercise. The operation took place from 8:00 am until 12:45 pm and included setting up FC CERT incident command and sending teams into the field for demobilization. Command and general staff volunteer positions were filled for accountability of volunteers, equipment and documentation of the event. The Franklin County Amateur Radio club was able to transmit damage reports from the Command Post to the FCEM&HS Assessment Center. Over 200 assessments were conducted by nine teams consisting of two volunteers each. A total of 26 volunteers participated in the drill.

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*FC CERT volunteers review damage criteria at the Ohio Village during the Risk Ex'15 Fall Exercise*

## FCEM&HS Hosts Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator Course

FCEM&HS recently hosted an Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator (EC) course led by the Ohio Amateur Radio Service for County Emergency Coordinators from all over Ohio. County EC's are the point of contact for local and county officials for information and activation of their county's Amateur Radio Emergency Services.



*Participants in Ohio Amateur Radio Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator (EC) course*

## Winter Safety Awareness Week

Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week will be celebrated November 15-21, 2015. The week provides a timely reminder for Franklin County residents to prepare themselves for the upcoming months of potential severe winter weather such as snow and ice storms, flooding from rapid thaws, extended power outages caused by winter storms and illnesses caused by hypothermia or influenza.

Residents can prepare themselves for the hardships of winter by updating their disaster preparedness plans, emergency contact lists and disaster supply kits for both their home and vehicle. Winter emergency kits should include warm clothing, blankets, flashlights, new batteries, coats, hats, gloves, a battery-operated radio, first aid kit, and enough nonperishable food and water to sustain each family member for at least three days as well as food, bottled water and supplies for pets.

Citizens should consider purchasing NOAA Weather Radios and investing in alternative heat sources and generators. Residents are reminded to prepare their home and vehicles for winter and pay close attention to weather forecasts and traffic reports. For more information visit [www.fcemhs.org](http://www.fcemhs.org) or [www.ready.gov/winter-weather](http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather)

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