Winter Safety Awareness Week is November 15 -21, 2015

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.
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.

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.

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 or www.ready.gov/winter-weather