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The Preparedness Post

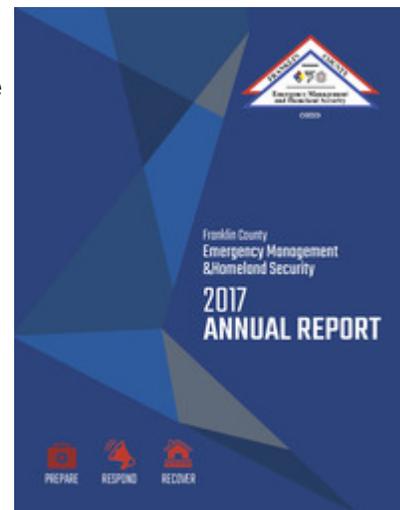
June 2018

## 2017 FCEM&HS Annual Report

The 2017 FCEM&HS Annual Report compiles the Agency's continued efforts to help Franklin County become better prepared for, ready to respond to and quickly recover from all types of natural or man-made disasters.

This year's version features a brand new look in an updated format and details the Agency's accomplishments and initiatives throughout 2017. Top achievements include the Franklin County Risk Assessment, development of the Central Region Fatality Management Services Response Plan, enhancements to ALERT Franklin County and the redesign of the FCEM&HS website.

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## CEPAC/LEPC Exercise



FCEM&HS participated in the annual CEPAC/LEPC Exercise on April 26th at The Grove at Scioto Grove Metro Park in Grove City. The tabletop exercise was based on a transportation accident that involved the release of a hazardous material.

The After Action Report concluded that all five evaluated objectives were met which included: Incident Notification, Incident Command, Resource Management, Population Protective Actions and Traffic and Access Control. The exercise was funded by a PUCO Grant and is expected to receive concurrence from the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) at their June 13, 2018 meeting.

## ALERT Franklin County New Community Engagement Feature



In an effort to keep both Franklin County residents and area visitors safe and informed, FCEM&HS has acquired the Community Engagement® feature for ALERT Franklin County.

The Community Engagement® component can be used to quickly communicate important public safety information to

residents and visitors during a disaster through key word text. It can also be used by local jurisdictions to manage special events such as festivals, concerts, sporting events and more. Participants can easily sign up to receive real-time event notifications and alerts through key word text on their mobile device.

The new feature also enables local jurisdictions to send messages and alerts to specific communities or neighborhoods through a geographic targeting system. The Community Engagement® element is expected to be available in July.

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## Lightning Safety Awareness Week June 18-24, 2018

As the weather warms, many residents will be spending more time outdoors for barbecues, sporting events, boating, camping, and many other recreational activities. But summertime is also the peak season for severe thunderstorms and lightning. Lightning is fascinating to watch but also extremely dangerous. In an effort to raise awareness about the dangers of lightning, FCEM&HS will recognize National Lightning Awareness Safety Week, June 18-24, 2018.

Each year, about 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning strikes occur in the United States each year. Each one of those 25 million flashes is a potential killer. While lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be one of the top storm-related killers in the United States. On average in the U.S., lightning kills 51 people and injures hundreds more. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms.

Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 25 miles away from any rainfall. Therefore, if you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. FCEM&HS encourages all Franklin County residents to know what to do before, during and after thunderstorms and remember: **When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!** Performing this simple measure can drastically reduce the chance of severe injury or death during a storm.

[Additional Lightning Safety Information](#)

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Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security fosters non-political cooperation and coordinates all-hazards emergency/disaster planning, education, warning, response and recovery efforts for the 42 local government jurisdictions of Franklin County.

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