

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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LEADERSHIP

The Delaware County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DCOHSEM) is governed by the Executive Committee comprised of eleven members that represent local fire departments, law enforcement, public health, and the 26 political subdivisions of Delaware County, except for the cities of Columbus, Dublin and Westerville. These committee members provide oversight with respect to the budget, policy, operations, and personnel.

The 2023 Executive Committee Members

Chief Joe Ponzi - Chair	Genoa Township FD	Represents Fire Departments
Trustee Troy Morris - Vice Chair	Troy Township	Represents Townships
Commissioner Barb Lewis	Delaware County	Represents Commissioners
Health Commisioner Garrett Guillozet	Public Health District	Represents Public Health
Chief Tim Pyle	Delaware FD	Represents City of Delaware
Chief Chris Kovach	BST&G FD	Represents City of Sunbury
Chief Russ Baron	Shawnee Hills PD	Represents Villages
Chief Ron Sallows	Powell PD	Represents City of Powell
Captain Scott Vance	Sheriff's Office	Represents Law Enforcement
Trustee Charles Miley	Brown Township	Represents Townships
Trustee Sandra Stults	Scioto Township	Represents Townships

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

After the departure of Chief Stephen Hrytzik, the City of Powell selected Chief Ron Sallows as his replacement to the DCOHSEM Executive Committee. Chief Sallows worked closely with our staff as a member of the 2023 LEPC Exercise Design Committee and we look forward to continuing that relationship in the years to come. Welcome Chief Sallows to the DCOHSEM family!



Chief Ron Sallows



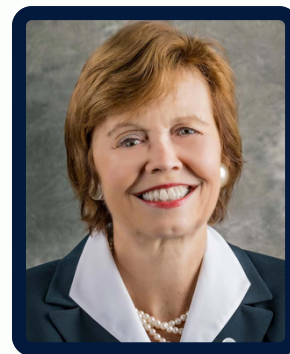
THE 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Chief Joe Ponzi
CHAIR



Chief Troy Morris
VICE-CHAIR



Commissioner Barb Lewis



Health Commissioner
Garrett Guillozet



Chief Tim Pyle



Chief Chris Kovach



Chief Russ Baron



Chief Ron Sallows



Captain Scott Vance



Trustee Charles Miley



Trustee Sandra Stults

"It has generally been my experience that the very top people of truly great organizations are servant-leaders." - Stephen Covey



FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR



Chief Joe Ponzi
Genoa Township FD

Dear Residents:

First, I would like to thank our community, our staff, and our emergency management partners for another great year of service to our community and the continued development of new partnerships and relationships.

As we begin to look forward to the new year of 2024, we must reflect on the year 2023 and all the changes and challenges that we were presented with, and also opportunities for growth, learning, and development.

2023 was a year of change for the office staff and for the Executive Committee. During this past year, we saw the departure of Director Sean Miller and Executive Committee Chair Chief Stephen Hrytzik. We initiated a search to find a replacement for the Director's position and after a competitive process, Alex McCarthy was offered the position as the new Director. I assumed the position of Chairman of the Committee and we also had to fill the Vice-Chair position which was graciously accepted by Chief Troy Morris acting in the position of a Township Trustee. These vacancies presented some challenges for all of us, but they also allowed us to learn our new roles, and identify and correct deficiencies during some of our interim periods to ensure that the office continued to operate seamlessly. Powell Police Chief Ron Sallows was appointed to the Committee to fill the vacancy left by Chief Hrytzik, representing the City of Powell.

Our staff had the opportunity to partner with the City of Powell to create a LEPC/COOP tabletop exercise. They have worked tirelessly on two floodplain mitigation projects which are nearing completion at the time of this writing. They have also spent countless hours working on the emergency operations plan with numerous partners in preparing for the 2024 solar eclipse. Our new Director has made a very concerted effort to attend various local government meetings throughout the county to strengthen the relationships between agencies.

As we look toward 2024, our Executive Committee remains committed to supporting our agency as they continue to ensure that our community is safe again this year and for years to come. We would also like to thank everyone in our community who continues to support the mission and operation of our agency to ensure that Delaware County is safe and "It's where you should be."

In public safety service,

Joseph R. Ponzi
Fire Chief



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Alex McCarthy
Director

Dear Community Partners,

The year 2023 has been a year of both change and growth in our office. I really appreciate how welcoming everyone has been to me as I have taken the reins of our emergency management program here in Delaware County. I would be remiss if I did not also commend my predecessor Sean Miller for all that he did for this emergency management program during his 10 years of service as Director. Sean is an excellent administrator who led this program to be one of the finest in the state. We are excited that he continues to support all of the county emergency management agencies in his new role as the Regional Operations Chief for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

This year, hazard mitigation planning and projects have been our top priorities. We continue to support Scioto and Radnor Townships through flood mitigation projects, having helped them secure FEMA grant funds to purchase two homes that have been impacted by multiple flood events. Both houses will be demolished through fire department training burns in early 2024. Additionally, Emergency Management Specialist Jecy Weber has worked hard to coordinate with students in The Ohio State University's Regional Planning Program to update the Delaware County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. We are proud of and grateful for, all of the hard work that they have put in to updating this plan. Another priority was supporting the training needs of our local first responders, especially with regard to hazardous materials responses. Following the East Palestine train derailment in February, many of our communities asked us to focus on train derailments. In response, our Deputy Director Scott Stewart worked with the City of Powell to develop an exercise to test our county's capabilities to respond to a hazmat incident stemming from a train derailment. Our first responders and community stakeholders performed admirably during this exercise.

Looking ahead to 2024, I am excited for some of the projects on the horizon. One of the first big projects will be finalizing preparations for the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8th. We appreciate all who have worked with us through this planning process. As we continue to build out our plans, we will start working on developing a countywide long-term recovery plan, which will be a big planning endeavor requiring a lot of community engagement. I encourage everyone to keep an eye out for correspondences from us as we move through this project as I hope to assemble a robust planning team.

As a parting thought, Delaware County has a phenomenal emergency management team and one I am proud to lead. We take pride with the work that we do for our community and we look forward to a very productive 2024!

Sincerely,

Alex McCarthy

Director, Delaware County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management



MEET THE TEAM

Director Alex McCarthy



Alex joined the DCOHSEM team in April of 2023. He comes to the office from Tuscarawas County where he served as their Director for the previous six years. He earned his Masters and Bachelors Degrees in Atmospheric Science from The Ohio State University. It was during his master's program that he served as an intern here with DCOHSEM. In his free time, Alex enjoys spending time with his fiancée, Keeron. His hobbies include astronomy, photography and hiking.

Deputy Director Scott Stewart



Scott joined the office as a part-time Specialist in 2019, right before the pandemic. He credits that as his crash course into emergency management. He brings 35 years of public safety experience, recently retiring as a Captain from Washington Township FD in Dublin back in January. He has a Masters Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelors Degree in Nursing. When not at the office, Scott enjoys spending time outdoors and camping with his family.

Specialist Jecy Weber



Jecy came to DCOHSEM in 2021 from Columbus Metro Parks where she served as a park ranger. She has been heavily engaged in planning activities for the office, most recently with the county's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and preparing for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse. She is the liaison to school safety committees and the initial point of contact for reviewing school emergency plans. She is also a member of the county's Child Abduction Response Team. Jecy has a Masters Degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Eli Cochran
Technical Volunteer



Gary Mackey
Technical Volunteer



Jarren Ringle
Administrative Volunteer

DCOHSEM’s staff of volunteers give unselfishly of themselves to enhance service delivery to our residents. We are fortunate to have volunteers with varied levels of knowledge and expertise that they share to help us accomplish our mission. Our administrative volunteer, Jarren Ringle, dedicates a majority of his time focusing on emergency planning efforts. Our technical volunteers, Eli Cochran and Gary Mackey, provide their specialized knowledge regarding our amateur radio station and the audio/visual equipment in the EOC, as well as the AM radio utilized by our staff to deliver messages to the public, whether for vaccination clinics or the Little Brown Jug. The time and efforts of these individuals are an asset to the office and are greatly appreciated! DCOHSEM looks to expand the volunteer program going into 2024, allowing the office to tap into additional resources as we continue to expand service delivery to our residents.

“Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.” - Sherry Anderson



WHAT IS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

The Delaware County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DCOHSEM) exists to support our local partner agencies minimize the effects of any manmade or natural disaster on our residents. We accomplish this through four phases of emergency management: preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

Our staff engages with the public and our partner agencies through education, training, exercises and drills, and community outreach to assist our residents and first responders with **PREPAREDNESS**. Additionally, DCOHSEM personnel collaborate with partners to review and revise our plans to prepare for the variety of hazards that could impact Delaware County.

Sometimes, actions can be taken to prevent or reduce the effects of future, unavoidable hazards. The **MITIGATION** process occurs before a disaster by identifying projects that could help accomplish this goal. Currently, DCOHSEM is working to complete two flood mitigation projects for homes that routinely experience flooding. The completion of the county’s Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is another example of a major mitigation undertaking.

Our personnel are often called upon during or in the immediate aftermath of an emergency or disaster to help our responders acquire the personnel and resources they need to complete the mission. A major part of our **RESPONSE** function is resource coordination and allocation, and assisting with dissemination of information. DCOHSEM also may respond to chemical spills that occur around the county, usually from vehicle accidents.

After a disaster, DCOHSEM actively engages in the **RECOVERY** process where the focus shifts to assisting residents and businesses with returning to normal. Identification of damage to homes and structures, and impacts to critical infrastructure in the community will help in developing a path to recovery. Sometimes, grant funding is available to assist the community during recovery; DCOHSEM can help local governments navigate this process.

Functions provided or coordinated through DCOHSEM:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| CHILD ABDUCTION RESPONSE TEAM (CART) | GRANT PROCUREMENT |
| EMERGENCY/DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING | COMMUNITY OUTREACH |
| EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER | PLANNING |
| LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE | SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE |
| HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COORDINATION & RESPONSE | |



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Delaware County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management administered its operations through various funding sources in 2023 that included federal, state and local grants as well as apportionments assessed on the jurisdictions served by the office.

2023 REVENUES	
Apportionments	\$164,426.52
Grants	\$183,809.68**
Total	\$348,236.20

** Includes grant from the state (SERC) for DCOHSEM to perform administrative duties for Delaware County LEPC

2023 EXPENDITURES	
Salaries & Benefits	\$290,016.34
Materials & Supplies	\$4,822.97
Services & Charges	\$25,960.09
Total	\$320,799.40

GRANT FUNDING

DCOHSEM coordinated with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and regional partners on the following federal grants:

- **Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG):** Provides federal funds to states to assist state and local governments in preparing for all hazards. DCOHSEM received \$157,351.68 in grant funding to assist in 2023 operational costs for the office.
- **Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP):** Provides funding to increase state and local effectiveness in handling hazardous materials accidents and incidents through emergency planning and training. \$19,522.65 will be received in 2024 toward 2023 haz-mat preparedness projects.
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):** Allows for DCOHSEM to coordinate with local and state partners on long-term efforts to reduce the impact of future disasters. In 2023, \$253,611.00 in HMGP funds was coordinated through DCOHSEM toward Scioto Township’s flood mitigation project.
- **Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC):** Supports states and local communities as they undertake hazard mitigation projects to reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards. DCOHSEM coordinated with Radnor Township and \$260,810.85 in grant funding was used in 2023 toward their flood mitigation project.



LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Delaware County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DCOHSEM) serves as the county’s local administrator to carry out the responsibilities of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) as outlined in the Ohio Revised Code 3750. The Delaware County LEPC is comprised of personnel from DCOHSEM, local law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies, members of the county hazardous materials team, local industry partners, the media, and members of the community. While personnel changes at partner agencies led to LEPC membership changes in 2023, this brought fresh perspectives and strengthened the partnerships between local governments and industries as a resource for enhancing hazardous materials preparedness.

LEPC TABLETOP EXERCISE



After the East Palestine train derailment, the City of Powell approached DCOHSEM requesting assistance developing a tabletop exercise (TTX) to evaluate their continuity of operations plan (COOP). This was combined into an LEPC exercise to test the county’s hazardous materials plan as annually required by law. On November 2, 2023, partner agencies gathered in Powell for a very informative and productive training session. The exercise participants exhibited the ability to quickly and safely assess the scene, establish incident command, ensure timely and accurate public notifications and manage the traffic and scene access issues that could be present with a similar incident. It was a great learning experience for all.

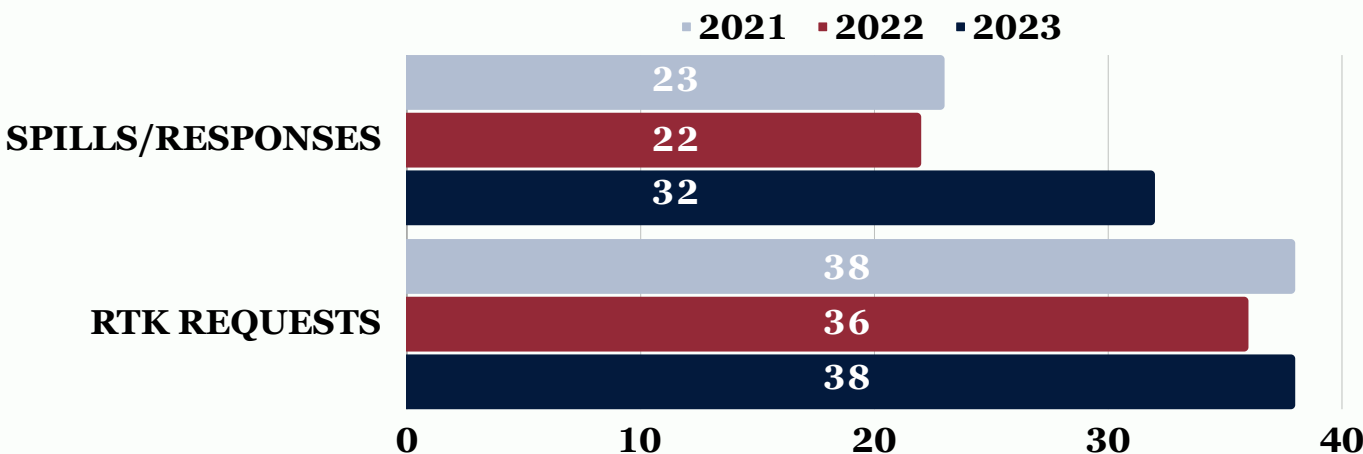




LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

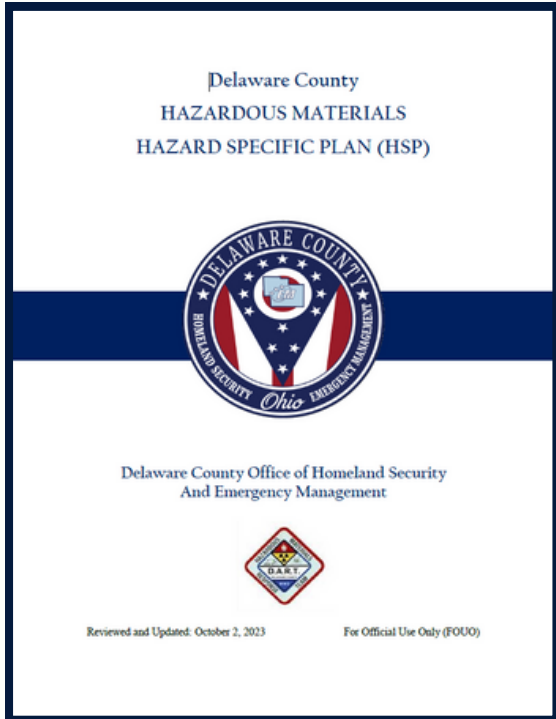
DCOHSEM personnel also maintained annual Tier II chemical inventory records for the over 100 reporting facilities in the county and also managed public information requests (Right-To-Know Requests) regarding those chemicals. In addition, DCOHSEM is often called upon by our public safety partners to coordinate or respond to incidents involving spills or releases of chemicals. Our personnel work with first responders and the Ohio EPA to ensure the public and environment are safe.

3-YEAR ACTIVITY OVERVIEW



HAZMAT PLAN REVISION

Each October, the LEPC is required by law to review and submit the county’s hazardous materials plan to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for evaluation and approval. All LEPC stakeholders in the plan review and recommend changes that may be needed to ensure the plan meets the goal of effectively and efficiently responding to hazardous materials incidents in the county. The plan was reviewed by SERC and received concurrence in December.





PLANNING

MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

In 2022, DCOHSEM worked with a class of graduate students from The Ohio State University Knowlton College of Architecture and Regional Planning to begin updating the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP). It is a requirement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for this plan to be updated every 5 years, and



it provides Delaware County with a one-thousand foot view of potential hazards and determines mitigation priorities to remove the hazards or lessen their impact. The plan was submitted to Ohio EMA and ultimately FEMA for review and modifications in early 2023. DCOHSEM received conditional approval pending adoption by resolution from each of the stakeholders. Specialist Weber attended numerous city and township meetings to attain those resolutions with the final meeting being with the Delaware County Commissioners on December 21st, 2023. This plan is awaiting final approval from FEMA.



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE PLANNING

In December, Specialist Weber wrapped up nearly two years of meetings and planning with partners throughout the county in preparation for the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse. Participants discussed the potential complications that could arise from the expected influx of visitors to and through the county and how to best mitigate those impacts. Working with Eric Weitz with the County Commissioners Communication Office, a webpage was developed to share information that is specific to Delaware County. Use the link below for more eclipse information and get those eclipse glasses early, as you plan to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime event!



<https://co.delaware.oh.us/2024solareclipse/>



EXERCISES

Exercises play an important part in the emergency management planning process. Collaborating with partner agencies, we develop plans to mitigate the various hazards that could impact the county and its residents. While having a plan is great, it serves no value unless it is tested and evaluated through exercises.

Each year, DCOHSEM works with our partners to test our plans and theirs through a variety of exercises that seek to identify areas of improvement prior to an actual emergency. Exercises come in all types, from smaller drills and tabletop exercises, to the larger, more hands-on approach found in functional and full-scale exercises.

DCOHSEM often will request evaluators from our partners and neighboring EMAs to help provide feedback and insight on how we can better prepare. Likewise, our personnel reciprocate during partner county exercises. This permits our personnel to actually participate in these trainings. It is a WIN-WIN situation for everyone that leads to better trained and better prepared response forces to best serve our communities!

In 2023, DCOHSEM participated in the following exercises:



Child Abduction Response Team TTX



Columbus Zoo Active Aggressor TTX



Columbus Zoo Flood TTX



Delaware County BOE TTX



Delaware County EMS Citizens Academy Exercise



Columbia Gas/Ni-Source TTX



US Army Corps of Engineers Delaware Dam TTX

OTHER EXERCISES:

- Delaware County Sheriffs Office COOP TTX
- Ohio Department of Health Regional FSE

FSE = Full-Scale Exercise TTX = Table-Top Exercise

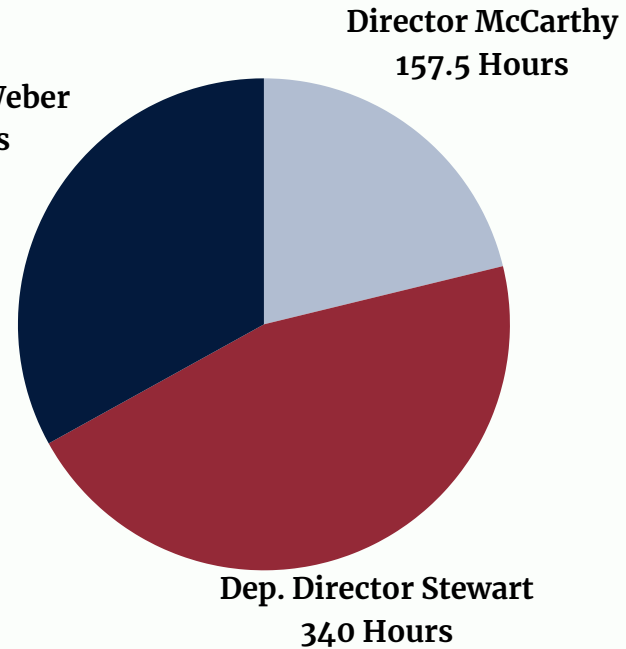


TRAINING

2023 TRAINING HOURS



EM Specialist Weber
245.5 Hours



All three DCOHSEM staff members have a master's degree in fields related to emergency management, but each know the key to success is continuous learning throughout one's career. This is exemplified by the fact that they accumulated over 740 hours of training through seminars, conferences and courses in 2023. The team actively engaged in training to keep current with emerging trends in emergency management, as education and skill development are instrumental in fortifying essential knowledge, skills and abilities that may be called upon during a disaster.

DCOHSEM also collaborated with partner agencies to determine classes that could be brought to Delaware County and hosted at the EOC. Grant funding covered these courses, allowing them to be offered expense-free to the students. In 2023, DCOHSEM hosted the following training courses:

- | | |
|---|--|
| G108: Mass Care | HazMat IQ - Air Monitoring |
| G235: Emergency Planning | L-105: Public Information Basics |
| G288: Volunteer & Donation Management | MGT465: Recovering from Cyber Incidents |
| G489: Management of Spontaneous Volunteers | OH139: Exercise Design & Evaluation |
| HazMat IQ - Above The Line/Below The Line | PER398: Cyber Resiliency in Industry |
| Response to Electrical Vehicle Emergencies | |



TRAINING

PLANNING PRACTICIONER PROGRAM

In October, Specialist Weber joined her Planning Practitioner Program cohort at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD. She was selected as part of a competitive process to participate in the program that further develops the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to perform effectively as lead planners and planning program managers. She has another course and a capstone project remaining prior to completing the program.



LEADERSHIP DELAWARE COUNTY



In August, Director McCarthy and Deputy Director Stewart began Leadership Delaware County, a nine-month community leadership program through the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce. Program alumni and other Delaware County leaders cover leadership topics, provide an overview of county operations, and help participants identify opportunities to serve throughout the county.

ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL SERIES

In 2023, Dep. Director Stewart and Specialist Weber completed the Advanced Professional Series, a collection of 5 required and 5 elective emergency management courses through FEMA and offered by Ohio EMA. This series emphasized applied skills in disaster operations, management and coordination, and provided a great overview in the different aspects of emergency management. Congrats, Jecy & Scott!





ACTIVE IN THE E.M. COMMUNITY

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



All DCOHSEM staff belong to the Emergency Management Association of Ohio, a collection of emergency management personnel throughout the state. It was created to develop effective emergency management leaders through education, training, and networking. EMAO also provides updates on the legislative issues effecting our field and provides insight on how other organizations around the state work to keep their residents safe. Director McCarthy was elected in 2023 to serve as the Vice President of the EMAO Executive Committee and he also serves on the Legislative Committee.

Director McCarthy and Dep. Director Stewart also belong to the International Association of Emergency Managers. The mission of IAEM is to promote the principles of emergency management and to serve its members by providing information, networking and development opportunities, most notably through the Certified Emergency Manager program, of which Director McCarthy has attained such status. Director McCarthy also is a member of the IAEM Legislative Affairs Committee. Dep. Director Stewart is planning to begin the CEM process in 2024.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



In 2023, with the support of Delaware County Commissioner Barb Lewis, Director McCarthy was selected to become a member of the National Association of Counties as part of the Justice and Public Safety Committee. This group meets monthly to discuss current legislative priorities pertaining to public safety and courts. He will be attending the NACo Legislative Conference in February of 2024. It is important for emergency managers to monitor proposed legislation at the federal, state and/or local level which may impact emergency management activities.

Having our DCOHSEM staff engage in these organizations and their legislative committees will help us to stay aware of legislation that could impact service delivery to our residents.



ACTIVE IN THE E.M. COMMUNITY

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

Director McCarthy and Deputy Director Stewart participate as members of the Operations & Issues, and Training and Education Committees for the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). Chapter 3750 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) identifies SERC as the administrative body for implementation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) in Ohio. As noted earlier, EPCRA was established to help communities plan for chemical emergencies. It requires industry to report on the storage, use, and releases of certain chemicals to assist LEPCs in preparing for and protecting their communities from potential risks. With SERC serving as the administrative body that provides oversight to the LEPCs, our participation from the local level ensures greater representation on issues that could affect the Delaware County LEPC and our residents.



OHIO COMMITTEE FOR SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS

Ohio is no stranger to severe weather. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness was established in 1978 and has been dedicated to educating Ohioans about the natural disasters that typically affect the state. The goal is to encourage residents to plan and prepare for severe weather incidents before they happen. Director McCarthy serves on this committee and has participated as part of the panel that judges the annual poster contest. Over 100 elementary students with an interest in safety, preparedness, and severe weather awareness submitted posters in 2023.



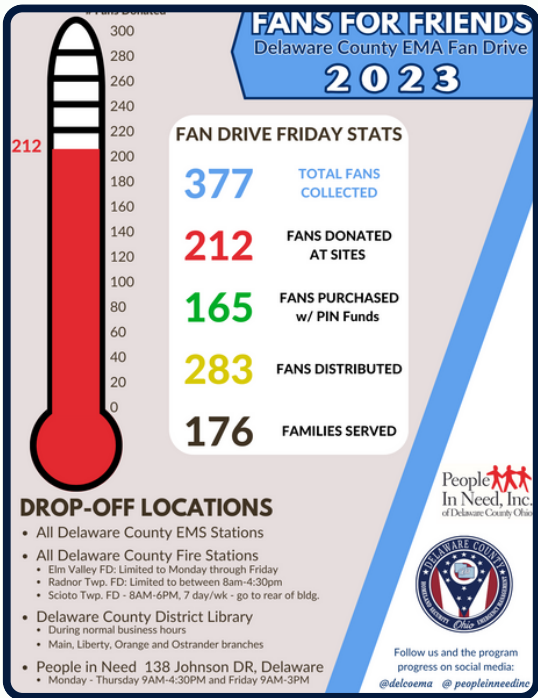
Director McCarthy with the other judges and 2023 contest winners



ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY

FANS FOR FRIENDS BOX FAN DRIVE

DCOHSEM personnel again coordinated a box fan drive through People in Need (PIN) to support less fortunate county residents during the extreme heat of summer. The drive was coined "Fans For Friends" and a goal of 300 donated fans was established. Local fire and EMS stations and the county libraries served as public collection points. The drive ran from May through September and 176 Delaware County residents were assisted by the generosity of 212 donated fans. PIN used monetary donations that was received to purchase another 165 fans. Overall, it was a great success and we are grateful to all who continue to support this worthwhile program.



RECREATION UNLIMITED PUBLIC SAFETY DAY

After a hiatus from the pandemic, DCOHSEM coordinated the return of Public Safety Day at Recreation Unlimited, a unique camp that provides year-round programs for adults and children with medical, physical, intellectual or cognitive disabilities. This event provided a safe environment for campers to interact with the Delaware County first responders, vehicles and equipment that could respond to their homes in the event of an emergency. DCOHSEM personnel also attended the event and a great time was had by all in attendance. We are already looking forward to next year!



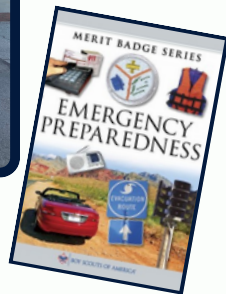
"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – Coretta Scott King



OUTREACH

PRESENTATIONS

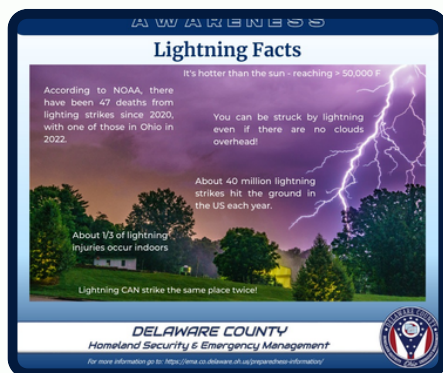
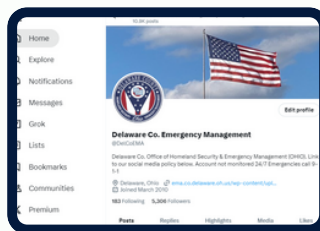
Part of preparedness is getting the word out to our community about the hazards we can expect in Delaware County and what they can do to be ready. The DCOHSEM team engaged in an active outreach program that included participating in fire department open houses, working with Scouts to earn their Emergency Preparedness merit badge, presenting to various community groups and partner agencies on safety, preparedness and severe weather, and educating the students in the schools. Our office strives to share pertinent, factual information to ensure the residents of Delaware County are equipped with the knowledge they need to respond appropriately in an emergency.



DIGITAL MEDIA

Another way we share information is through a variety of digital media platforms. Our webpage is a great place to start to learn more about preparedness. You can also join the over 16,000 friends who follow us on either Facebook or X, where we have weekly posts providing preparedness and awareness tips and links to further information. Our social media platforms allow us to provide timely and accurate data to our partner agencies and the public during crises, including pertinent weather updates from the National Weather Service. Check us out:

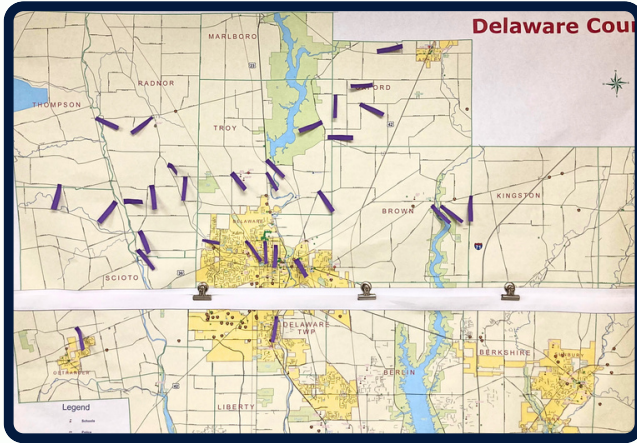
Website: www.delcoema.org
Facebook & X: @delcoema





SEVERE WEATHER

INFORMATION COORDINATION



Map in EOC showing areas of wind-related damage after July storm.

Ohio receives its fair share of severe weather and no matter the time of year, DCOHSEM becomes very active when severe weather is in the area. By coordinating with the National Weather Service in Wilmington, Ohio we can share pertinent weather information to our partners and the public when it counts. We also request NWS specialized weather briefings throughout the year for special events in the county, like The Little Brown Jug.

If severe weather causes extensive damage, the DCOHSEM team will actively work with local jurisdictions and the NWS to conduct damage assessments. This information is crucial to determining if federal funding will be available to assist in the recovery process. While DCOHSEM does not make the decision on who receives assistance, we ensure adequate information is passed on to the state to help the decision-makers know the extent of damage that was incurred.

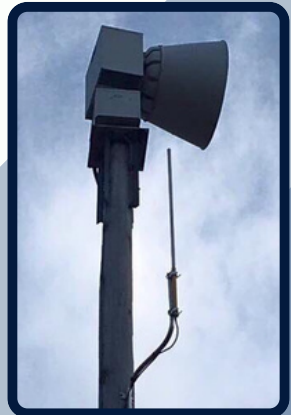
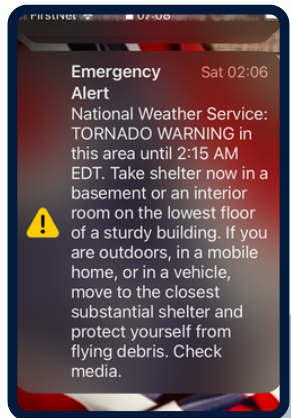
WARNINGS & NOTIFICATIONS

It is imperative that an effective, reliable warning and notification system is in place to inform the community in the event of a man-made or natural disaster. We work closely with the Delaware County Emergency Communications Center (911) to maintain the alerting system for Delaware County and have numerous options to alert the public including:

- Everbridge / DELCO Alerts
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)
- Emergency Alerting System (EAS)
- Countywide Outdoor Warning Sirens

You can learn more about these systems in the preparedness section on our website.

While an important component of the warning system, outdoor warning sirens are often mistaken as the primary means of notification during severe weather. It is important to reinforce the message that sirens are specifically designed to alert individuals who are outside to seek shelter and gather further information once safely inside.





2023 IN PICTURES

Here is a look at our DCOHSEM team in action throughout the year 2023:



Director McCarthy's 1st Day



MGT465 Cyber Incidents Class



EMAO/OEMA Spring Conf.



Electric Vehicle Training



Leadership Delaware County



Red Cross Shelter Demo



May CART Training



Touch-A-Truck at OBHS



Spec. Weber at CART TTX



Dir. McCarthy in G-2302 Class



HMIQ Air Monitoring Class



Oct 2023 LEPC Meeting

"Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." – Vince Lombardi



2023 IN PICTURES

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Director Miller's Last DCOHSEM Meeting



HazMat Training @ Tri Township FD



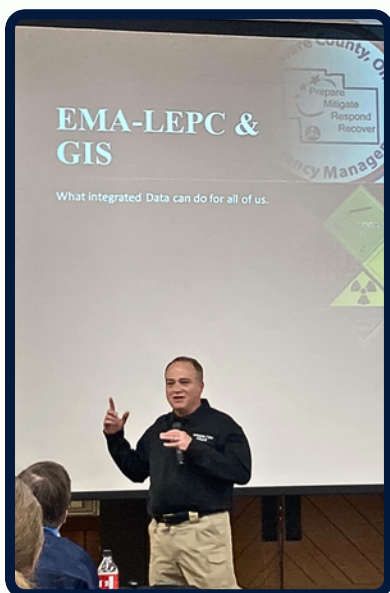
Presenting COOP to the County Commissioners



Director McCarthy working through LEPC TTX problem



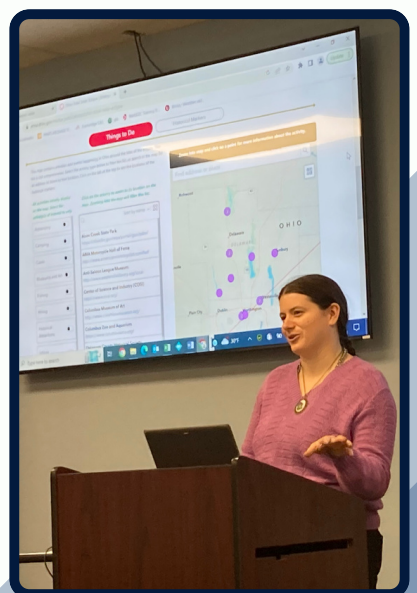
Dep. Director Stewart in OH205 class at Ohio EMA



Spec. Dysert returned to present at the EMAO Winter Conference in Dec.



Dir. McCarthy evaluating a diesel spill after a semi truck crash on I-71



Spec. Weber conducting a Solar Eclipse Planning Meeting with partners



FOND FARWELLS



On March 2, 2023, DCOHSEM said a fond farewell to Director Sean Miller after nearly 15 years of dedicated service to the residents of Delaware County. Sean was selected as the next Regional Operations Chief at Ohio EMA and started his new role on March 13th. His responsibilities will allow him to continue engaging with us at the county level, so we will still have the opportunity to collaborate together. This office's capabilities grew extensively during Sean's tenure and he left the agency in a good position for the future. We wish Sean all the best in his new role!



Emergency Management Specialist Shawn Dysert joined DCOHSEM in April of 2022 and hit the ground running. He was responsible for major upgrades to our use of GIS to capture data, making retrieval a much quicker and more efficient process. Recently retired from law enforcement prior to starting at DCOHSEM, the call to don the uniform and patrol the streets remained strong. Shawn left the office in February 2023 for a position as a constable with the Sharon Township PD where he uses his experience to mentor young officers. Best wishes and stay safe Shawn!



After a 32-year career in public safety with the Powell Police Department, most recently serving as Chief of Police, Chief Stephen Hrytzik embarked on a new journey at the Ohio Department of Public Safety as the Chief of Law Enforcement Accreditation. Chief Hrytzik was a dedicated member of the DCOHSEM Executive Committee for the last 10 years and was the Chair at the time of his departure in August of 2023. Chief Hrytzik's contributions to the office are greatly appreciated and we wish him continued success in his new position. Congratulations and thank you, Chief!

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" - Martin Luther King, Jr.



CONTACT US

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MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to reduce or eliminate the effects of day-to-day emergencies and large-scale disasters in Delaware County through preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.