

NEWSLETTER



EMAO strives to advance public safety for Ohioans through effective collaborations with local, state, and federal partners.

MAY 2024 VOL. VII

SPRING CONFERENCE

The 2024 EMAO/OEMA Spring Conference was held in Columbus, Ohio on April 16-17th.

Some highlights from the EMAO portion of the conference included:

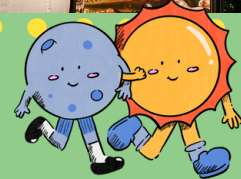
- Ohio Homeland Security Support Network (multiple presenters from OHS)
- Sell Value, Not Fear (Tim Warstler, Stark County EMA)
- EMAO Association Meeting and OCEM/retirement presentations

Some highlights from the Ohio EMA portion of the conference included:

- Remarks from Director Andy Wilson (ODPS) and Director Sima Merick (OEMA)
- FEMA Update (Thomas Sivak, Administrator FEMA Region 5)
- History Violent Tornadoes in Ohio (NWS and Ethan Raby)
- Social Media integration into EM (Lt. Santiago, OSHP)
- Building a Cyber Secured Ohio (multiple presenters)
- Patient Tracking Resources for MCIs (multiple presenters)
- AI use in Emergency Management (Justin Snair, SGNL Solutions)
- Long Term Recovery Strategies and Opportunities (Laura Mercer)
- Duke Energy Substation Attacks (Charles Polisenso, Duke Energy)
- Maui Wildfire Response (Red Cross)



**TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE=
PARTIAL EOC ACTIVATION**



On April 8, 2024 much of Ohio experienced a once in a lifetime total solar eclipse. This rare experience presented many complex and unique planning and response challenges. Several county EMA offices opened, partially opened, or virtually opened their EOCs to support this event.

Pictured from top left to bottom right: Shelby County, Erie County, Wood County, Cuyahoga County, Preble County, Union County, Stark County, Delaware County.



Eclipse Exercise Feature



On January 4, 2024, Dayton MIMRS and Public Health-Dayton & Montgomery County held the Regional Eclipse Preparedness Tabletop Exercise (TTX) at a Dayton Children's Hospital facility. The purpose was to allow West Central Ohio partners (First Responders, Hospitals, Emergency Management, Public Health, state partners, etc.) a space to discuss preparedness measures, communications, supply chains, public information, and more in advance of the Total Solar Eclipse in April. There were approximately 180 attendees who were intentionally seated with other people from the same discipline to encourage creative collaboration across the region. A list of questions was provided for each discipline with some intentional overlap of topics. A lot of documents, resources, and ideas were shared during and after the event as a result.



EMAO wants to extend our unwavering support and recognition to all of those counties affected by the recent severe weather events and tornadoes, especially Logan County on March 14th. You are doing a great job. Keep up the great work. Your emergency management network is and will always be here to support you.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT



Alex McCarthy
EMA VICE PRESIDENT

Alex currently serves as the Director of Delaware County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

When asked what goals he hopes to accomplish this term he outlined three key points:

- 1st - Ensure EMAO is engaging with new emergency managers to grow our membership and ensure we are meeting the needs of current and future members.
- 2nd - Find ways to increase EMAO members interest in legislative advocacy.
- 3rd - Ensure committees within EMAO feel empowered to continue collaborating on projects that helps make our association a great resource for all emergency managers across Ohio.

Alex encourages everyone to join at least one EMAO committee. Networking in our field is very important and our committees are a great way (outside of conferences and trainings) to meet members who you may not otherwise interact with.

2024 SAVE THE DATE

EMA FUNDAMENTALS COURSE
JUNE 14, 2024

EMA WINTER CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 5-6, 2024
SALT FORK STATE LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTER