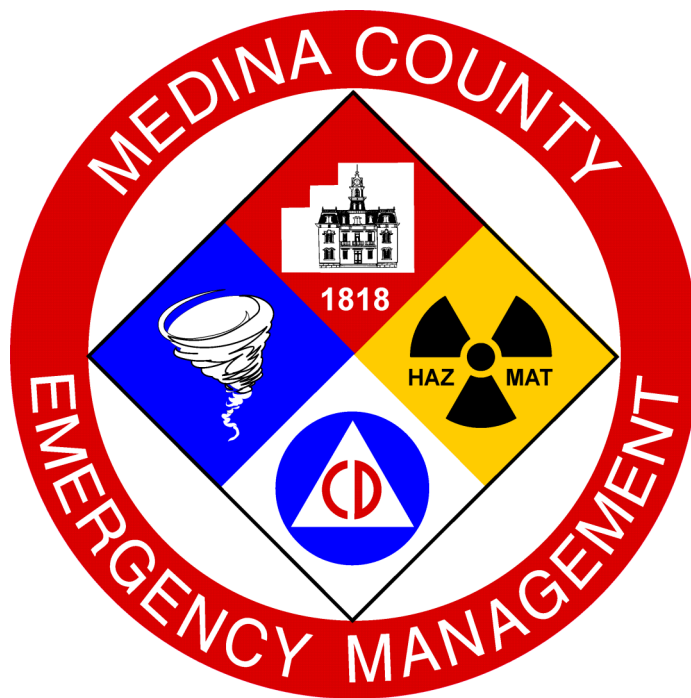


# Medina County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Director: Christina Fozio (Until 11-17-23)

Deputy Director: Ben Nau (Acting Director 11-17-23)

EM Specialist: Matt Sturgeon

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## OUR MISSION

Provide exemplary emergency management services to our communities and public safety partners before, during, and after emergencies.

## OUR VISION

A disaster educated and resilient community

Medina County Emergency Management Agency was formed in 1990. The agency administers the Emergency Management Program following Ohio Revised Code **5502.26** and also the Local Emergency Planning Committee following Ohio Revised Code **3750**.

## FIVE PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Disasters do not just suddenly appear one day, but instead they have a life cycle. Realizing this, emergency management matches the disaster life cycle with a series of phases that include strategies to mitigate the hazards, prepare for and respond to emergencies and to finally recover from their effects. These five phases are not independent, but instead are integrated with each other phase in a continual evolution. The five phases are comprised of various functions and activities, some of which are independent, while others are dependent upon other functions.



# WHAT ARE THE FIVE PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

**Prevention:** Prevention focuses on preventing hazards from occurring, whether they are natural, technological or caused by humans. Not all hazards are preventable, but the risk of loss of life and injury can be limited with good evacuation plans, environmental planning and design standards.

**Mitigation:** Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters and emergencies. It refers to measures or actions that can prevent an emergency, reduce the chance of an emergency or reduce the damaging effects of unavoidable emergencies. The establishment of building codes and zoning requirements or the creation of defensible space around homes to protect them from wildfire are examples of mitigation efforts.

**Preparedness:** Preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating and taking corrective action. Training and exercising plans are the cornerstone of preparedness, which focus on readiness to respond to all hazards, incidents and emergencies. Training and emergency preparedness plans increase a community's ability to respond when a disaster occurs. Typical preparedness measures include developing mutual aid agreements and memorandums of understanding, training for both response personnel and concerned citizens, conducting disaster exercises to reinforce training and test capabilities, and presenting all-hazards education campaigns.

**Response:** The response phase is a reaction to the occurrence of a catastrophic disaster or emergency. It consists of actions which are aimed at saving lives, reducing economic losses and alleviating suffering. The response phase comprises the coordination and management of resources utilizing the Incident Command System. Response actions may include activating the emergency operations center, evacuating threatened populations, opening shelters and providing mass care, emergency rescue and medical care, fire fighting, and urban search and rescue.

**Recovery:** Recovery consists of those activities that continue beyond the emergency period to restore critical community functions and begin to manage stabilization efforts. The recovery phase begins immediately after the threat to human life has subsided. The goal of the recovery phase is to bring the affected area back to some degree of normalcy, including the restoration of basic services and the repair of physical, social and economic damages. Typical recovery actions include debris cleanup, financial assistance to individuals and governments, rebuilding of roads and bridges and key facilities, and sustained mass care for displaced human and animal populations.



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN MEDINA COUNTY

## A UNIQUE, ONE OF A KIND RELATIONSHIP

Each political subdivision, including the Medina County Commissioners, pay into an annual EMA cost allocation. This base allocation provides the in-kind match for many grants the agency manages. In addition to the annual EMA allocation, each subdivision also pays into an annual All Hazards allocation. This allocation supports the training and equipment needs for the various response capabilities of the All Hazards team.

Medina County EMA also performs the daily tasks of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). This is done through a contract between EMA & the LEPC. These tasks include exercise planning, spill reporting, annual chemical reporting, and hazmat planning.

EMA also manages the countywide All-Hazards Response Team. This team consists of Hazardous Materials, Rope Rescue, Confined Space, Structural Collapse, Trench Rescue, Water Rescue, and Fire Investigation. EMA employs an All Hazards Team coordinator who maintains the readiness of the team. Purchasing and operations decisions are made through the All Hazards Advisory Committee, a sub committee of the EMA Executive Committee. These specialized response capabilities fall under the Preparedness Phase of Emergency Management.

***All Hazards Team membership is provided for through Medina County Fire Departments, Police Departments, Sheriff's Office, Coroners Office, & EMA.***



# BUDGET AND GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Annual EMA Cost Allocations	\$162,463.00
Annual All Hazards Cost Allocations	\$83,858.46
2023 Operating Budget	\$2,000,400.69

## 2023 Grants

**Emergency Management Performance Grant:** \$108,874: Reimbursement for staff payroll and daily operating expenses.

**Local Emergency Planning Committee:** \$29,130: Contract with EMA to conduct hazardous materials planning and exercises. Emergency coordinator for spill reporting. Annual Tier II filings from Hazmat Facilities.

**Homeland Security:** \$225,785: Purchase of a radio repeater for national interoperability & a radio tower for amateur radio communications.

**Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning:** \$12,648: Provided funds to host 5 hazmat related training classes. Chlorine Emergencies, Decon Operations, Rope Level II, Spill Response Strategies, ToxMed.

**Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC):** \$27,411: Staff payroll for county-wide mitigation plan updates.

**Hillier Foundation:** \$100,000: Startup and sustainment funding for the dive rescue component of the water rescue team.

**Timken Steel:** \$40,000: Additional costs associated with the new building project.

**Brunswick City:** \$15,000: Navigation system for the underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

**State Capital Grant:** \$800,000 for the EMA/All Hazards apparatus storage building project.

# Annual LEPC Exercise

For this year's large exercise, EMA worked with The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP), to conduct a multi county interoperable communications exercise.

**Exercise Purpose:** This exercise was an opportunity to evaluate current communication concepts, interoperable communications capabilities and redundancies, and interagency coordination. The TTX also focused on key emergency responder coordination, critical decisions, and integration of local, state, and federal assets.

**Goal:** The goal of the exercise was to discuss communication policies, procedures, plans, available assets, and capabilities used by regional agencies in response to a significant multi-jurisdictional event or incident.

## **Objectives:**

- Review the operable and interoperable communications available to exercise participants in accordance with existing operational procedures and response plans.
- Discuss the ability of the participating personnel to establish interoperable communications rapidly and effectively with mutual aid agencies in the case of a major multi-jurisdictional incident.
- Engage stakeholders of the regional interoperable communication system(s), to discuss the operations and applications of the system(s).
- Discuss the ability of the participating personnel to communicate with mutual aid departments rapidly and effectively in the case of a major incident requiring notification.
- Identify and test responder notification processes.
- Identify and discuss technological redundancies for emergency communications.
- Discuss interoperable communications and technological redundancies with local hospitals.
- Enhance the overall readiness of the exercise venue(s) in the event of an actual emergency involving a large -scale incident.





# Additional Exercises

**Ohio Department Of Health:** Medina County EMA participated with the Medina County Health Department in a full scale statewide exercise on October 17th-20th involving a simulated anthrax attack. The (EOC) was 'open' along with the county drop site to receive medical countermeasures.



**NECO EXERCISE:** The Medina County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was 'open' and participated in the annual Northeast Ohio Healthcare Coalition (NECO) regional exercise. The 2022 exercise focused on a mass causality incident.

**SURROUNDING COUNTIES:** MCEMA Partners with our surrounding county agencies to assist in the evaluations of their annual exercises. This allows our staff to interact with our surrounding county staff, understand their planning methods and use their lessons learned for our future planning efforts.

**WebEOC** is maintained by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and made available to county emergency management agencies as a means to track and analyze disaster information for better decision making before, during and after incidents. WebEOC drills are conducted monthly.

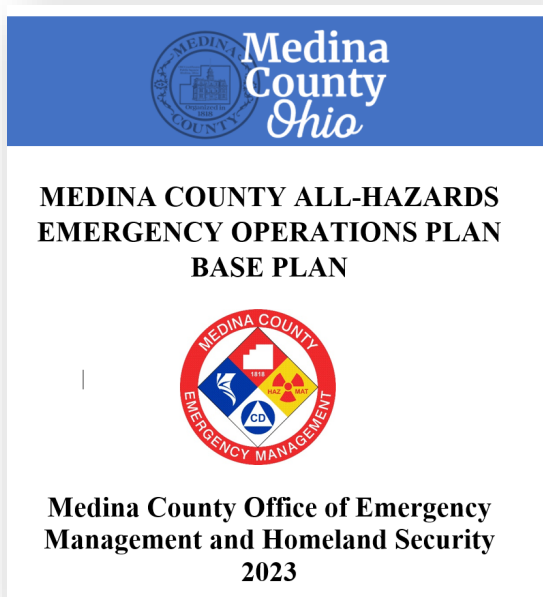
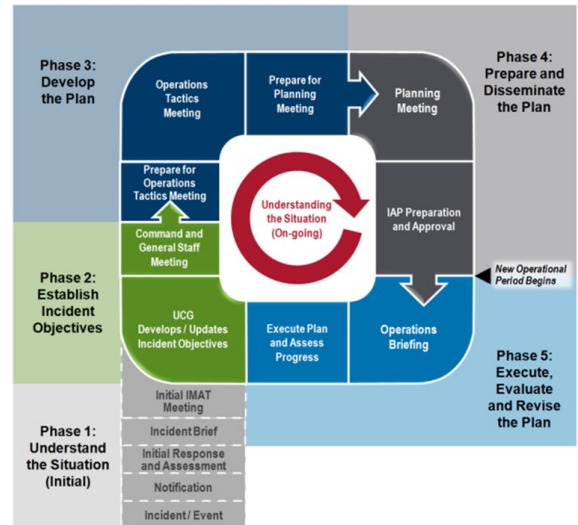
**MARCS** Monthly Radio Checks. The watch office does the MARCS radio tests on the second Tuesday of each month between 9:00-10:00.



# Emergency Plans

Medina County EMA maintains a variety of emergency response related plans. EMA staff ensures the plans have the most up-to-date information required by the State and Federal entities. Medina County EMA maintains the following plans.

1. All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan
2. Hazardous Materials Annex of the Emergency Operations Plan
3. Mass Casualty & Mass Fatality Plan
4. All Hazard & Flood Mitigation Plan
5. Debris Management Plan
6. Volunteer Reception Center Plan
7. Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan
8. Medina County Fair Emergency Response Plan
9. Hazardous Materials Flow Study
10. CRS Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan



**Harrisville Township**  
**Avon Lake Rd. North of I-71**

Truck Type	Total	Percent
Non Hazardous	295	95%
Hazardous	17	5%

Hazard	Total	Percent
Flammable Liquid	9	52%
Toxic/Corrosive	3	18%
Flammable Gas	1	6%
Miscellaneous Dangerous	2	12%
Oxidizer	1	6%
Toxic (Explosive Polymerization)	1	6%

# Medina County Emergency Alerts

## MEDINA COUNTY MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

EMA provides Medina County Emergency Alerts as an alerting mechanism for county residents.

This service is provided free of charge. All communities are able to use the system for alerting their residents.

When registering for Medina County Alerts, residents can also subscribe to an optional NWS weather warning service, provided directly by NWS, to keep residents aware of weather activity as soon as a warning is issued.

Medina County Emergency Alerts can also be used by EMA and dispatch centers to send out urgent emergency notifications to the public during an emergency situation.

## Medina County Emergency Alerts

Medina County Emergency Alerts



Text



Voice



Email

Sign up to receive local, county-wide and NOAA emergency alerts.

Two ways to register:



For **text alerts only**, text the first 5 letters of your city, township or village to:  
**69310**

BRUNS	HINCK	RITTM
CHATH	HOMER	SEVIL
CHIPP	LAFAY	SHARO
CREST	LITCH	SPENC
GLORI	LIVER	WADSW
GRANG	LODI	WESTF
GUILF	MEDIN	YORK
HARRI	MONTV	



For **full service** including voice, email and weather alerts go to:  
**[www.medinacountyema.org](http://www.medinacountyema.org)**

- Weather Alerts
- Voice Alerts
- Email Alerts
- Text Alerts
- Street Specific Alerts

Medina County Emergency Management Agency 2017

To learn more about Medina County Emergency Alerts and the various registration options please visit:

[www.medinacountyema.org](http://www.medinacountyema.org)



# IPAWS-Alerting and Notifications

## IPAWS TESTS:

Starting in 2024, the Medina County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will complete a monthly proficiency demonstration of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). This monthly test ensures that the EMA staff has knowledge of how to send alerts efficiently during a crisis.



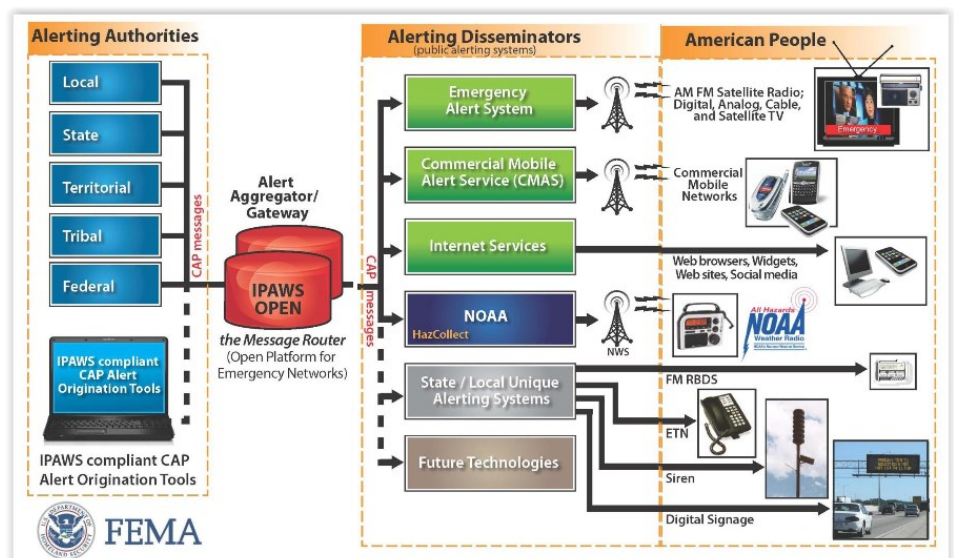
**IPAWS integrates multiple alert & warning systems to alert and warn the public on situations of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to public safety and well-being. Most alerts and warnings are issued at the local level. IPAWS allows authorized users to create geo-targeted alerts scaled to cover areas as big as their entire jurisdiction or a much smaller area within their jurisdiction.**

FEMA leverages the alert and warning infrastructure so that no matter the crisis, the public will receive life-saving information from at least one communication device.

[Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#) : The message dissemination pathway that sends warnings via broadcast and cable TV.

[Wireless Emergency Alert \(WEA\)](#) : The message dissemination pathway that broadcasts alerts and warnings to cell phones and other mobile devices.

[NOAA Weather Radio \(NWR\)](#) : A nationwide network of radio stations including 1,000 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories.



# StormReady Community

## STORMREADY

### **MEDINA COUNTY IS A STORM READY COMMUNITY**

#### **STORM READY CERTIFICATION:**

StormReady is a voluntary national program that encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing clear-cut guidelines for community leaders and emergency managers.



**Storm Ready®:** Medina County is one of the 40 Ohio counties to obtain the Storm Ready certification through the National Weather Service (NWS).

This program was created in 1998 by NWS to help communities develop plans to handle all types of extreme weather. In order to receive this recognition, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public.
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally.
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars.

***Our Medina County StormReady renewal verification was completed in December of 2023 and we received recertification on January 2nd 2024.***



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

To learn more about StormReady visit <https://www.weather.gov/stormready/>

# EMA Volunteers: Communications Unit & CERT

## MISSION STATEMENT OF OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

*To foster community preparedness and resiliency by recruiting, organizing, training and preparing volunteers to support local response to disasters and other emergency situations in Medina County; and to promote community disaster preparedness through public education and community outreach.*

## PURPOSE

**Natural Disasters/Large Scale Incidents Response** – events that cause widespread damage, or injury or threats to large numbers of people or concentrated areas of occupancy. These incidents can include fires, storms, floods, communications and utility disruptions, and other incidents that displace residents and require a prolonged response from the public safety or health community. Volunteers can be deployed by MCEMA any time the local emergency response capabilities are overwhelmed or jurisdictions are in need of general assistance by volunteer forces.

**Community Service Activities** – opportunities to exercise during non-disaster situations, which foster the well-being of residents and to promote the mission of MCCERT and Comms. Unit including community events and public safety events

## ORGANIZATION & ADMINISTRATION

Medina County CERT and Comms. Unit are authorized by the Medina County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (MCEMA) and report to the Director through the Program Manager.

Medina County CERT is registered as a Community Emergency Response Team as defined by the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). MCCERT is registered in the State of Ohio with the Ohio Responds disaster volunteer system.

The Communications Unit is a RACES Station (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service), which is a FEMA emergency amateur radio communications program. Additionally, the EMA is also a SHARES (Shared Resource High Frequency Radio Program) Station, which is a program administered by the Department of Homeland Security's National Coordinating Center for Communications that provides the means of communicating via voice and email around the world on federal radio frequencies.



# EMA Sponsored Trainings

**Sport and Special Event Evacuation and Protective Actions:** This course provides assistance to prepare an evacuation plan to assist emergency responders in implementing flexible and scalable evacuation activities (i.e. evacuation, sheltering in place, or relocation). This course was specifically hosted to lead to the creation of an evacuation plan for the Medina County Fair.

**Chlorine Emergencies:** This course is designed to comply with NFPA 472: Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents, specifically those involving Chlorine emergencies. Chlorine is an extremely hazardous substance that is widely transported throughout the nation. It is a toxic gas with corrosive properties that is used as bleach, purification, and manufacturing solvents, pesticides, synthetic rubber, and refrigerants. Even the slightest exposure to Chlorine gas can place first responders into an IDLH environment.

**ToxMed:** The ToxMed provider program is a two-day, 16-hour course that teaches first responders and other healthcare professionals how to manage patients who have been exposed to hazardous materials. Participants in this course begin by recognizing signs and symptoms of Hazmat exposure, routes of exposure, and chemical properties. They will then learn about specific antidotes and their indication/contraindications, dosing and route.

**Spill Response Strategies & Tactics:** The transportation of flammable liquids and drilling products is on the rise with the increase of oil and gas exploration. With this increase comes the additional potential for Hazmat-related spills. This one day course is designed for emergency response personnel who are expected to take an offensive role in containing/confining spills that occur on roadways, in drainage systems, on the ground and in navigable waterways. This course is based on NFPA 472/470 and OSHA 1910.120 standards.

**Decon Operations:** This course is designed to comply with NFPA 472: Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents, specifically focusing on decontamination.

**Rope Level II:** Technician level rope/high angle rescue based on NFPA 1006.

# Vehicles & Trailers

Trucks		
Year	Description	Unit #
1996	Mobile Command	326-1
1996	Chevy 3500	356-3
2005	Dodge Pickup	356-1
2008	Water Rescue International Squad	356-6
2013	Ford F-550	356-4
2016	Ford F-550	356-2
2018	Ford F-150	325-1
2020	Ford F-550	356-5
Trailers		
Unit #	Purpose	Location
358-1	Hazmat	Montville
358-2	Hazmat	Montville
358-4	Rope/Confined Space Rescue	Medina
358-5	Trench Rescue	EMA
358-6	Structural Collapse	EMA
358-8	Water Rescue	Sharon
358-9	10K Diesel Generator	EMA
358-10	10K Diesel Generator	Fairgrounds
358-12	Structural Collapse Lumber (Region V)	EMA
358-13	Fire Investigation	EMA
358-14	Flatbed	EMA
327-1	Mass Casualty	Brunswick
327-2	Mass Casualty	Medina
327-3	Mass Casualty	Wadsworth



# 2023 Incidents

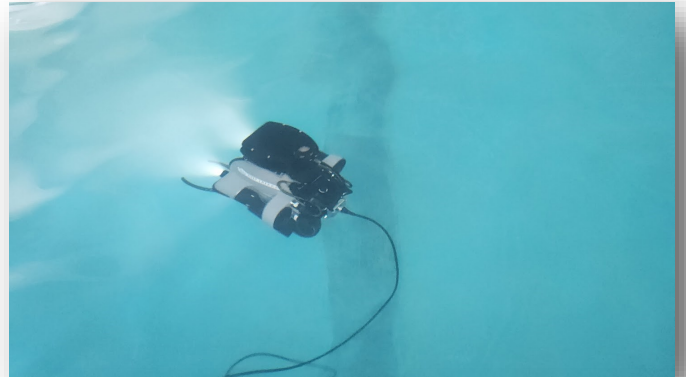
Date	City/Twp	Incidents
1/15/2023	Brunswick Hills	Fire Investigation—House Fire
2/14/2023	Valley City	Fire Investigation—House Fire
2/26/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
3/11/2023	Wadsworth	EMA/Mobile Command—Planned Protest
3/27/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
4/3/2023	Wadsworth	CART—Missing Adult
4/8/2023	Wadsworth	Hazmat—Fuel Spill
4/10/2023	Hinckley	Fire Investigation—House Fire
4/12/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
4/13/2023	Granger	CART—Missing Adult
4/17/2023	Chatham	Fire Investigation—House Fire
5/10/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
5/14/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—Shed Fire
5/26/2023	Wadsworth	Hazmat—Phone Consult
6/6/2023	Wadsworth	Fire Investigation—House Fire
6/7/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
6/10/2023	Seville	Hazmat—Phone Consult
6/25/2023	Litchfield	Fire Investigation—Barn Fire
6/30/2023	Brunswick Hills	Fire Investigation—House Fire
7/17/2023	Hinckley	Hazmat/EMA—Chlorine Leak
7/22/2023	Sharon	Fire Investigation—House Fire
7/26/2023	Valley City	Hazmat—Ammonia Furnace Fire
8/3/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
8/18/2023	Montville	Hazmat—Building Fire with Chemicals
8/23/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
8/24/2023	Lodi	Water—Occupied Car in Water—Canceled
8/24/2023	Medina County	Flooding Phone Consult
8/25/2023	Spencer	Tornado Damage Assessment
8/28/2023	Lafayette	Fuel Spill
8/28/2023	Medina	Water Main Break Phone Consult—Sand Bags
8/29/2023	Medina	Water Main Break Phone Consult—Large Pump
9/1/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—Apartment Fire
9/22/2023	Hinckley	Hazmat—Phone Consult
10/4/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
11/3/2023	Granger	Fire Investigation—House Fire
11/3/2023	Brunswick Hills	Hazmat—Fuel Oil Leak
11/6/2023	Litchfield	Fire Investigation—House Fire
11/12/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
11/15/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
11/25/2023	Lodi	Water—Evidence Search—Canceled
11/30/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
12/6/2023	Brunswick Hills	Structural Collapse—Car vs Building
12/15/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire
12/17/2023	Brunswick	Fire Investigation—House Fire



# All Hazards Team Trainings

ALL HAZARDS 2023 TEAM TRAININGS			
1/3/2023	HazMat	6/25/2023	Rope/Confined Space
1/8/2023	Water Rescue	6/27/2023	Fire Investigation
1/11/2023	Structural Collapse	7/13/2023	Water Rescue
1/13/2023	Structural Collapse	7/16/2023	HazMat
1/15/2023	HazMat	7/25/2023	Water Rescue
1/19/2023	Fire Investigation	7/27/2023	Rope/Confined Space
1/24/2023	HazMat	7/30/2023	Fire Investigation
1/26/2023	HazMat	8/9/2023	Water Rescue
1/28/2023	Water Rescue	8/11/2023	Rope/Confined Space
1/29/2023	Rope/Confined Space	8/20/2023	Rope/Confined Space
2/4/2023	HazMat	8/22/2023	Water Rescue
2/5/2023	Rope/Confined Space	8/24/2023	Rope/Confined Space
2/7/2023	Water Rescue	9/3/2023	Water Rescue
2/16/2023	HazMat	9/5/2023	Water Rescue
2/25/2023	Fire Investigation	9/17/2023	Trench
2/25/2023	Fire Investigation	9/21/2023	HazMat
2/26/2023	Fire Investigation	9/26/2023	Fire Investigation
2/26/2023	Rope/Confined Space	9/28/2023	Water Rescue
2/28/2023	Fire Investigation	10/3/2023	Trench
3/5/2023	Fire Investigation	10/23/2023	Trench
3/16/2023	HazMat	10/24/2023	Water Rescue
3/19/2023	Rope/Confined Space	10/24/2023	Fire Investigation
3/28/2023	Fire Investigation	10/25/2023	Trench
4/2/2023	Rope/Confined Space	11/2/2023	HazMat
4/4/2023	Fire Investigation	11/3/2023	HazMat
4/25/2023	Water Rescue	11/4/2023	HazMat
4/27/2023	HazMat	11/7/2023	Water Rescue
4/30/2023	Water Rescue	11/19/2023	All Teams
5/2/2023	All Hazards Team Mtg	11/28/2023	Fire Investigation
5/18/2023	Fire Investigation	12/3/2023	Rope/Confined Space
5/23/2023	Rope/Confined Space	12/5/2023	Water Rescue
5/25/2023	Trench	12/10/2023	Hazmat
6/4/2023	HazMat	12/17/2023	Rope/Confined Space
6/15/2023	Fire Investigation	12/21/2023	Hazmat
6/22/2023	Structural Collapse	12/28/2023	Water Rescue

# All Hazards Team





# EMA Volunteers



## **Follow us on Facebook!**



Medina EMA

**Medina County Office of Emergency Management and  
Homeland Security**

**5834 Heather Hedge Drive**

**Chippewa Lake, Ohio 44215**

[Medinacountyema.org](http://Medinacountyema.org)

