

ASHLAND COUNTY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

History

The Ashland County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (OHS/EMA) was established in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 5502 to serve as the countywide agency for the purpose of overseeing the planning, response, recovery and mitigation of any and all major disasters/emergencies that occur within the county.

The OHS/EMA was originally known as the Ashland County Civil Defense Office, which was developed in the 1950s. The OHS/EMA eventually became known as Ashland County Disaster Services. Next, the office was known as the Ashland County Emergency Management Agency. Finally, to better reflect the goals and purpose of the office, the County Commissioners passed a resolution in June, 2005 to include Office of Homeland Security. Office is now located in the lower level of the Ashland County Service Center.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

OHS/EMA also serves as the emergency coordinator for Ashland County's Local Emergency Planning Committee. In accordance with ORC 3750, OHS/EMA has authority when dealing with the storage, manufacture and transportation of hazardous materials. The LEPC meets on even months at 8:00 a.m. at the EMA Office located at The Ashland County Service Center.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The OHS/EMA has the responsibility for maintaining the county's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) located in the Ashland County Service. This serves as the Operations Center during major disasters. Secondary EOC may be established if needed.

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

The agency is also charged with the establishment and updating of the county's Emergency Operations Plan. This plan is the county's formal outline of emergency response to all types of disasters/emergencies that have the possibility to occur in Ashland County, including flood, tornado, winter storms, drought, earthquake, hazardous material releases, transportation crashes, civil disorder, and terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and radiological emergencies and school emergency planning.

Supply Storage

The Ashland County OHS/EMA purchases and maintains a wide variety of supplies and equipment, available to all response agencies providing better response to different types emergency situations. This makes it easy to get equipment, and portable radios for use anywhere they are needed in the county. THE OHS/EMA also provides hazmat supplies to fire department and supports a Level 3 Hazmat Team through the Ashland Fire Department. We make equipment available to all county fire departments as well.