

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**Franklin County Emergency Management
and Homeland Security**





WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Executive Committee (FCEM&HS), I am pleased to present its 2022 Annual Report. This report reflects only a snapshot of the dedication and exceptional service the Agency provides to all 42 Franklin County jurisdictions every day as we continue to create disaster resilient communities.

After more than two years since the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic, the Agency's PPE distribution response finally came to an end with the July closure of the distribution warehouse. Millions of masks, gloves, gowns, face shields and test kits were distributed to help protect Franklin County and the spread of COVID19. In-person training classes also resumed last year. With nearly 1000 of our first responders and agency partners logging over 13,500 hours of class time.

The Agency also completed the technology upgrade of the Assessment Center, which now serves as a Multi-Agency Coordination Center. The updates dramatically improved the Agency's capabilities for coordinated response efforts while providing a common operational picture for our jurisdictions. Director Young continued to strengthen relationships with our public and private partners through the continuation of the Franklin County Snow Emergency Advisory Group and a new collaboration effort with AEP Ohio.

The members of the Executive Committee who represent all 42 Franklin County jurisdictions are dedicated to achieving the highest level of preparedness for the safety of our citizens. We offer our sincere gratitude to Director Young and the entire staff at FCEM&HS. In 2023, we look forward to a new Agency website, an updated countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan, the addition of the Visual Command Center feature to the ALERT Franklin County System, as well as the expansion of the countywide notification keyword "FCREADY".

As we all know, all disasters start and end locally. Each and every day, members of the Executive Committee, FCEM&HS, as well as our agency partners work to ensure that Franklin County remains prepared and ready to respond effectively and efficiently to any hazard, both natural and manmade, at any time.

WILLIAM F. VEDRA, JR.
CHAIRMAN



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is once again my privilege to present you the Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Annual Report covering calendar year 2022 and the various programs and work done by the staff to support our jurisdictions and residents daily.

Periodically, I review the original document that was adopted by every jurisdiction within Franklin County that created the Agency as being charged with the “coordination of emergency management activities, within Franklin County, including measures and actions designated or undertaken to minimize the effects upon the population caused or which could be caused by natural, technological or man-made incidents, emergencies, disasters or enemy attack”.

As I review that original language, I am always struck by the fact that in 1988, elected and appointed officials might have had a difficult time envisioning some of the risk and threats we almost routinely face in 2022. While traditional threats such as blizzards, tornadoes and floods were easily considered, few would have been thinking of Climate Change, Derechos, cyber-attacks and terrorism and violent extremism at the levels currently reported.

While officials in 1988 may not have envisioned the threats and risks of 2022, they clearly understood that incidents, emergencies, disasters, and attack have a significant impact upon our residents and that there needs to be a focus upon and coordination in mitigating those impacts.

As I review the original charge of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, I believe the 2022 annual report reflects foresight to create the Agency and the annual work that is fulfilling that charge.

As we move into and beyond 2023, please continue to consider your own safety and undertake personal actions to be prepared and resilient.

JEFFREY J. YOUNG
DIRECTOR

MISSION/AUTHORITY

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) coordinates and prepares for all-hazards disaster planning, community education, warning, training, grant funding, response, and recovery efforts in order to prepare and protect the citizens of Franklin County before, during, and after natural and man-made disasters.

FCEM&HS, in accordance with Chapter 5502 of the Ohio Revised Code is organized as a regional agency under the 1988 Countywide Agreement, coordinates all-hazards emergency management and disaster preparedness functions for the 42 local government jurisdictions of Franklin County.

Jurisdictions Supported

City of Bexley	Village of Harrisburg	Pleasant Township
Blendon Township	City of Hilliard	Prairie Township
Village of Brice	Jackson Township	City of Reynoldsburg
Brown Township	Jefferson Township	Village of Riverlea
Village of Canal Winchester	Village of Lockbourne	Sharon Township
Clinton Township	Madison Township	Truro Township
City of Columbus	Village of Marble Cliff	City of Upper Arlington
City of Dublin	Mifflin Township	Village of Urbancrest
Franklin Township	Village of Minerva Park	Village of Valleyview
City of Gahanna	City of New Albany	Washington Township
City of Grandview Heights	Norwich Township	City of Westerville
City of Grove City	Village of Obetz	City of Whitehall
City of Groveport	Perry Township	City of Worthington
Hamilton Township	Plain Township	Franklin County

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Executive Committee is comprised of 14 representatives from various municipalities, townships and villages in Franklin County. The committee oversees the overall operations and policies for the agency.



William F. Vedra Jr., CHAIR
Deputy City Administrator
City of Grove City



Monica Irelan, VICE CHAIR
City Manager, City of Westerville
Alternate: Fire Chief Brian Miller



Kevin Boyce
Franklin County Commissioner
Alternate: Ken Wilson



John O'Grady
Franklin County Commissioner
Alternate: Erik Janas



Erica C. Crawley
Franklin County Commissioner
Alternate: Moriah Lieberman
Alternate: Dayla Murphy - Effective 10/2022



Andrew J. Ginther
Mayor - City of Columbus
Alternate: Kenneth Paul



Dana McDaniel - Retired
Meghan O'Callaghan - Effective 10/2022
City Manager - City of Dublin
Alternate: Police Chief Justin Paez



Ike Stage
Mayor - City of Grove City
Alternate: William F. Vedra Jr.



Kim Maggard
Mayor - City of Whitehall
Alternate: Fire Chief Preston Moore



Steve Schoeny
City Manager - City of Upper Arlington
Alternate: Fire Chief Lyn Nofziger



Nancy White
Mifflin Township Trustee
Alternate: Vacant



Robert Clark
Safety Director - City of Columbus
Alternate: Tim Williams



Dallas Baldwin
Franklin County Sheriff
Alternate: Chief Jim Gilbert/Major Carl Hickey



Christian Selch
IT/Planning Director - City of Columbus
Alternate: Patti Austin



Dr. Mysheika Williams Roberts
Health Commissioner - City of Columbus
Alternate: Mike Fielding - Retired - 5/2022
Alternate: Tiffany Krauss - Effective - 7/2022



FRANKLIN COUNTY HAZARDS

FLOODING

HAZMAT - TRANSPORTATION

PANDEMIC

CYBER THREAT

EXTREME COLD

SEVERE WEATHER - SUMMER

ACTIVE SHOOTER

EXTREME HEAT

TORNADO

TERRORIST INCIDENT

SEVERE WEATHER - WINTER

HAZMAT - FIXED FACILITY

RADIOLOGICAL INCIDENT

DROUGHT

CIVIL DISTURBANCE

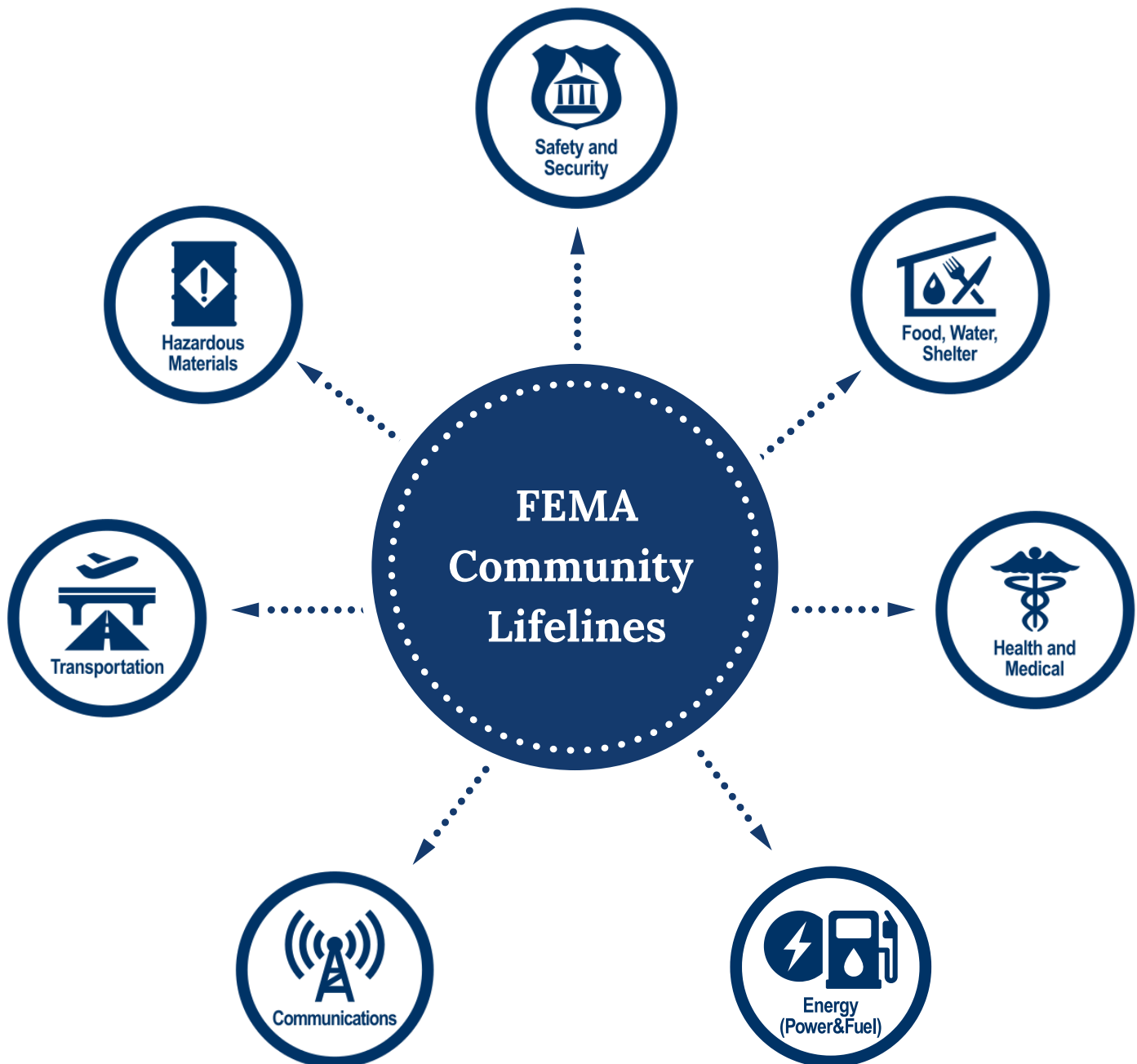
DAM FAILURE

EARTHQUAKE

COMMUNITY LIFELINES

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security utilizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Lifelines as guidance to increase effectiveness in disaster operations and better response to catastrophic incidents. Lifeline services are provided by public, private, and non-profit entities that are organic within the community. They include a range of critical day-to-day services that communities rely on to protect life and property.

While most disruptions to these services are directly resolved by the organic lifeline service providers (e.g., power and utility companies), the priority of response operations following an incident is to stabilize the lifeline services by the most effective means available when they are destroyed or significantly disrupted by disasters.



ALERTING/WARNING

When an incident situation reaches or has the potential to impose critical life safety concern to the public, FCEM&HS actively assesses and has a variety of ways to alert or warn the public of the need to take immediate action.

Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren System



The Franklin County Outdoor Warning Siren System consists of 196 outdoor warning sirens located throughout all 42 jurisdictions in Franklin County. The system is divided into four warning zones (NW, NE, SW and SE) to more closely align siren activations with warning polygons issued by NWS or the actual location of tornadic activity in Franklin County.

FCEM&HS tests the system each Wednesday at noon (weather permitting) to ensure the system is functioning properly. Results of the weekly testing showed a 99% fully operational rate.

**Outdoor
Warning Sirens
Fully Operational
2022**



ALERTING/WARNING



FCReady Text Message Alerts



Last March, Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) began offering keyword text message alerts with the ALERT Franklin County Mass Notification Program. Keywords provide a quick and easy way for Franklin County residents and visitors to receive emergency information via text message.

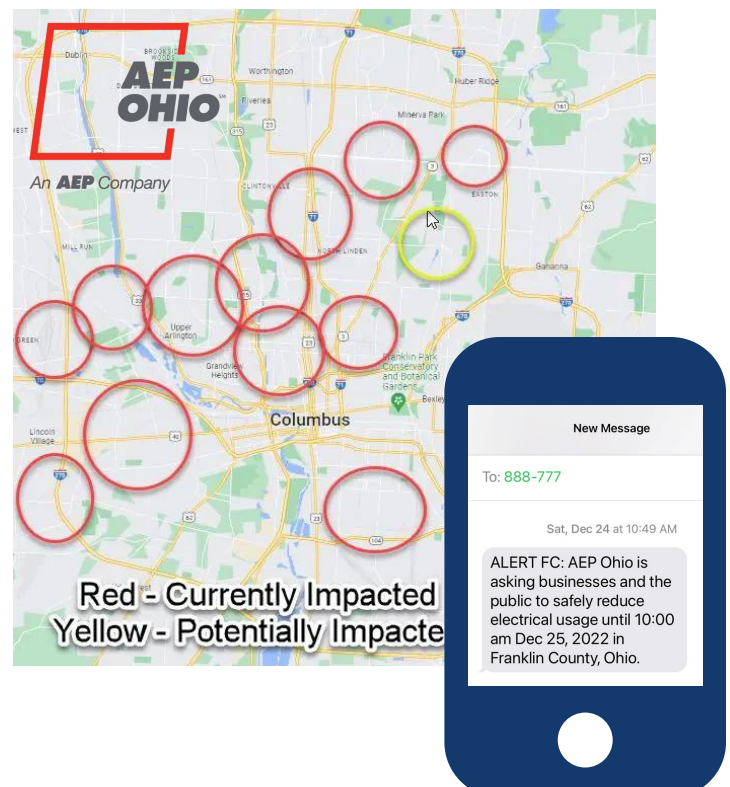
When disaster strikes, there are never too many ways to receive emergency information. The FCREADY text alert adds another option to the ALERT Franklin County Mass Notification Program for citizens to receive emergency information.

**STAY INFORMED**
with
**FCEM&HS Countywide Emergency
Management Text Message Alerts**
**FCReady
TO 888777**
More Information: AlertFranklinCounty.org

AEP Ohio Collaboration

As a result of the June power outages and the need for power demand reductions, Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security began working with AEP Ohio to develop a better understanding of the role of Emergency Management in local community resiliency. This collaboration will continue to develop in 2023 but was implemented in a small manner at the end of 2022 as the extreme cold across the entire region resulted in broad calls to action for power conservation on December 24th and 25th.

These conservation calls to action appeals resulted in an impactful and measurable reduction in power demand which helped protect the power grid and enabled Franklin County residents' access to electricity without interruption.



OPERATIONS

The Operations Program is responsible for supporting all tactical activities, across multiple jurisdictions, focused on reducing the immediate hazard, saving lives and property, establishing situational control, and restoring normal operations before, during and after a natural or man-made disaster.

The program is responsible for implementing plans and procedures, oversight of Warning and Resources, incorporating information technology and effectively using it to support the common operational picture; and managing the activities of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC).

Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC)

The Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) was established to provide a collaborative environment to coordinate response efforts, resource prioritization and sourcing, and to provide an effective common operating picture to enhance public safety support from Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security to the jurisdictions that the agency serves.

FCEM&HS supports jurisdictional EOC's and works with local, state, and federal partners to ensure widespread collaboration and coordination.

To support a common operating picture, FCEM&HS completed a technology update of the Agency's Assessment Center in 2022. The upgraded capabilities enable the Assessment Center to function as a Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) for FCEM&HS responses.

The goal of the MACC is to provide situational awareness, information sharing and dissemination of real-time information, effective and efficient resource support, and increasing public safety coordination throughout Franklin County.



OPERATIONS

Level 2 Snow Emergencies

In 2022, FCEM&HS responded to multiple winter events affecting Franklin County. Two major snowstorms and record cold temperatures top the list. In February, a complex winter storm brought rain, freezing rain, sleet and snow to Central Ohio. Franklin County was under a Level 2 Snow Emergency. Columbus received nearly 4.5 inches of snow and totals ranged from 6 inches in northern Franklin County to 2 inches in southern Franklin County.



Photo Credit Doral Chenoweth/Columbus Dispatch



Photo Credit: Joseph Scheller/Columbus Dispatch

In December, right in time for the Christmas holiday, winter weather warnings were issued for a multi-hazard winter storm with strong winds, very cold temperatures, snow and blowing snow. On December 23rd, Franklin County was under a Level 2 Snow Emergency.

Snow accumulations of 2 to 6 inches were possible with wind gusts as high as 60 mph and wind chill values as low as 30 below zero. FCEM&HS worked closely with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the City of Columbus, ODOT and the Franklin County Engineer's Office to monitor area roadways as well as power outages.

Latitude FIVE25 Evacuation

To close out the last week of 2022, FCEM&HS supported City of Columbus Public Safety and Code Enforcement as they made the difficult decision to evacuate two large housing units due to unsafe conditions as a result of multiple building issues (burst water pipes, non-operating elevators, ice covered stairwells).

To assist with this evacuation, the Central Ohio Transit Authority was engaged to provide bus service to a shelter set up by the Columbus Chapter of the American Red Cross. Additionally, leadership amongst the Franklin County Health and Human Services agencies was engaged regarding resident services and medium to long term housing needs.



Photo Courtesy - WBNS - TV

PLANNING

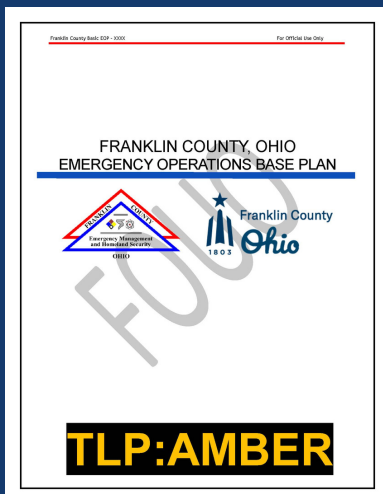
Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security develops, coordinates, and maintains over 60 local plans including the Franklin County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and all associated Emergency Support Functions and Annexes as well as other incident specific plans.

Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan



In 2022, FCEM&HS began working to update the Franklin County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The plan is mandated at the federal level for all local jurisdictions seeking federal mitigation funding and requires a complete update every five years. The plan will enable jurisdictions in Franklin County to create or update existing projects designed to reduce the impact of natural hazards on their communities. Examples include the installation of tornado sirens or safe rooms to reduce the loss of life or injury from tornadoes.

Franklin County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)



The Franklin County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was updated in 2022. The plan serves as the legally required all hazards emergency plan for all 42 jurisdictions within Franklin County.

The plan is in place for incidents that surpass the response capabilities of any jurisdiction and details how the county as a whole would coordinate large-scale incidents.

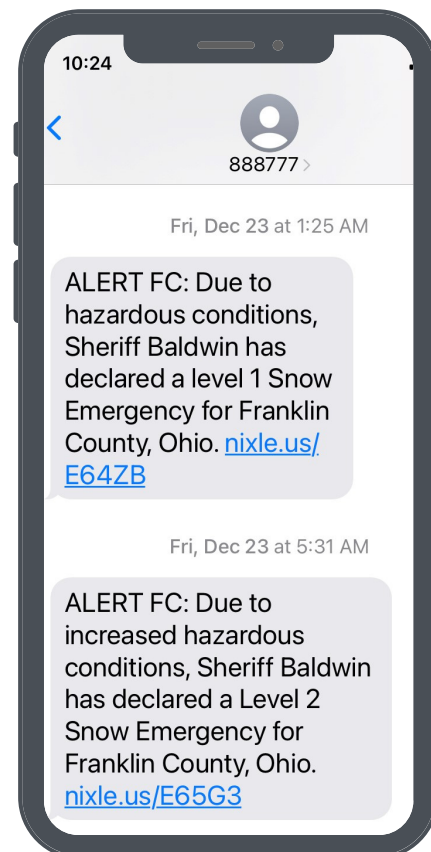
PLANNING

Franklin County Snow Emergency Media Workshop



In advance of Ohio's Winter Safety Awareness Week, November 13-19, 2022, FCEM&HS Director Jeff Young and members of the county's Snow Emergency Advisory Group hosted a media workshop to discuss snow emergency planning for the upcoming winter season. The workshop reviewed the snow emergency levels, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 and explained how the impact on businesses, government and schools plays a role in the decision-making process.

Sheriff Dallas Baldwin was joined by Franklin County Administrator Ken Wilson and representatives from the Franklin County Engineer's Office, the City of Columbus Department of Public Service, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and AEP Ohio who discussed their current procedures and how the agencies share information when winter weather may impact area roadways.



TRAINING/EXERCISES

FCEM&HS resumed hosting training classes in 2022 for emergency management professionals, first responders, public health professionals, volunteer organizations and other partners that help keep Franklin County safe.

In addition, FCEM&HS conducts and participates in various exercises to validate the community's readiness and response capabilities and evaluate current plans and procedures for response regardless of the threat or hazard. Staff members participated in exercises with the American Red Cross, NiSource, Buckeye Columbus Ohio Terminals, Central Regional Mass Fatality Northern and Urban Counties, Franklin County Board of Elections, and the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut Earthquake Drill.



Training by the Numbers



TRAINING/EXERCISES

Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council (CEPAC)



**Chemical Emergency
Preparedness
Advisory Council**

Franklin County's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is represented by the Chemical Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council (CEPAC).

LEPC Annual Exercise



Franklin County completed its annual Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) required exercise on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. This year's focus was to functionally exercise the Franklin County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), as well as test the ability to notify response and support agencies, evaluate resource management, ability to plan for population protective measures, and inform the public through emergency public information.

The scenario was timed to occur during Columbus' Red, White, and Boom fireworks show and involved a transport accident hauling hazardous materials to a local business. Bostik, Inc., the affected business, assisted on the design team and provided an immense help to the successful completion of the exercise. Emergency partners that participated included Franklin County and Columbus Public Health, Columbus Fire, Columbus Police, and the State Emergency Response Committee (SERC).

911/REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Franklin County's first responders depend on reliable communications systems to relay critical information in real-time during an incident. Today's wireless communications systems must support all types of response to hazards ranging from tornadoes to terrorism, requiring coordinated participation from agencies at all levels of government. Interoperability, or the ability for emergency responders to communicate among jurisdictions, disciplines, and levels of government, using a variety of frequency bands as needed and as authorized, is vital.

The Franklin County Regional Communications Program strives to ensure that neighboring jurisdictions and multiple disciplines can communicate with each other in times of an emergency, leading to a better response and safer communities.

Ohio TERT Hurricane Ian Response



In October, Members of the Ohio Telecommunicator Emergency Response Team (Ohio TERT) deployed to Lee County, Florida to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. The team deployed through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to assist with 911 dispatching responsibilities. Comprised of professional public safety emergency communications personnel from throughout the state.

During the 14-day deployment, Johanna Sells, Franklin County Communications Coordinator and OHIO APCO President joined emergency dispatch personnel from Champaign, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Stark, and Summit counties to assist local dispatchers who were exhausted, mentally stressed and/or may have suffered personal and physical losses from Hurricane Ian. The EMAC system enables states to provide state to state support through matching resources as they are available.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) works with agencies and jurisdictions throughout the county to coordinate information sharing, planning, training, and equipment needed for protecting Franklin County from acts of terrorism.

In 2022, FCEM&HS conducted multiple collaborative efforts with local agencies on numerous special events in Central Ohio. Staff provided operational support, situational awareness, information sharing for events including the Arnold Sports Festival, Columbus Pride, Red, White & Boom and many others.



FCEM&HS utilized the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) platform to ensure secure information & intelligence sharing situational awareness for ongoing public safety efforts.



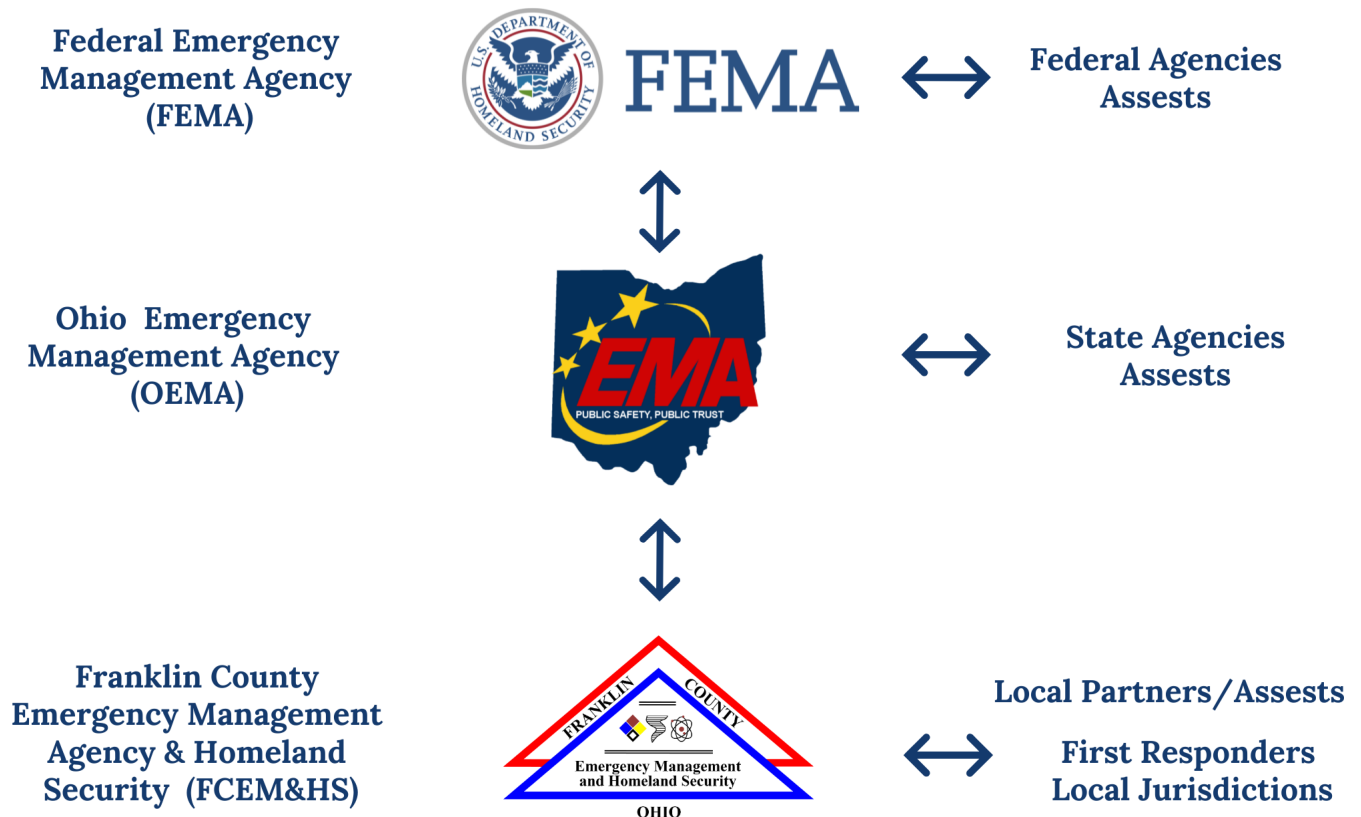
RESOURCES

The Resource Management Program is responsible for identifying, organizing and coordinating resource and logistical needs during a disaster or emergency in Franklin County. Through resource management planning efforts, FCEM&HS incorporates use of all available resources from all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

The program involves supply chain integrity and security which means ensuring that essential commodities continue to flow to Central Ohio by connecting to private sector distribution centers. Essential commodities are resources such as meals, water, tarps, generators, etc. that support the population until systems are restored.

In 2022, FCEM&HS updated the resource database with private sector contacts, locations, equipment, and supplies that could be potentially needed. Distribution centers were identified that provide critical resources to Central Ohio such as food and water.

Emergency Management Organization



RESOURCES

The COVID19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distribution warehouse officially closed in July 2022. This concluded two years of distribution services to protect the public and slow the spread of COVID19.

Franklin County Ohio Resource Request Program Including Test Kits (Pandemic)

THERE ARE NO COVID-19 TEST KITS AVAILABLE. THERE ARE NO ANTICIPATED DELIVERY OF TEST KITS FROM THE STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANYTIME SOON.

Resource requestors are required to pick up the requested PPE at the designated location specified in the directions provided in an e-mail to the point of contact picking up supplies. A date and time will also be provided to the POC picking up supplies. The POC is expected to pick up supplies at the scheduled date and time. The POC can communicate with the scheduler to arrange a different time until Thursday at noon before the scheduled Tuesday. This provides the warehouse the opportunity to pull your supplies from the distribution line or to rearrange the supplies to the designated time slot.

Completing a resource request implies the requestor has read all of this information and understands the process and the requestors expectations.

Any information submitted in this program is a public record.

COVID19 PPE Distribution

2022 Distribution Totals

441,100



VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

FCEM&HS relies heavily on volunteers before, during and after times of disaster. Both individual and established volunteer agencies offer a wealth of skills and resources. Volunteers are often among the first responders to offer assistance following a disaster and are critical partners in emergency management. They are invaluable to FCEM&HS and the entire Franklin County community.

Franklin County Community Emergency Response Team (FC CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is a nationally supported, locally implemented initiative that teaches people how to better prepare themselves for hazards that may affect their communities. FCEM&HS hosted a CERT Train-the-Trainer during September's National Preparedness Month. Members from CERT programs throughout the state came to become certified in teaching the National CERT Basic Training curriculum. The Franklin County CERT Program currently has 184 members ready to respond.



Volunteers In Public Safety Support (VIPSS)

VIPSS volunteers supported the 2022 Arnold Classic by being the "eyes and ears" supporting public safety with emphasis on "See Something, Say Something" activities. VIPSS has 66 members ready to assist our public safety forces.



VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&C MRC)



Franklin County and Columbus, Ohio

2022 saw the works of the FC&C Medical Reserve Corps transition away from pandemic-related missions and towards a general response framework. FCEM&HS hosted trainings in the spring and fall covering topics relating to emergency response in general as well as a focus on the Stop the Bleed program. There are 2,822 members in the Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps.

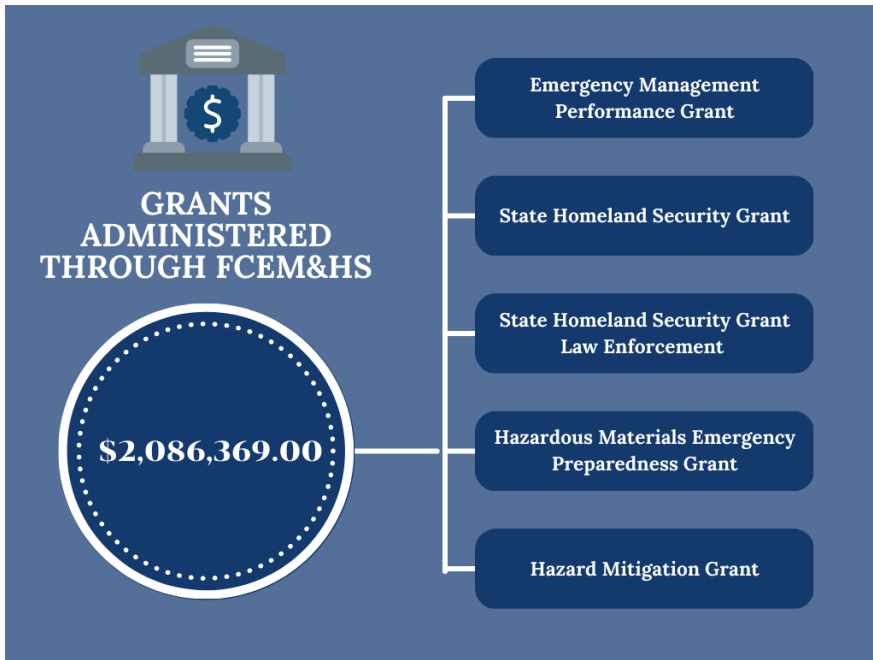


Franklin County Auxiliary Communications (FC AUXCOMM)

In 2022, FC AUXCOMM continued to build emergency communication capabilities with FCEM&HS. The organization worked with FCEM&HS to provide amateur radio training to new amateur radio volunteers.



GRANT FUNDING



FCEM&HS administers and distributes grant funding to Franklin County and Ohio Homeland Security Region 4 (HSR4). These non-disaster grants are awarded to improve local government's abilities to prevent, protect, respond, and recover from natural and man-made disasters. The funding is made available through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and awarded by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA).

In 2022, Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) purchased two structural collapse search camera systems for the Central Ohio Strike Team. The cameras will be used by team members to see and hear through small cracks, voids and holes found in collapsed buildings and improve rescue efforts.



The local Joint Hazard Assessment Team (JHAT) is responsible for safeguarding large scale events against terror attacks throughout the region. The Columbus Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU), a member of the JHAT team, is responsible for delivering extra equipment and needed a vehicle to transport the grant funded equipment throughout the region.

FCEM&HS purchased six additional trailer/barrier kits for Homeland Security Region 4 (HSR4). The barriers provide a way for public safety officials to secure vehicle access to large crowd soft target events roads or establish temporary road closures.

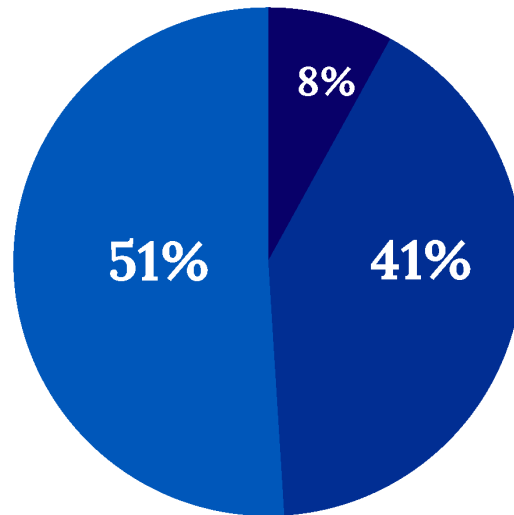


FISCAL

2022 Operations Fund

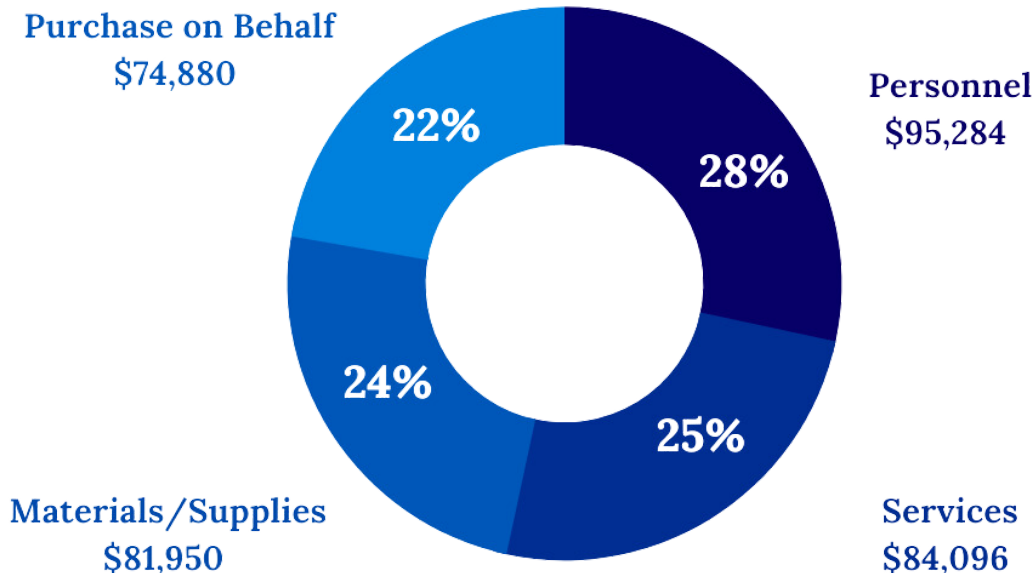
\$2,104,794

- **Personnel**
\$1,069,296
- **Services**
\$856,698
- **Materials/Supplies**
\$178,800



2022 Warning Fund

\$336,210





Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

