



HIGHLAND COUNTY
OFFICE
OF
HOMELAND SECURITY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
1487 North High Street, Suite 600
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

James A. Lyle, Director

937-393-5880
937-393-2655 – Fax
jlyle@co.highland.oh.us

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In accordance with Federal Emergency Management Directives a meeting was held to discuss the Natural Disaster Mitigation Planning for Highland County. A power point presentation was reviewed and will be uploaded to the EMA website at www.highlandcountyema.org

Discussion is outlined below:

- Private back-up for fuel in an emergency will be determined and will be added to the Resource Manual. This will be uploaded to the EMA website.
- Mapping of disabled community is being done. Challenges continue to be low response and keeping this information up-to-date. Will work with contacts at HDH to determine best strategy for improved response.
- Amish community families are being mapped out with volunteers, including Cheryl Lyle and Susie Miller. GIS can map out this area along with the disabled community.
- While earthquakes were rated lower as far as risk, the group discussed the fact that if an earthquake does occur, it would be devastating to the community. Insurance can be purchased, but recovery would be long-term and crippling to the economy.
- Flood insurance cannot be purchased by landowners because the county is not a member of the 100-year flood plain insured group, as decided by the county.
- Mapping of all bridges and culverts and Class I and II dams within the county is complete. Townships are not included.
- Dry hydrant locations are not currently mapped, but can be planned for.
- Storm Spotter classes can be conducted in the future to assist with notifications, however, a lot of discussion is underway regarding the protocol during severe storms/tornadic activity. Most communities are in agreement to sound the sirens if there is the obvious tornado warning, but also a T-storm warning and multiple sightings by callers in the area.
- All present agreed that a posting to the community regarding the tornado sirens and what each signal means should be done. i.e. the 3 minute blowing of the siren signals the “seek shelter warning” while an “all clear” is a 1 minute blowing of the siren afterwards.
- Additional sirens can be purchased for improved early warnings, although these are meant for outdoor warnings and they don’t always help during indoor activities, therefore it was noted that getting the public involved in the purchase of NOAA radios is necessary.
- The GIS office can map the radius of the sirens to help with the placement of any additional sirens in the community of Hillsboro.
- Any future planning meetings will be sent out on the web site, by emails and phone calls.
- Community leadership involvement is low, however, the EMA office would like to plan for person-to-person contact with each community leader to help strengthen the planning process. Ideas for improving community outreach will be presented to the Board of Directors at the next meeting.