

2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

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Warren County Emergency  
Management Agency



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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

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I'm excited to share with you the Warren County Emergency Management Agency 2024 Annual Report. This report is an overview, highlighting what our agency has accomplished over the past year.

As the Director of the Warren County Emergency Services Department my time is divided between EMA & 911 Communications. The number of accomplishments by our EMA department has been amazing. Sydney Renner, EMA Operations Manager oversees the day-to-day operations. Frances Ficke is our LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) & Grants Coordinator, and Matthew Mumma is our EMA Specialist.

We focused on completing several projects this year and were very successful. Just to name a couple are **10** of the Emergency Support Functions for the County's Emergency Operations Center and the *Animal Response Plan*. These projects took a better part of the year, because of a change in personnel and legal reviews for the corresponding MOUs. These will play a large roll in **2025** when we begin EOC staff training. Additionally, the *Citizen Preparedness Newsletter* was created, and this was sent out bimonthly.

We had some very busy weather months where we experienced **5** confirmed tornados on **May 7th** and another confirmed tornado on **July 30th**. Damage Assessments were performed by EMA. The citizens effected were able to get help removing debris and down trees from volunteers coordinated by our department.

**2025** will be another year of collaborating with partners, educating the community and teaching those who will be staffing positions in our EOC. We will be updating the county *Hazard Mitigation Plan*, which is done every **5** years. This is done in house and there will be **3** community meetings which everyone will be encouraged to attend and participate.

Melissa Bour, Director  
Warren County Emergency Services  
*servng Warren County since 2000*

# MISSION & AUTHORITY

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## Mission

The mission of Warren County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is to support our citizens, strengthen our communities, and promote a culture of preparedness in Warren County by providing a comprehensive emergency management program that prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates against natural and man-made emergencies and disasters.



## Authority

Warren County EMA, in accordance with Chapter 5502 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), is a county-wide emergency management program that coordinates all-hazards emergency management and disaster preparedness functions for the **24** jurisdictions of Warren County.

## Jurisdictions Supported

- Village of Butlerville
- City of Carlisle
- Clearcreek Township
- Village of Corwin
- Deerfield Township
- City of Franklin
- Franklin Township
- Hamilton Township
- Harlan Township
- Village of Harveysburg
- City of Lebanon
- Village of Maineville
- City of Mason
- Massie Township
- Village of Morrow
- Village of Pleasant Plain
- Salem Township
- Village of South Lebanon
- City of Springboro
- Turtlecreek Township
- Union Township
- Washington Township
- Wayne Township
- Village of Waynesville

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



**WARREN COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS**



**WARREN COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR**  
Martin Russell



**WARREN COUNTY EMERGENCY  
SERVICES DIRECTOR**  
Melissa Bour



**EMA OPERATIONS  
MANAGER**  
Sydney Renner



**LEPC/GRANTS  
COORDINATOR**  
Frances Ficke



**EMA SPECIALIST**  
Matthew Mumma

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The purpose of Emergency Management is to minimize the effects upon the civilian population from any natural or man-made disasters through the five phases of emergency management: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. All Warren County EMA functions are derived from these phases.

For Warren County EMA, most day-to-day operations focus on preparedness, planning, and mitigation efforts as these are crucial elements in order to respond and recover during an event. To verify efforts are effective, Warren County EMA along with a committee of community stakeholders, performed a hazard identification and risk assessment to determine the hazards most likely to impact Warren County. Below is the current list of hazards identified for Warren County:



**Wind/Severe Storm**



**Dam Failure**



**Floods**



**Extreme Temperatures**



**Tornadoes**



**Earthquakes**



**Hazmat Incidents**



**Landslides**



**Winter Storms**



**Drought**



**Man-Made/Terrorism Events**



**Infectious Disease Outbreak**



**Invasive Species**



**Wildfires**

# PLANNING

Emergency management planning consists of coordinating, writing, disseminating, and maintaining plans related to emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

At the County-level, Warren County EMA maintains the Warren County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), incident-specific and functional annexes as well as the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) annexes, using a risk-based all-hazards approach. Additionally, Warren County EMA also provides technical assistance to community and partner agency planning efforts.

In **2024**, Warren County EMA worked with over **30** public safety partners and subject matter experts to update/review planning efforts. A few are listed below:

- *Warren County Fire Chief's Mass Casualty Incident Plan*
- *Warren County EOP Animal Response Annex*
- **10** Emergency Support Functions
- *Warren County Hazardous Materials Response Plan*
- **13** School Safety Plans

Warren County EMA also worked with multiple local businesses and organizations to strengthen their emergency plans.

Additionally, Warren County EMA took part in preparing for multiple pre-planned events, including the **April 8th Total Solar Eclipse** and the **2024 Presidential Election**.



## Regional Planning Collaboration



The Southwest Ohio counties often collaborate on planning efforts. These collaboration efforts are key in ensuring that emergency response plans are consistent, incorporate best practices, and don't conflict with our neighboring jurisdictions.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A key component of Warren County EMA's mission is to promote a culture of preparedness throughout the County. This is accomplished through public information and outreach activities all year long. Warren County EMA staff stay busy with speaking engagements, relationship-building with stakeholders, publishing newsletters and preparedness guides, and disseminating emergency management information via press releases, social media, and attendance at community events. Below are a few highlights from **2024**.



Warren County EMA maintains a social media presence and regularly posts on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). In **2024**, Warren County EMA's social media engagement results are as follows:



**273,176**

Total impressions from Warren County EMA social media posts!

**X** **87,130** Impressions  
**2,547** Followers

**f** **186,046** Impressions  
**6,954** Followers



# TRAINING

Warren County EMA coordinates training opportunities throughout the year for local officials, public safety agencies, and other emergency management partners. Training is essential to emergency preparedness as it ensures personnel have the knowledge and skills to do their job.

In **2024**, Warren County EMA hosted **11** formal courses with a total of **253** attendees. A few of these included:

**The NWS Weather  
Spotter Training**

**OH289 Public  
Information Basics**

**MGT466 Sport & Special  
Events Risk Management**

**OH386 Mass Fatality  
Incidents**

**G300 Intermediate Incident  
Command Systems**

**G400 Advanced Incident  
Command Systems**

In addition to the formal trainings, EMA staff developed training guides, and presented at a variety of staff trainings and meetings throughout the County.



## Staff Training

Warren County EMA staff also had a productive year for continuing education. Over **216** training hours were accumulated through webinars, seminars, conferences, and courses. This training ensures that the team is current with emerging trends as well as fortifying essential knowledge, skills, and abilities in emergency management.

Shout out to EMA Operations Manager Sydney Renner who earned her Ohio Certified Emergency Manager, and LEPC/Grants Coordinator Frances Ficke for completing the Hazmat Research Specialist Certification!



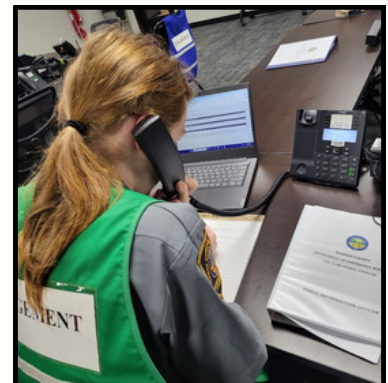
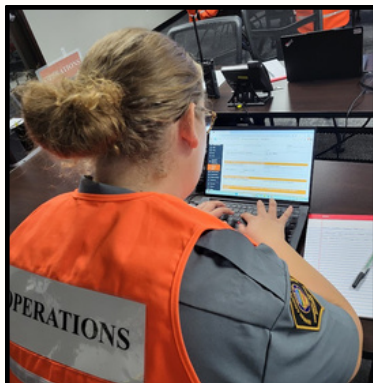
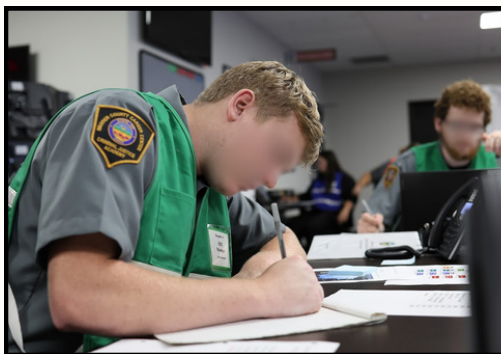
# EXERCISES

Exercises are an important part of the planning process in emergency management. After a plan is developed, the plan must be tested or exercised. Exercising plans enhance knowledge, allow staff to improve their own performance, and identify opportunities to improve capabilities to respond to emergencies and disasters.

In **2024**, Warren County EMA staff developed, facilitated, and participated in a total of **35** exercises. This included tabletop, functional and full-scale exercises with local businesses and schools, as well as county, regional and state partners.

## Warren County Career Center

Warren County EMA partnered with the Warren County Career Center's Criminal Justice Program again in **2024** to introduce students to the emergency management field and exercises. This partnership resulted in the class creating the school's state-required, annual exercise. The **14** students wrapped up the program by performing a functional exercise of the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This partnership gives students real-world experience, and help the EMA test their EOC plans.



# LEPC

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is the coordinated planning group comprised of individuals from industry and government that have knowledge and awareness of hazardous materials incident planning and response. It is mandated by the *Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986* as well as section 3750.03 of the *Ohio Revised Code (ORC)*.

The Warren County LEPC is funded by the State of Ohio LEPC Grant Program and has **22** members that met on a triannual basis in **2024**.

Warren County LEPC strives to:

- Increase awareness in the community about the presence of hazardous chemicals and releases in the environment.
- Provide a vital link between citizens, government, and industry professionals.
- Assist communities with the development of emergency action plans.
- Maintain/Administer Tier II information.
- Participate in public/private entity drills and exercises.

Warren County completed its annual LEPC required exercise on **Wednesday, March 13th, 2024**. This year's focus was the response to a chemical release at a local facility, as well as test the ability to coordinate with incident command, evaluate sheltering capabilities, assess response personnel safety and assess communications operability.

## 2024 LEPC Stats



Held Tabletop Exercise with over **35** Participants



Received **178** Tier II Reports



Performed **1** Site Visit



Received **6** Reports for Spills & Releases Requiring Follow Up

# OPERATIONS

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Emergency Management Operations include maintaining the County Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) in a state of readiness, resource coordination, damage assessments, and providing on-scene assistance during emergencies such as incident command assistance, when requested.

Although County-level assistance is not typically needed for routine incidents, if requested, Warren County EMA staff are available and able to assist communities regardless of the size or scope of an event. Once activated, the Warren County EOC can request state resources from Ohio EMA, if the County's capabilities are exceeded, and Ohio EMA can request federal resources from FEMA.



## Emergency Operations Center

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The Warren County EOC provides an off-scene, central location for interagency and inter-jurisdictional coordination as well as executive decision making to better manage disaster response and recovery in the County. The Warren County EOC is designed to foster effective communication, build situational awareness, and establish a common operating picture for all involved in the incident response.

In **2024**, Warren County EMA staff completed quarterly drills of the EOC. These drills allowed for the routine check of EOC equipment, ensuring that it is functional and ready to be used at a moment's notice in the event of an activation. Additionally, these quarterly drills maintain EMA staff's ability to prepare the room quickly and efficiently for activation.

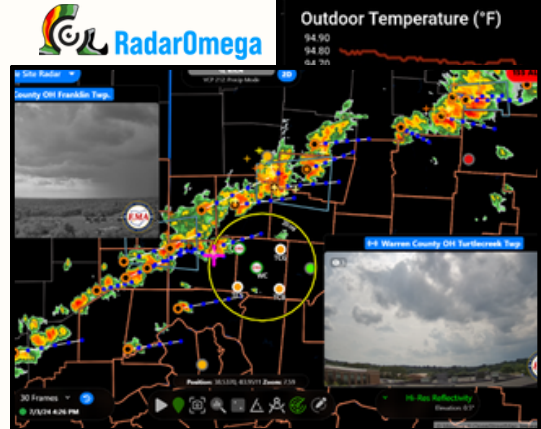
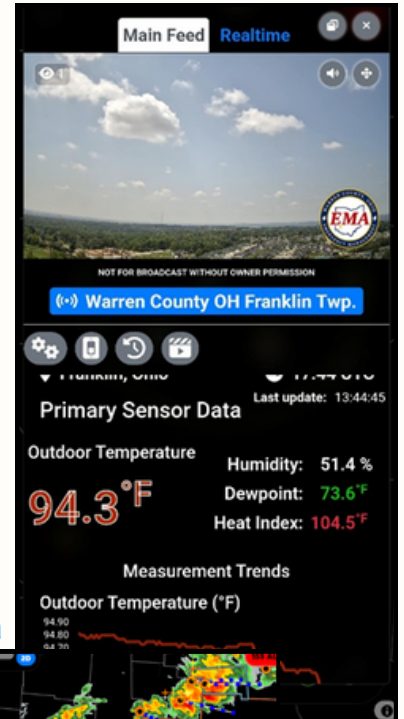
Warren County EMA staff also continued to customize, implement, and test the County's virtual EOC platform; D4H Incident Management. This virtual platform undergoes regular testing by EMA staff to ensure individuals are well versed in using the system, and the platform continues to be effective and meet the needs of Warren County.

# SEVERE WEATHER REPORT

Warren County EMA becomes very active during severe weather events that impact the County/southwest Ohio region. Throughout **2024**, Warren County EMA coordinated with the National Weather Service (NWS) in Wilmington, OH to provide pertinent weather information to partner organizations and the public.

To aid with weather monitoring and being able to share key information to the public and partners, Warren County installed **5** new weather stations throughout the county and implemented the **RadarOmega** platform! These weather stations in conjunction with the **RadarOmega** platform, allows the EMA team to have live camera feed footage of the area, pull real time weather data, as well as see on-going watches/warning and power outage data. These stations have been valuable in multiple severe weather events throughout **2024**. **THANK YOU** to Warren County Telecommunications, as they played a huge role in implementing this project!

Partner organizations and the public are also able to utilize the weather stations if they have the **RadarOmega** platform! Since being installed this year, the weather stations and **RadarOmega** have been utilized by our jurisdictions during multiple outdoor events and festivals.



## 2024 By the Numbers

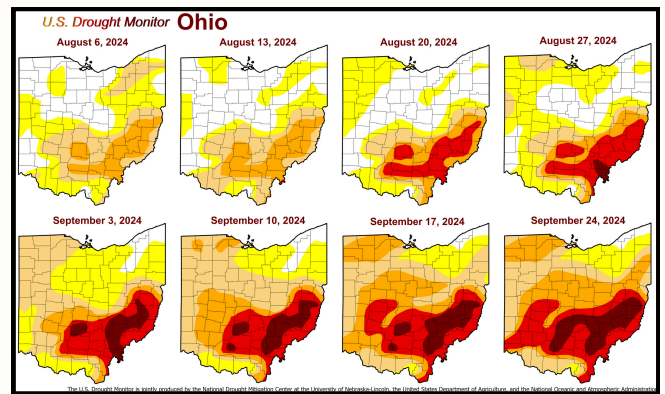
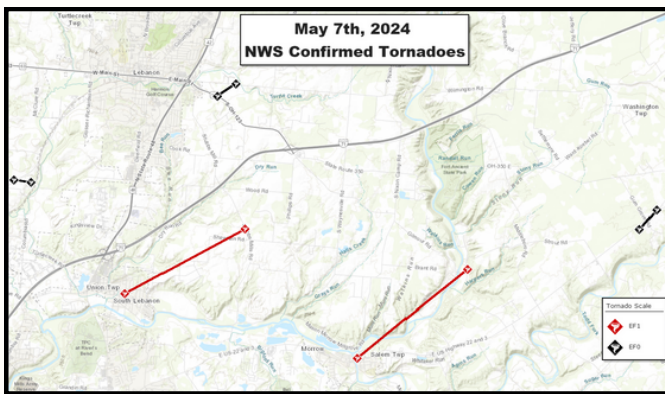


# SEVERE WEATHER REPORT

Warren County was impacted by many severe weather events this year, including **6** Tornadoes and a Drought!

On **May 7th**, Warren County experienced **5** tornadoes within a **30** minute time span! Then on **July 30th**, another tornado hit the county in the early morning hours. In both occasions, EMA staff performed damage assessments and worked with local, state and regional partners to help those impacted. Warren County EMA connected those impacted with available resources, including bringing in American Regulators, a disaster relief organization, to come help with debris clean up. American Regulators assisted **27** families with debris clean up and tarping roofs.

In **September**, Warren County was **1 of 10** Ohio counties with a primary disaster designation issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) due to drought conditions. Warren County EMA worked with partners to monitor conditions, share information about burn bans, and provide aid where able.



Blanchester, Ohio (Warren County - Clinton County)  
EF1 Tornado Recovery 7/30/2024

**1633** VOLUNTEER HOURS TO COMMUNITY  
**27** FAMILIES HELPED  
SAVED THE COMMUNITY **\$400,000**



# A YEAR IN PHOTOS



Maintenance on EMA River Gauges



Kings Island Mass Causality Exercise



FEMA Region 5 Round Table



July 30th Tornado Damage Assessment



Visit to NWS with Telecom & AuxComm Partners



May 7th Tornadoes Damage Assessment



LEPC Tabletop Exercise



Spill Report Follow Up for Oil Sheen (rainbow)



Damage Assessment with EMA's Intern on July 30th



Ohio Cohort at the IAEM Annual Conference



Evaluating the Clinton County LEPC Exercise



Hosting the PER229 Intro to CAMEO Course



County EMA Directors from Across Ohio



Evaluating Greene County's Exercise with Other Regional EMA Partners



Receiving the Ohio Certified Emergency Manager (OCEM)

# CONNECT WITH US!

 @WCEMAOhio

 @Warren County EMA

