



# Cuyahoga County Community Organizations Active in Disaster

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## COAD Connect #10 February 28, 2018

### 1. Administration

- a. All current members renewed their membership for 2018, and we have three new members: Geauga County Disaster Services (EMA), Hospice of the Western Reserve, and Strongsville Fire Department.

### 2. Preparedness Committee

- a. *Training & Exercises*
  - Work continues on the workshops for Faith-Based Organizations (see FBO Subcommittee).
  - OH197 OH-197 *Planning for Individuals with Access and Functional Needs in Disaster* will be held at Mayfield Heights Fire Department on May 16-17 (see flyer).
  - SKYWARN, which will train individuals to observe and report weather conditions, will be held at Independence Civic Center on April 19 (see flyer).
  - *Tornado Awareness* will be held on April 26 at the American Red Cross (see flyer).
  - COAD is participating in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercise on August 14-15 at Burke Lakefront Airport. NDMS is a federal process to evacuate disaster survivors to cities where they receive medical care that is unavailable in the disaster-affected area. Cleveland is an evacuation city because of its wealth of medical facilities. COAD will be testing its Volunteer Registration Center plan. We will need 130 volunteers to act as patients and to perform NDMS tasks. Stand by for more information.

### 3. Mass Care Committee

- a. Nothing pending

### 4. Emergency Assistance Committee

- a. *Evacuation and Re-entry*
  - Waiting for an instructor to become available in 2018 for the *Evacuation and Re-entry Planning* course.
- b. *Repatriation*
  - Waiting for the State to complete its repatriation plan, so Cuyahoga County can develop a consistent plan and COAD can determine its role.



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c. *Functional Needs Subcommittee*

- The *OH-197 Planning for Individuals with Access and Functional Needs in Disaster* course will be held in Cuyahoga County in May (see flyer).

d. *Animals Subcommittee*

- As yet there has been no response to our request for volunteer veterinarians to work with the Animal Decontamination Group.
- The Animals Subcommittee will continue to identify organizations to fill roles and responsibilities that were identified in the Animals in Disaster Plan. The Subcommittee will need to develop its public awareness campaign, which will inform the public about pet preparedness and sheltering. Date of the next meeting is to be determined.
- In 2018 the Animals Subcommittee will be developing its pet sheltering process.

e. *Faith-Based Organizations Subcommittee*

- FBO Objectives:
  - Prepare congregants for disasters.
  - Plan for the continued operation of the organization.
  - Enhance security at houses of worship.
  - Extend everyday ministries to disaster situations within the congregation and in the community.
  - Implement security measures at the house of worship.
  - Network and coordinate with other FBOs, community organizations, and local government.
  - Connect with the national/state/regional disaster response group within the faith.
  - Learn emergency management principles and operate within the emergency management system.
  - Receive planning guidelines, training, resources, and technical assistance.
- The attendees determined that a series of workshops covering planning steps for each objective would be helpful. The tentative plan is to provide workshops in four geographical areas (e.g., northwest, northeast, southwest, southeast) with some workshops during the day and others on an evening/weekend. Design of these workshops is in progress. Input from interested parties will be requested after basic outlines are created.
- The Subcommittee will need to find a way to reach individual FBOs.
- Geauga County EMA has expressed an interest in joining the program, so COAD will extend an invitation to the other counties in Ohio Region 2 (Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, and



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Ashtabula). Other counties, such as Medina and Summit, are welcome. All counties would have input into the program/workshops and would implement them in their county according to what works best for them.

f. *Volunteers Subcommittee*

- The Volunteers Subcommittee will launch in early 2018. The Subcommittee objectives will be to network organizations that can provide or will need volunteers for a disaster response; integrate voluntary organizations into the county emergency management system; plan for the operation of a Volunteer Registration Center; credential volunteers according to FEMA guidelines; and provide training.
- The Subcommittee will be engaged in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercise in August 2018 (see Training and Exercises above).

**5. Human Services Committee**

- a. Planning for a long-term recovery group will need to begin in 2018. This will be an extensive project that will require the collaboration of many organizations. There are four models long-term recovery groups from least formal to most formal: (1) Unmet Needs Committee; (2) Long-Term Recovery Committee; (3) Long-Term Recovery Organization; and (4) Community Coalition for Recovery. We will focus on the first two models because they are the one most likely to be needed in our area. We will be examining the roles of governmental and non-governmental organizations and integrating them into a case management system. We will be following the FEMA and VOAD models.
- b. COAD has requested a meeting with the leadership of the County's human services agencies to explain the importance of their participation in COAD's Recovery Program. A reply has not been received yet.