



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**Warren County Emergency
Management Agency**

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From the Director

On behalf of the Warren County Emergency Services Department, we present to you the Warren County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) 2023 Annual Report. This report is a very broad overview of all the hard work and dedication that our EMA contributed to this year.

2023 was a year of reorganization for the EMA as we experienced staffing changes, aging equipment, and emerging threats throughout the County. Our staff's ability to adapt to change and the passion for the needs of the community far surpass my expectations daily.

We focused on completing and updating plans, community outreach and collaborating on all projects. Not only did we collaborate on our internal projects, but on those of partners as well, such as with local schools and the Warren County Telecommunications Department to name a couple.

This year's annual report will highlight many of the efforts we undertook as a team, including the number of hosted training courses, school functions attended, school plans reviewed, presence at community events, required reports of hazardous materials, and severe weather conditions in our county.

I am excited for 2024 and the challenges it will bring. Our staff will continue to support, collaborate, and coordinate with all our county stakeholders.



Melissa Bour, Director
Warren County Emergency Services
servicing Warren County since 2000



Mission & Authority

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.

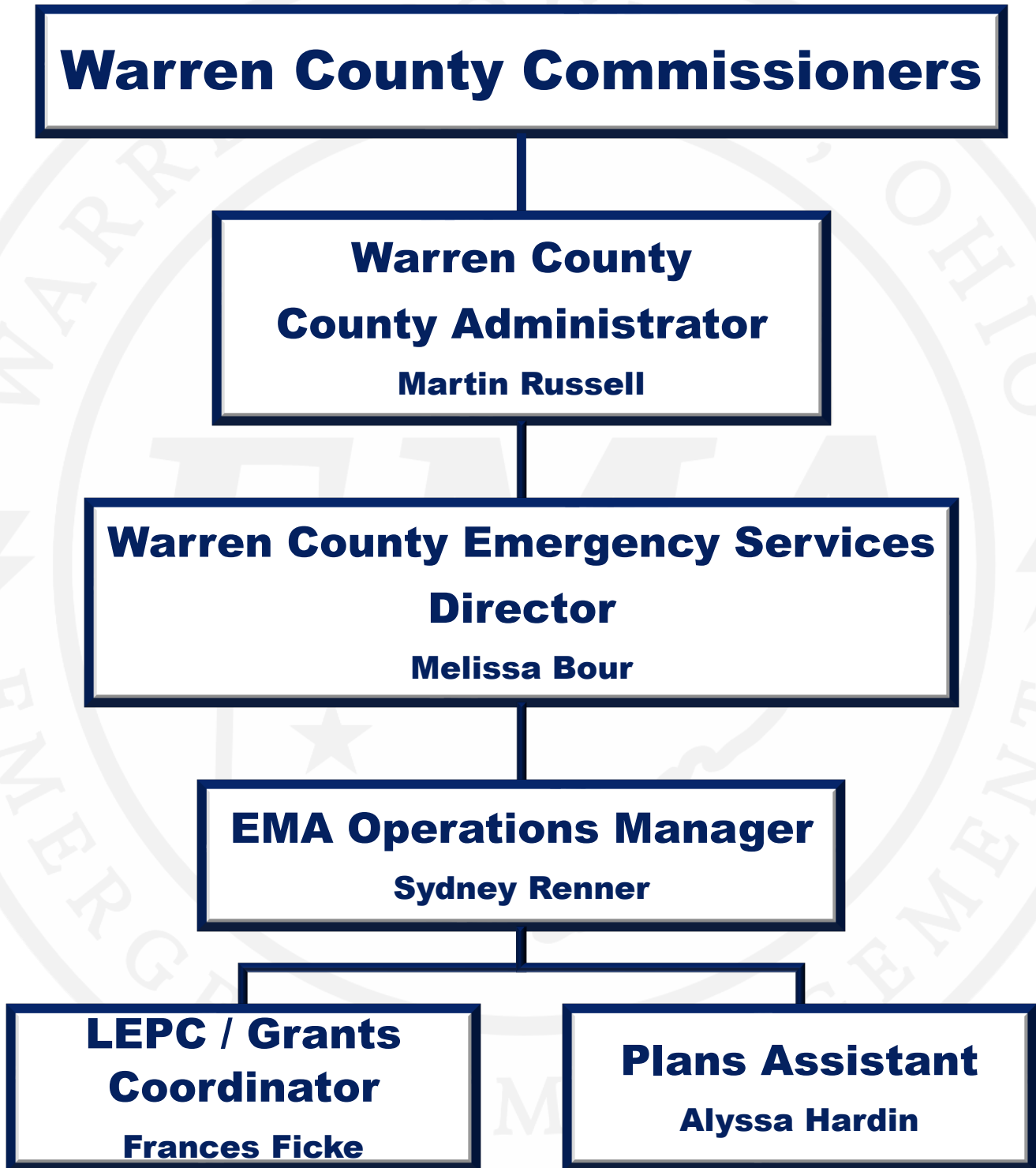
Authority

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 Twp.	Village of Corwin	Deerfield Twp.
City of Franklin	Franklin Twp.	Hamilton Twp.	Harlan Twp.	Village of Harveysburg
City of Lebanon	Village of Maineville	City of Mason	Massie Twp.	Village of Morrow
Village of Pleasant Plain	Salem Twp.	Village of South Lebanon	City of Springboro	Turtlecreek Twp.
Union Twp.	Washington Twp.	Wayne Twp.	Village of Waynesville	

Organizational Chart



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 Storms**
- **Floods**
- **Tornadoes**
- **Hazmat Incidents**
- **Winter Storms**
- **Man-Made / Terrorism Events**
- **Invasive Species**
- **Dam Failures**
- **Extreme Temperatures**
- **Earthquakes**
- **Landslides**
- **Drought**
- **Infectious Disease Outbreaks**
- **Wildfires**

If, and when, an emergency or disaster event occurs that exceeds the local jurisdiction's response capabilities, that jurisdiction can request Warren County EMA to activate the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to assist with resource coordination. The Warren County EOC can also request state resources from Ohio EMA, if the County's capabilities are exceeded, and Ohio EMA can request federal resources from FEMA.

Warren County Emergency
Management Agency



Ohio Emergency
Management Agency



Federal Emergency
Management Agency



FEMA

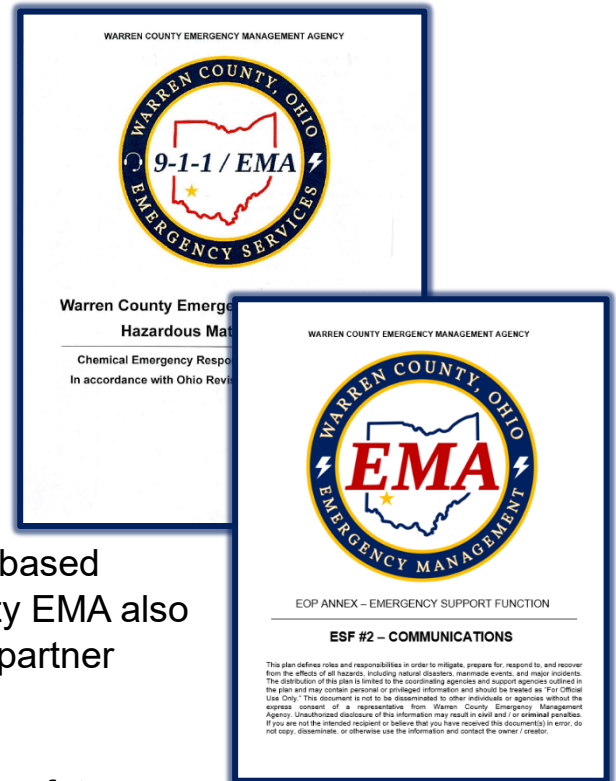
Planning

Emergency management planning consists of 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 2023, Warren County EMA worked with public safety partners and subject matter experts to update and / or review planning efforts. A few are listed below:

- The *Hazardous Materials Response Plan*
- 9 Emergency Support Functions
- *Continuity of Operations Planning Template & Worksheets*
- 21 School Safety Plans
- Animal Disaster Response Planning



Regional Planning Collaboration

The Southwest Ohio counties collaborate often 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.

Additionally, Warren County participates in the collaborative effort to compile the region's *Training and Exercise Plan*. Taking a regional approach to training and exercises eliminates duplications and ensures that course offerings are geographically dispersed.



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 this past year.



National Night Out

Over 300+ individuals received preparedness information.



Safety Week

Discussed tornado & fire safety with over 1,000 students.



Boy Scout Camporee

Assisted 100+ scouts earn their Emergency Preparedness Badge.

Have You Met #MitigationMurphy?

#MitigationMurphy is Warren County EMA's mascot. Murphy's main role is to assist with public education efforts via social media and community events.

Throughout the year, when he's not at a community event, Murphy shares safety tips on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter), such as having an emergency kit ready or cooking safety around Thanksgiving. Additionally, Murphy will inform people of available preparedness resources like the *Warren County Citizen's Preparedness Guides*. These posts can be found with the hashtag #MitigationMurphy.



In 2023

5,752 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

2,447 X (FORMERLY TWITTER) 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 2023, Warren County EMA hosted **5** formal courses with a total of **150** attendees. These included:

- The NWS Weather Spotter Training
- G194.4 Preparing for Post Disaster Responsibilities
- OH139 Exercise Design and Evaluation
- 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. This included the *Chief's Guide to EMA*, Continuity of Operations, eclipse planning, and general emergency preparedness.

Staff Training

Warren County EMA staff also had a productive year for continuing education. Over **450** 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.

In showing that learning never stops, EMA Operations Manager Sydney Renner and Plans Assistant Alyssa Hardin were each recognized for obtaining certifications in emergency management. EMA Operations Manager Sydney Renner attained the FEMA Basic Academy Certification. Plans Assistant Alyssa Hardin completed the FEMA Advanced Professional Series.



Exercises

Exercises are an important part of the planning process in emergency management. Warren County EMA works with all of its partner agencies to develop plans to mitigate the various hazards that could impact the county and its residents. Equally as important as having a plan is testing the plan. Exercising plans enhance knowledge, allow staff to improve their own performance, and identify opportunities to improve capabilities to respond to emergencies and disasters.

In 2023, 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 Exercise Partnership

For the 2nd year in a row, Warren County EMA partnered with the Warren County Career Center’s Criminal Justice Program. EMA staff introduced seniors in the program to the emergency management field, what are exercises, and how to develop tabletop and functional exercises. This partnership resulted in the class creating the school’s annual exercise, which is required by the state. Wrapping up this year’s partnership, the class visited the EMA offices, toured the Communications Center, and performed a functional exercise of the emergency operations center (EOC).



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 **23** members that met on a triannual basis in 2023.



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, April 12th, 2023. This year's focus was to functionally exercise the Warren County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), as well as test the ability to coordinate with incident command, evaluate resource management, assess communications operability, and collaborate with hospital services.

In 2023

UPDATED THE COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE PLAN

HELD FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE WITH OVER 20 PARTICIPANTS

RECEIVED 173 TIER II REPORTS

CONDUCTED HAZARD ANALYSIS OF ALL TIER II FACILITIES

Operations

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 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.

Emergency Operations Center

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 2023, 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 2023, Warren County EMA coordinated with the National Weather Service (NWS) in Wilmington, Ohio to provide pertinent weather information to partner organizations and the public.

Additionally, Warren County EMA attended the NWS Open House and the NWS Integrated Warning Team Workshop in 2023. These events ensure EMA staff are knowledgeable regarding weather forecasting, weather trends, as well as provide an opportunity for partners to collaborate on weather warning initiatives.



During severe weather events, the Warren County EMA staff member on-call will monitor conditions and perform a partial activation of the emergency operations center (EOC) anytime a watch or warning is issued by NWS. This is to maintain situational awareness, and a level of readiness in case the weather event would evolve into something requiring a response, such as damage assessments or sheltering.

2023 By the Numbers



CONNECT WITH US!



@Warren County EMA



@WCEMAOhio

