



NOVEMBER 2022

VOLUME 1

EMAO strives to advance public safety for Ohioans through effective collaborations with local, state and federal partners.

EMAO

NEWSLETTER



A Message from your Incoming President...

I would like to thank the members of the Emergency Management Association of Ohio (EMAO) for entrusting me with the office of president of the association. It is truly an honor and I do not take your trust lightly. Thanks to my predecessors and all of you, combined you have made this an organization to be proud of.

Professional organizations such as ours are very important to the success of our profession. It helps to provide a unified voice to laws, regulations and best practices for the betterment of emergency management. The more members and engagement we have it lends credence to our message. In all my trips to the statehouse and Washington DC, the one thing I have learned is there are many organizations vying for our funds and to move their agenda forward which may not align with our needs or goals. If your organization is not seen or heard, I promise you it won't be recognized to get the funds or legislation needed.

For me personally I have found professional organizations to help my development and hone my professional skills. I have learned something valuable from everyone I have met. Hopefully I have been able to help others as well from my past experiences both good and bad.

An organization is only as strong as it's members. EMAO has more than enough room on all our committees for everyone to participate. It is a great way to meet new people and learn from them as well as helping others. Most meetings are held virtually so you do not need to spend a day traveling and if you have a conflict for a meeting, no worries we can't make all of them.

To help promote EMAO the Publications Committee is trying to increase our Facebook for general information and LinkedIn for professional content. Please use the links on the EMAO website to get the Publications Committee your information to help promote emergency management in Ohio.

Thank you for all your hard work and I look forward to a great year for all of us!



-Jeff Klein (Wood County)

SPACE WEATHER

By Alex McCarthy

Every twelve years, sunspot activity on the sun peaks, and solar flares become more common. Our next peak in the solar cycle is predicted to be in 2025, and the daily sunspot counts are already exceeding forecasts put out by NASA before this cycle began. While sunspots do not cause solar flares, the erratic magnetic fields that cause sunspots are also responsible for causing solar flares. The more sunspots there are at any given time, and the more complex these sunspots are, the greater the chance for a solar flare to occur. Whenever a solar flare does occur, there are three consecutive impacts to earth that emergency managers should be aware of:

Radio Blackouts

When a solar flare occurs, electromagnetic radiation in the form of x-rays will head towards Earth at the speed of light. When they reach Earth, these x-rays will ionize the ionosphere, changing the consistency of the lowest level of the ionosphere. This will cause high frequency radio waves from communications equipment to either lose energy or be lost completely until the solar flare subsides over a period of an hour or so.

Solar Radiation Storms

Shortly after the coronal mass ejection, solar radiation in the form of energetic protons will reach the earth system. This can pose a health risk to astronauts conducting missions in space, and can also damage circuitry and equipment on satellites and space stations. Most of the time, these pose little to no impact for humans or equipment on the Earth's surface. Nevertheless, during intense solar radiation storms, airplanes may need to be diverted around high-latitude locations where passengers and crew may be exposed to elevated levels of radiation.

Geomagnetic Storms

The most well-known impact from a solar flare is the geomagnetic storm, which manifests itself as the Aurora Borealis. Days after the solar flare occurs, plasma gas ejected by the solar flare reaches earth and interacts with the magnetic field around the planet. The charged particles within the plasma gas will ride along the magnetic field lines and be propelled towards the north or south poles. As these charged particles go through the ionosphere, they will ionize oxygen, nitrogen, and helium gas creating colorful displays. In addition to causing the northern lights, these geomagnetic storms can also cause electrical disruptions on Earth's surface. These can range from mild to extreme, sometimes causing regional power outages if they cause a strong current within the electrical infrastructure.

Much like how the National Weather Service forecasts storms, the Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado monitors solar activity and will put out advisories and warnings when solar flares have occurred and are likely to cause any of the three aforementioned space weather events. For more information, check out their website at <https://www.swopc.noaa.gov/>.

Alex will be delivering an in-depth presentation on Space Weather at the EMAO Winter Conference this year. Make sure you come and check it out.

Meet Your New PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

- Garrett Blevins
- John Hickey
- Erin Konecki
- Jeff Klein
- Mark Maxwell
- Joe Villegas





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A message from your Outgoing President Mark Maxwell

It has been an honor to serve as President of EMAO this past year. I am truly humbled that you all put your trust in me to lead this organization. I believe that our association is strong and getting stronger. This year the association has a record number of members!

While COVID has certainly made our real jobs more challenging, the association has continued to move forward. Our Education Committee continues to provide excellent training opportunities from webinars to our tremendously successful Winter Conference. (If you haven't registered yet, do so!) We have worked hard over the last year to communicate all the different things our association is doing to support the emergency management profession in Ohio. Our Publications Committee has gone through a refresh and is moving forward with new and exciting things to promote the association as well as our profession and keep the membership informed.

We have begun quarterly committee chairs meetings, where each committee provides an update of their activities over the past quarter. This gives us the opportunity to seek ways committees can work together to support the association's goals as well as look for those issues the association should look to address. The association is currently looking at developing a committee to address the National Qualification System and the qualification process as a result of these meetings.

I have said it repeatedly over the past year but I believe it bears repeating. Our association is only as strong as you, each individual member, make it. It is only with everyone's active support our association remains strong and effective. It is not the president that makes the association successful. It is all the hard work of the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, Sector Representatives, and individual committee members that make our association successful. I would certainly be remiss if I did not give a shout out to Michelle and the Fitzgibbon Group for all the hard work they do behind the scene to support our organization.

If you were to look up the definition of emergency management is should simply read servant leaders. You serve your communities every day by improving their preparedness and resiliency through your hard work. Don't ever lose sight that each of you are all important leaders in your communities. Your work often times goes unnoticed, but that is why it is so important to support and lift each other up. I challenge you all to keep up the good fight to be the best you can be! Whether they know it or not, your communities are truly relying on you! God Bless!

Welcome to the unveiling of the revived EMAO Newsletter. The committee's goal for our newsletter is to provide brief updates on EMAO as well as a focus on highlighting our members and partner organizations. We have outstanding members, and you all need to be recognized for your work.

WE'RE GLAD
You're Here.

In order to have a successful and relevant newsletter, we look to you to help cultivate content by creating and submitting it to us or by giving the committee topics to explore. Currently there are (3) links on our website: Outgoing Director, Incoming Director and Local EMA Event Spotlight that provide a link to a form to fill out and submit for newsletter and social media publication. We need help from our members to help make sure this information is passed to us in order to give credit where credit is due. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Garrett Blevins or Erin Konecki, Co-Chairs of the Publications Committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EMAO 2022 Winter Conference & Vendor Show

December 8 & 9, 2022
Salt Fork State Park
14775 Cadiz Rd., Lore City, OH

EMAO 2023 Winter Symposium

March 7, 2023
Ohio Statehouse



check your emails from EMAO for registration links

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Officers: Jeff Klein (Wood), President
Thomas Smoot (Summit), President-Elect
Sarah McNamee (Marion), Vice President

Alex McCarthy (Tuscarawas), Secretary
Christina Fozio (Medina), Treasurer
Mark Maxwell (Knox), Past President