



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

MINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX.

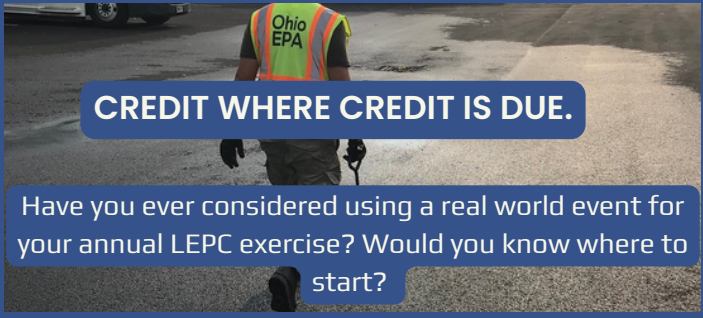
Overnight on Tuesday November 15th, 2022 an act of eco-terrorism took place at the Lion Farms USA Mink Farm, in Hoagland Township, in Van Wert County. An estimated 30,000 to 40,000 domesticated Mink were intentionally set loose by an international animal rights group called the Animal Liberation Force. This Eco-terrorism group has been on the international terrorist watch list for some time. This was one of eight similar incidents across the United States that took place within the month, this one by far the largest.

The ALF terrorists came into the farm buildings and opened all the pens and cut a large opening in the fencing around the place to release the mink, during the middle of the night. The Van Wert Sheriff's Office was notified of the incident and before daylight a portion of US 127 had to be closed down, due to the number of minks that were being killed by the moving traffic. The Van Wert Post of the OSP and ODOT had to deal with the clean up of the dead mink. Many of the released mink were able to be recaptured and placed back in their pens.

The Van Wert EMA Director Rick McCoy was out of the county at the time of the release, but due to the close proximity of the incident Ed Bohn EMA Director from Paulding County offered to assist and was taken up on the offer. Ed also has a mink farm in his county, but luckily it was not targeted. During his involvement with this incident, Ed noted a large amount of agencies involved (ODNR, OSU Extension, ODOT, and professional pest and varmint experts). This event caused road closures, unique cleanup efforts, local farm impacts, changes in local hunting patterns, and a media frenzy. A JIC was set up at the Van Wert OSU Extension office to handle the influx of calls and to disseminate press releases.

Many times as EMA professionals, we agree to assist with issues that occur in other jurisdictions when our neighbors take much needed vacations, breaks, or handle other issues.

Now is the time to familiarize yourselves with the odd, unconventional hazards that may be located in those neighboring areas you frequent and also in your own backyard. Otherwise, you may really be forced to "mink" outside of the box when that phone call comes. Chance usually seems to favor the prepared.



CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.

Have you ever considered using a real world event for your annual LEPC exercise? Would you know where to start?

LEPCs are permitted to use an actual event to meet the annual exercise requirement. LEPCs are only permitted to use two (2) actual events within the four-year exercise cycle. You still are only able to receive credit for one exercise OR real world event in a yearly cycle. The LEPC must then complete an exercise in each of the other two years. Credit for an actual event is given as either a Functional or Full-Scale exercise and the amount of objectives passed must be the same as if it was an exercise.

The LEPC has thirty (30) days after the conclusion of response activities to decide to request the use of the event as an exercise. After the emergency threat is contained and cleanup/recovery operations have begun, the LEPC has thirty (30) days to review the event and submit the LEPC Exercise Notice Form. This LEPC should outline the major events and what resources were involved. It should describe the extent of the hazards posed to the public and the environment. To support this, the LEPC should make available for review response logs that identified response actions taken, relevant news articles and notes from any after-action critique. The goal is to provide the Facilitator enough information to understand what occurred, who responded, what actions were taken, and how the event was resolved. The second page should first check-off what agencies were involved. The Evaluator section should identify the principal Players that coordinated the response actions.

The Facilitator will meet with and/or interview the key response personnel. During this review, the Facilitator will question personnel how the event tested the respective Objectives. Following the interviews, the Facilitator will complete an exercise report based on the observations gathered during the interviews. The report will be completed and submitted to SERC and the LEPC as would be done for any exercise. SERC will then Concur or Refuse to Concur as it would for any exercise.

The most important piece of this is your documentation. Make sure you submit any and all reports, pictures, and anything else you can to substantiate your claims.

For more information:
<https://epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/27/serc/OHM-EEM-2022.pdf>



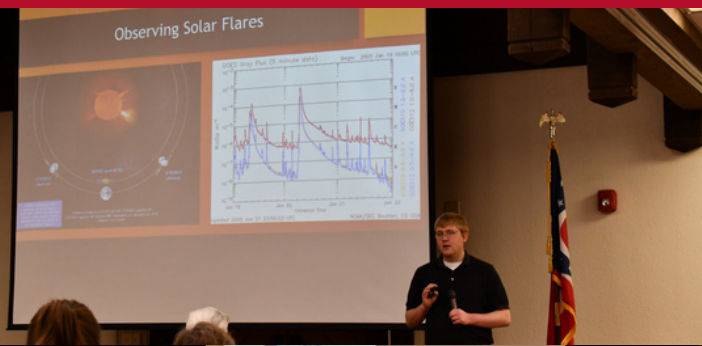
EMAO NEWSLETTER



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WINTER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022 EMAO Winter Conference was held this year at Salt Fork State Park Lodge. The facility was on beautiful grounds, had plenty of activities to do, ample opportunity for networking, and there was a great turnout. This year's speaker line up was an all-star group with every topic discussed being timely and captivating. We learned how to interact with our legislators and the value of doing so, about space weather and climate change, some tips for your EOC, how to work with VOADs during a disaster, looked closely at the public information piece following a real world incident, and much more. Save the date and don't miss out next December 7-8th, 2023.



Teamwork in Action.

12.23.22 OHIO TURNPIKE INCIDENT DISCUSSION

EMA Directors Lisa Kuelling (Sandusky) and Tim Jonovich (Erie) will be sharing their experience and lessons learned from the December 23rd, 2022 Winter Storm incident that took place on the Ohio Turnpike during the 2023 Winter Symposium Legislative Day March 7th in Columbus.



UPCOMING EVENTS

EMAO 2023 Winter Symposium

March 7, 2023
Ohio Statehouse

EMAO Spring Conference & Vendor Show

April 5, 2023
Crowne Plaza Columbus North- Worthington

EMAO 2022 Winter Conference & Vendor Show

December 7 & 8, 2023
Salt Fork State Park
14775 Cadiz Rd., Lore City, OH



check your emails from EMAO for registration links

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