

1.8.August.2025

“There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy. By being happy we sow anonymous benefits upon the world.”

~Robert Louis Stevenson

Dear ESF-6 Partners and Stakeholders:

Hard to believe that summer is winding down and that it's already back-to-school season. With all of the activities we've participated in this year, 2025's gone fast and planning for 2026 has already begun. One of the other things that's made this year feel like it's going fast is the number of meetings and outreach activities we've done with new partners and trying to bring more of y'ins together. In this month's issue, you'll get a quick introduction to our newest partners from Cincinnati ~ Matthew 25: Ministries (who some of you may know from the March 2024 Logan County event) and a quick overview of the Ohio National Guard's GuardCare 2025 event. Both of these are great examples of that partner building and networking that we've tried to focus on this year.

Speaking of networking opportunities and getting some more facetime with our partners, our Annual In-Person ESF-6 Partner and Stakeholder Meeting is coming up on October 29, 2025 at the Dublin Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. If there are any topics you'd like to hear about, partners you'd like to meet, or presentations you'd like to give, let us know and we'll try to facilitate that / work it into the agenda.

Enjoy this month's newsletter and, as always, feel free to reach out to us with any needs or just to catch up ~ we're here to support you!

Our [Ohio ESF-6 Mass Care website](#) has been published! Please bookmark and share it with your partners. We welcome your feedback and we will be reviewing the site (and all links) quarterly with a 2x/year in-depth review on all content. Message [esf6@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:esf6@jfs.ohio.gov) with any comments or updates.

-Josh D. Vittie

## Visit [Mass Care's New Website!](#)

### Mass Care provides life-saving support during disasters:

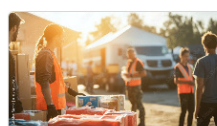
- **Sheltering:** Finding safe places for people to stay.
- **Feeding:** Providing meals for those affected.
- **Emergency Supplies:** Distributing essential items like water, food, and clothing.
- **Reunification:** Helping families and loved ones find each other.

### Emergency assistance offers life sustaining support:

- Helping Persons with Disabilities or other Access and Functional Needs.
- Caring for household pets and service animals.
- Supporting evacuees who have been displaced.

### Additional Services we support in Ohio:

- Helping U.S. citizens return home from other countries (Emergency Repatriation).
- Managing volunteers during disaster response.
- Providing mental and emotional health support.
- Assisting with temporary housing and transitioning back to normal life.
- Supporting recovery efforts in affected communities.



## Current Events:

### GuardCare 2025: Crawford County

Your ESF-6 Coordinators visited Crawford County over the weekend of August 9-10, 2025 to observe the annual GuardCare event and improve our relationships with several partners. Over the course of the weekend, approximately 500 residents were served by members of the Ohio National Guard, resulting in approximately \$80,000 worth of medical care (estimate using Medicaid reimbursement rates) for those community members. Crawford County Public Health, Crawford County Emergency Management Agency, and Crawford County Board of Developmental Disabilities were all co-sponsors of the event.

In addition to vaccinations / immunizations, medical check-ups, children's car seat fittings / distribution, helmet checks, vision screenings, and dental services, there was also a resource fair with over a dozen organizations representing a wide variety of service providers ranging from civic organizations (Rotary and Lions) to the local food bank, to behavioral / mental health providers, the City of Galion Public Health, domestic and sexual violence support organizations, and the local hospital system.

The Ohio National Guard contingent was headed by MAJ Gonzalez from the newly established 112 Medical Battalion as the Officer in Charge (est'd: October 1, 2023) and brought together members from various units across the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, and the Ohio State Defense Force, including members from the Ohio Military Reserve and Ohio Naval Militia. The ESF-6 Coordinators spent much of the weekend networking with partners, connecting new connections with established partners, and walking through Volunteer Reception Center operations and volunteer management capabilities.



Guard Members setting up the vision screening station.  
Photo by Josh D. Vittie

Despite July conditions that were warmer and more humid than usual, with rainfall in the SW region that was ~3" greater than normal, ESF-6 did not see a significant spike in requests for assistance from our local partners. There were a few instances of localized flooding, but little that rose to state-level awareness. ILN's monthly regional weather summary can be found here: [https://www.weather.gov/media/iln/climate\\_summary/Report\\_July2025.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/iln/climate_summary/Report_July2025.pdf)

Immediately after the last newsletter was released, both ESF-6 Coordinators traveled to Camp James A. Garfield near Ravenna to observe a joint annual training with the Homeland Response Force (HRF) and the State Defense Force (SDF) ~ more information on this visit can be found in the article below.

Other activities include:

- Taught G-108 Community Mass Care / Emergency Assistance in Miami County (Co-taught with Hamilton County EMA Assistant Director Ryan McEwan).
- Participated in a multi-agency discussion led by Ohio Department of Aging about Senior Preparedness (individuals and facilities).
- Conducted a State EOC Tour and partner meet and greet with Matthew 25 Ministries (See "Get to Know: Matthew 25 Ministries" below for more information about M25M).
- Met with regional partners from Southwest and West Central Ohio to discuss regional Long-Term Recovery planning.
- Supported the annual GuardCare mission in Bucyrus (Crawford County) through evaluation of the State Defense Force / Ohio Military Reserve's Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) activities.
- Attended the Northeast and Central Sector Meetings for EMAO.
- Attended the G-984 TF/ST Leader Course (in preparation for coordinating the Reunification Task Force we are developing).
- Attended Hamilton County COAD and Ohio VOAD meetings for partner outreach and engagement.
- Hosted our normal array of partner meetings for ongoing collaboration and relationship building.

## Awareness Campaigns:



The [Ready.Gov 2025 Preparedness Calendar](https://www.ready.gov/calendar) is one source for you to keep up with the various awareness campaigns and share with your partners!

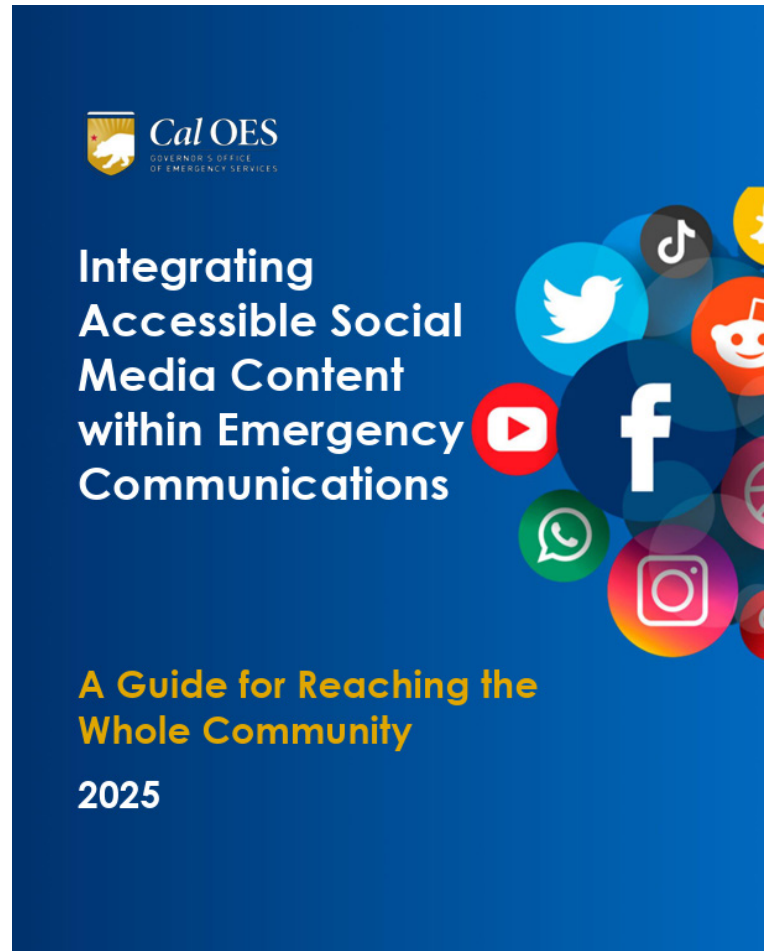
### September 2025:

- [National Preparedness Month!](#) (Unfortunately, we don't yet have a theme for 2025 yet)

### October 2025:

- [Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#) (Through CISA)
- [National Fire Prevention Week 05-11OCT25](#) (Jointly with NFPA)
- [Great Shakeout Earthquake Drills](#) 10:16a local time on October 16, 2025

## Resource Updates:



This month's resource updates include: a guide to accessible social media content from California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and FEMA's updated guide for Damage Assessment. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services recently released a new guide: "Integrating Accessible Social Media Content within Emergency Communications". This is a great resource with a lot of examples across a variety of social media platforms on how we can improve accessibility for folks that need those accommodations. The guide can be downloaded as a .pdf here: <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/AFN/Documents/AFN-Library/Cal-OES-Integrating-Accessible-Social-Media-Content-within-Emergency-Communications-Guide.pdf>

## Resource Updates:



## FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide

July 2025



## Resource Updates:

FEMA released an updated guide for Preliminary Damage Assessment and a summary of changes to go with it. ESF-6 Partners that conduct damage assessment as part of their mission and/or operations may want to familiarize themselves with this updated guidance. The PDA Guide can be found here: [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_rd\\_pda-guide\\_07012025.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_rd_pda-guide_07012025.pdf) and the summary of changes document can be found here: [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_rd\\_pda-guide-summary-of-changes\\_07012025.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_rd_pda-guide-summary-of-changes_07012025.pdf)

## Getting to Know:

### Matthew 25: Ministries (Blue Ash, Ohio)



*Matthew 25: Ministries in action.  
Photo by: Matthew 25: Ministries*

[www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_rd\\_pda-guide-summary-of-changes\\_07012025.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_rd_pda-guide-summary-of-changes_07012025.pdf)

Matthew 25: Ministries is a highly ranked international disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization based in Cincinnati, Ohio. With a mission to bring help and hope to those in need, Matthew 25: Ministries responds to disasters locally, nationally, and internationally by delivering essential services and supplies to communities affected by disasters.

Matthew 25's disaster response team is trained and equipped for rapid deployment. Team members drive a fleet of specialized vehicles to disaster sites, where they provide services including free laundry and showers and distribute much-needed supplies directly to impacted neighborhoods. These supplies often include cleaning products, personal care items, batteries and charging stations, first aid kits, and safety items. These services and supplies help meet urgent needs and restore a sense of normalcy for those impacted.

Beyond the initial response, Matthew 25: Ministries builds strong partnerships with local organizations within the disaster area to support long-term recovery. Through ongoing shipments of aid, they remain committed to communities for as long as needed, often continuing support for years after the disaster.

Through both disaster relief and humanitarian aid efforts, Matthew 25: Ministries helps more than 30 million people

## This Month's Closing Thoughts:

If you have any partners that you think would be good additions to either our newsletter distribution or the larger ESF-6 group as a whole, please help us make those connections. [esf6@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:esf6@jfs.ohio.gov)

## EVENT CALENDAR

DATE(S)	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT/REGISTRATION
8/28/25	830 - 1600	Ohio Corporate Security Symposium	Columbus, Ohio (Convention Center)	<a href="#">Registration information</a>
8/28/25	800 - 1700	OH-726 Commodity Points of Distribution (CHANGED DATE)	Cuyahoga County	<a href="#">Register at Public Safety Training Campus</a>
9/10/25 - 9/11/25	900 - 1600	OHCON25: Ohio Public Safety Drone Conference	Ohio Fire Academy (Reynoldsburg, Ohio)	<a href="#">Registration forthcoming</a>
9/19/25	1000 - 1600	2025 Continuity Professionals of Ohio Summit	Columbus, Ohio (COHatch Polaris)	<a href="https://www.cpohio.org/summit">https://www.cpohio.org/summit</a>
9/19/25 - 9/20/25	TBD - TBD	2025 BIPOC Food and Farming Summit	Central State University	<a href="#">Registration forthcoming</a>
10/7/25 - 10/9/25	800 - 1700	OH-139 Exercise Design and Evaluation	Jackson County, Ohio	<a href="#">Register at Public Safety Training Campus</a>
10/8/25	900 - 1100	State EOC Partner Orientation	Ohio EMA / State EOC	Mike Staff (Ohio EMA)
10/16/25	900 - 1200	Ohio EMA Autumn Conference	Virtual (MS Teams)	<a href="#">Register at Public Safety Training Campus</a>
10/22/25 - 10/23/25	800 - 1700	OH-288/489 Volunteer and Donations Management Series	Fairfield County EMA	<a href="#">Register at Public Safety Training Campus</a>
10/28/25	1300 - 1500	State EOC Partners / Stakeholders	Virtual (MS Teams)	Mike Staff (Ohio EMA)
10/29/25	900 - 1230	Annual ESF-6 Partners & Stakeholders In-Person Meeting	Columbus Metropolitan Library Dublin Branch, Meeting Rooms 2&3	Josh Vittie (ODJFS)
11/11/25	1600 - 2000	APNet (African Professionals Network) Annual Symposium and Gala	University of Cincinnati Carl H. Linder College of Business	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/15th-annual-apnet-symposiumgala-celebrating-excellence-in-our-community-registration-1408021713849">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/15th-annual-apnet-symposiumgala-celebrating-excellence-in-our-community-registration-1408021713849</a>
11/6/25	TBD -TBD	Ohio 211 Conference	United Way of Central Ohio	Information forthcoming
11/6/25	800 - 1700	MGT-416 Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities	Bowling Green, Kentucky	<a href="https://ruraltraining.org/course/MGT-416/?scheduled=true&amp;id=13739">https://ruraltraining.org/course/MGT-416/?scheduled=true&amp;id=13739</a>
11/12/25 - 11/13/25	800 - 1700	Ohio Housing Finance Agency Ohio Housing Conference	Columbus Convention Center	<a href="https://ohiohome.org/ohiohousingconference.aspx">https://ohiohome.org/ohiohousingconference.aspx</a>
11/19/25	900 - 1200	WebEOC Training	Ohio EMA / State EOC	Contact Ann Lechner: <a href="mailto:amlechner@dps.ohio.gov">amlechner@dps.ohio.gov</a>
11/19/25 - 11/20/25	800 - 1700	OH-197 Planning for Access and Functional Needs	Cuyahoga County	<a href="#">Register at Public Safety Training Campus</a>
12/4/25 - 12/5/25	TBD - TBD	Emergency Management Association of Ohio Winter Conference	Salt Fork State Park Lodge	<a href="https://emaohio.org/aws/EMAO/pt/sd/calendar/363393/ PARENT/layout_details/false">https://emaohio.org/aws/EMAO/pt/sd/calendar/363393/ PARENT/layout_details/false</a>
12/16/25 - 12/17/25	800 - 1700	G-108 Community MC/EA Planning	Tuscarawas County (TBD)	<a href="#">Register at Public Safety Training Campus</a>
1/14/26 - 1/18/26	Varies - Varies	Ohio Fair Managers Association Convention	Columbus, Ohio (Hyatt Regency)	<a href="https://ohiofairs.org/convention/">https://ohiofairs.org/convention/</a>

## EVENT CALENDAR

DATE(S)	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT/REGISTRATION
1/27/26	1300 - 1500	State EOC Partners / Stakeholders	TBD	Mike Staff (Ohio EMA)
1/27/26	TBD - TBD	TENTATIVE: State EOC CBRNE Exercise	Ohio EMA / State EOC	Information forthcoming
1/27/26 - 1/28/26	800 - 1700	OH-197 Planning for Access and Functional Needs	Ohio EMA / State EOC	<a href="#">Register at Public Safety Training Campus</a>
2/24/26 - 2/26/26	800 - 1700	OH-230 Introduction to Emergency Management in Ohio	Ohio EMA / State EOC	<a href="#">Register at Public Safety Training Campus</a>
3/11/26 - 3/13/26	800 - 1700	OSC26: Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation Ohio Safety Congress	Columbus, Ohio (Convention Center)	"2025 information still posted, 2026 information forthcoming: <a href="https://www.ohiosafetycongress.com/register.cfm">https://www.ohiosafetycongress.com/register.cfm</a> "
3/25/26	900 - 1200	Annual ESF-6 Partners & Stakeholders Virtual Meeting	Virtual (MS Teams)	Matt Sturgeon (ODJFS)
3/30/26 - 4/2/26	Varies - Varies	National Hurricane Conference	Orlando, Florida	<a href="https://hurricanemeeting.com/upcoming-conferences/">https://hurricanemeeting.com/upcoming-conferences/</a>
4/28/26	1300 - 1500	State EOC Partners / Stakeholders	TBD	Mike Staff (Ohio EMA)
5/4/26	Varies	National VOAD 2026 Conference	Reno, Nevada	<a href="https://www.nvoad.org/future-conferences/">https://www.nvoad.org/future-conferences/</a>
8/19/26	730 - 1700	PNPP Dry Run (Plume Phase)	Ohio EMA / State EOC	Details forthcoming
8/20/26	730 - 1700	PNPP Dry Run (Ingestion Phase)	Ohio EMA / State EOC	Details forthcoming
9/22/26	730 - 1700	PNPP Graded (Plume Phase)	Ohio EMA / State EOC	Details forthcoming
9/23/26	730 - 1700	PNPP Graded (Ingestion Phase)	Ohio EMA / State EOC	Details forthcoming
10/28/26	900 - 1200	Annual ESF-6 Partners & Stakeholders In-Person Meeting	TBD	Josh Vittie (ODJFS)