

**Fairfield County MORPC**  
**Special Emergency Transportation Needs**  
**Forum Discussion**  
**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009**  
**Time 5:30-7:30 pm**

**Representatives participating in the discussion**

Meals on Wheels Recipients  
Area Agency on Aging Recipients  
Elderly Housing-Fairhaven  
Disabled Community

Agencies that observed forum  
Fairfield County Red Cross  
Fairfield County General Health District  
Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission  
211 Call Center  
Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency

**Discussion Format**

This forum was held at the Fountain Square 113 S. Broad Street, Lancaster, OH. This location was coordinated by the 211 Call Center. Food and drinks was delivered by Christy's Pizza for all the attendees before the meeting was started at 6:00pm.

The forum discussion was moderated by Dave Patton from the Kettering Foundation on behalf of the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Committee's Plan for Populations with Mobility Needs. All attendees were encouraged to participate with instructions being given to the agency representatives to observe and not participate in the discussion, unless a specific question was addressed to them.

**Discussion**

The discussion was initiated by having the participants discuss their experiences that they encountered with the Hurricane Ike wind storm in 2008.

**Specific General Comments received (not all comments)**

**2008 Windstorm –How did it affect you?**

- Loss of power, and then it also cause loss of water or heat and phones;
- Concerns of people who had existing medical conditions;
  - No way to use nebulizer;
  - Had to go to Rockmill for breathing treatment;

## **Concerns raised about security**

### **How did you receive emergency information?**

- Radio and Television
- Family members kept others informed;
- Some information provided by neighbors, but also included hearsay;

## **Comments on using radio and TV, with some input from friends and workers**

### **What kind of information do you want the most?**

- Transportation for medical help;
- How long/ estimated time of the event;
- Roads and blockages;
- Shelter available;
- Businesses closed;

## **Good comment on types of information desired**

### **Voluntary Registry System**

- Registry for special populations;
- Some individuals will not participate because of privacy concerns;
- Need to make it voluntary; and

### **Comment –Favorable especially about reverse 911**

### **Are you aware of Red Cross Emergency Shelters?**

- Only one person was aware of the shelter's existence
- Need more education on shelter and their purpose;
- What happens with pets/
- How do people get to these shelters;

### **Comment –really did not know about them**

### **Are you willing to go to a Red Cross Shelter?**

- Yes for water, food and a place to rest;
- Yes, but need a place to store pets during the emergency;
- May give you a false sense of security;
- Concerns of how to get to the shelter;
- Concerned with Home Security while at shelter;

## **Comment –maybe depends on situation**

### **Other comments**

- Need neighborhood patrols/ for training for emergency response;
- Need for information of Red Cross plans for emergencies;
- Might want to consider carpools to get people to the Red Cross shelters.

### **Attendee's knowledge of Fairfield County Agencies**

#### **211**

Just heard about such services tonight;  
Very good what they do

#### **EMA**

Most aware of them, especially due to security part

#### **Regional Planning**

Not aware of the agency

#### **Health Department**

Vaccines  
Septic Rules  
Restaurant Inspections

### **Comment- generally knew the basic duties of the Health and Emergency Management Agency but little beyond that.**

## **Summary**

The discussion was limited due to the lack of diversity within the attendees. We only had representation from the elderly and disabled communities on how they would respond in the event of an emergency.

Based upon the comments received from the participants there appeared to be points that were emphasized during the discussion. Those main points were as follows:

- They have concerns as to what would happen in the event of a long term emergency, especially with the loss of power;
- They identified what information they want to receive in the event of an emergency;
  - Transportation for medical help;
  - How long/ estimated time of the event;
  - Roads and blockages;
  - Shelter available;
  - What businesses are closed;

- They were trusting of local media in the event of an emergency;
- They were extremely receptive to a reverse 911 system, and also a Registry if it was voluntary in approach;
- They were not aware of the Red Cross Emergency Shelters, and after an explanation of their existence, they still had some concerns about their pets, and also for the farmers in the discussion, their farm animals, they were also concerned about security of their own homes and property;
- Finally they supported the inclusion of other local forums in future planning activities within Fairfield County.

While the discussion was not as varied as preferred, the discussion did provide some insight into the desires of these individuals in the event of an emergency. They strongly supported the Reverse 911 system to be utilized in the event of an emergency, and they wanted to know more about the Red Cross Emergency Shelters.

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## **Full Listing of Comments**

### **2008 Windstorm –How did it affect you?**

- Loss of power and phones;
- Concern for tornadoes;
- Needed to find a sub shelter for safety;
- Transit authority cancelled service to east end;
- Loss of food in refrigerator/freezer;
- No vehicle;
- Security was a concern- loss of security lighting;
- Concerns of people who had existing medical conditions; and
  - No way to use nebulizer;
  - Had to go to Rockmill for breathing treatment;
  - Cost dollars to get there;
- Had no heat or water, but grateful it was in the summer.

### **How did you receive emergency information?**

- Excellent response by Fairhaven Place –had radios and backup generator;
- Family members kept others informed;
- Electric providers were not too helpful;
- Some information provided by neighbors, also included hearsay;

### **Who do you trust to provide Emergency Information?**

- Radio;
- Television; and
- Sirens- have concerns if they are testing the sirens or not.

### **Other better sources;**

- Red Cross;
- 211 Call Center;
- More telephone calls;
- Police warning/ Sirens;
- Cell Phones;
- Neighbors helping neighbors;
- Backup generators;
- Have forums like these at the local levels (townships/villages) to inform the public;

### **What kind of information do you want the most?**

- Transportation for medical help;
- How long/ estimated time of the event;
- Roads and blockages;
- Shelter available;
- Businesses closed;

### **What is the first reaction to a siren?**

- Go to a radio or TV to see what is happening;
- False alarm;
- Neighbors go outside to what is happening;
  - Assign people to street;
  - Have a plan for those in need;
- Mayors and Council members need to observe forums like these.

### **Voluntary Registry System**

- Registry for special populations;
- Liberty Twp in Delaware County will implement such a system;
- Must specify type of need;
- How will you routinely communicate with a person on the registry;
- Need training for emergency personnel for different types of populations;
- Some individuals will not participate because of privacy concerns;

- Need to make it voluntary; and
- Some individuals are not concerned about privacy.

### **Are you aware of Red Cross Emergency Shelters?**

- Only one person was aware of the shelter's existence
- Need more education on shelter and their purpose;
- What happens with pets/
- How do people get to these shelters;
- Where do the dollars come from?

### **Are you willing to go to a Red Cross Shelter?**

- No trust in the Red Cross (One person)
- Yes for water, food and a place to rest;
- Yes, but need a place to store my pets;
- May give you a false sense of security;
- Concerns of how to get to the shelter;
- Concerned with Home Security while at shelter
- Might get information on shelters at local firehouses

### **Other comments**

- Need neighborhood patrols/ for training for emergency response;
- Need for information of Red Cross plans for emergencies;
- Might want to consider carpools to get people to the Red Cross shelters.

### **Attendee's knowledge of Fairfield County Agencies**

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