

OFDA-MRT NEWS

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Big Changes on the Horizon

By Mike Gedert

For over 2 decades the OFDA-MRT has been working hard to establish its identity in the state, and now it looks like all that work is finally going to pay off. In the past few years the MRT has been the recipient of over \$300,000.00 in grant funding to add much needed computer, digital x-ray and digital photography equipment to our morgue cache. Last year we received an \$11,000.00 grant for the 3-day training in Ravenna that covered the costs of all our participants in the exercise there. This financial assistance has come because of the close relationships we have built with the Ohio EMA, Ohio Department of Health, and now, with the Wright State University National Center for Medical Readiness (WSU-NCMR). This most recent relationship with WSU-NCMR could soon be taking the MRT to a new, much higher level. MOU's have been signed and the WSU-NCMR has already begun housing

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Big Changes on the Horizon	1
Who is the National Center for Medical Readiness (NCMR)?	1
What is Calamityville?	2
What Will a State Team Mean to the OFDA-MRT?	3
What Will a State Team Mean to the YOU?	3
Upcoming Events...	4
This and That...	4
OFDA-MRT Policy Board Contact List	5

the trailers containing the morgue cache. We have also added a 24' box truck and a dually pick-up truck to our cache as a direct result of working with WSU-NCMR during grant purchasing completed last year. And this is just the beginning. Talks are also progressing on building the team into a full forensic supported mortuary response team under the sponsorship of WSU-NCMR. This could enable us to not only set up the morgue, but also make it fully functional with forensic disciplines such as Pathologists, Anthropologists, Dentists, X-ray Techs and others. We should have more news soon.

Who is the National Center for Medical Readiness (NCMR)?

By Mike Gedert

In their own words: "The National Center for Medical Readiness (NCMR) is a community-wide effort to better prepare our community for large scale emergencies, such as a weather disaster, terrorist attack or hazmat situation. The Center was established by the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine Department of Emergency Medicine and has been certified as a [National Disaster Life Support Foundation](#) (NDLSF) Regional Training Center."

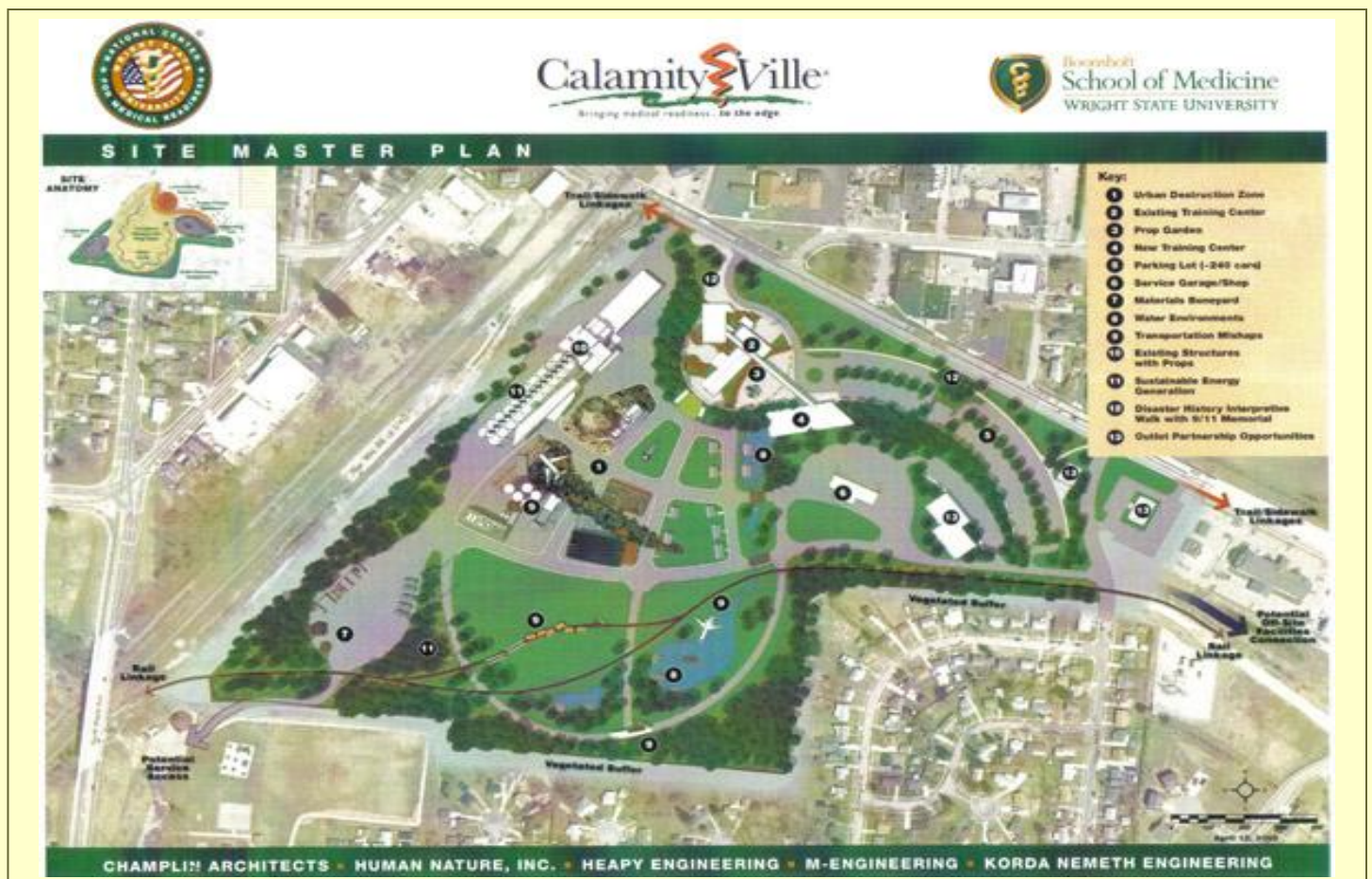
After some of the MRT Policy Board members

held several discussions with the NCMR, both parties felt strongly that the MRT was a natural fit with what the NCMR is working toward. We feel very fortunate to have caught their eye and they feel that we bring an added and important dimension to their plans. The NCMR is actively working on the development of a national training and research center called "Calamityville". The MRT hopes to soon be doing many of our trainings at the Calamityville location.

What is Calamityville?

By Mike Gedert

The NCMR is developing the Calamityville® Tactical Laboratory Project, a state-of-the-art, innovative, integrated, collaborative training and research facility to provide a one-of-a-kind training opportunity for the world's medical, public health, public safety, and civilian and military disaster response decision makers. Looking at the diagram below you can see that the training center will be large and diverse. It will offer multiple field exercise capabilities, as well as various size classrooms for inside training. It will also have the capability to act as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during a disaster. The center is located in Fairborn, Ohio, just outside Dayton.



"The NCMR Tactical Laboratory at Calamityville continues as its flagship program."

Website
www.medicalreadiness.org

What Will an Ohio Mortuary Response Team Mean to the OFDA-MRT?

By Mike Gedert

First of all, it will NOT mean that Funeral Directors will be any less valued as a response entity. In fact, the NCMR has been and will continue to rely on the OFDA-MRT to guide them in the process of building, training and deploying the soon to be developed state mortuary response team.

The OFDA-MRT will not go away, but will provide the state team with funeral directors that will make up a large portion of the new team. The difference will be that the state team will include forensic, logistical, I.T., X-ray, clerical, behavioral health and other specialists. This team will train together and deploy as needed to support the local coroner in the event of a mass fatality incident.



This team could also possibly be deployed out of state in the event of a very large incident or a smaller incident where a state is not able to get federal assistance and does not have a mortuary response team of their own.

The greatest advantages of having a state recognized team is that it will open the door to far more funding, as we have already experienced in the last 2 years. It will also give Ohio an outstanding resource for mass fatality response. When this happens, Ohio will have a capability that very few states currently have.

What Will a State Team Mean to YOU?

By Mike Gedert

First of all, there are going to be a LOT more things happening. Trainings will be much more frequent and will include at least one or two field exercises each year. And now the trainings will include forensic topics that will need to be covered for morgue operations. Remember, a full forensic team will not only set up the morgue, it will carry out most of the morgue operations as well.

Also, being part of a state recognized AND funded team will help us eliminate most costs to the team members. We have been slowing going that direction in recent years, but this will help us move that forward more rapidly. We are also working to get responder coverage for any injuries that would cause long term disability. This has been a VERY difficult issue, but we feel we are close to a solution on that and should have more information on that in the near future.

But all good things don't come without some cost. In this case it is not a monetary cost, but a time cost. First, ALL team members will be required to complete the Nation Incident Management System Incident Command Courses (#100, #200b, #700 & #800b) through the Emergency Management Institute website. More information on how to access the courses will be sent to you in the near future. If you have already completed them, we will just have you send us copies of your completion certificates for your personal record.

All team members will also be required to attend at least one training per year to stay deployable. Remember, this team could be activated not just in Ohio, but possibly other states. This greatly increases the possibility of being deployed. We must be ready to do our jobs effectively and efficiently.

Upcoming Events...

When: August 22-23

What: Cache Inventory and Re-pack

Where: Calamityville (506 E. Xenia Dr. Fairborn, Ohio)

Uniforms: Not necessary, but plan to get dirty

This event will include unloading all morgue equipment, doing a complete inventory, setting up load plans for each trailer and re-packing all equipment. A hotel room will be provided on the night of August 22 for anyone driving farther than 35 miles. Lunch and refreshments will also be provided. This will be a very busy 2 days, but will give team members a chance to get more familiar with the equipment in the cache and why the equipment is organized the way it is. The updated inventory will also give us the opportunity to fill any equipment gaps that we have the next time we have grant funding available. Please notify Mike Gedert at mike@sunsetresources.com as soon as possible if you would like to take part in this event. Additional details about the event will be sent to those participating within the next week.

When: September 20th

What: Port Columbus Airport Field Exercise (Operation Plane Site FS Field Exercise)

Where: Port Columbus Airport

Uniforms: Yes

This event will involve the MRT working under the direction of the Franklin County Coroner's Office during the exercise. We will be actively involved with the recovery of up to 35 simulated human remains during the exercise. This will include setting up a command tent at the site, locating remains, documenting and photographing remains, bagging and tagging remains and transporting them to the holding area at the site. The exercise will include using full Personal Protective Equipment. We will need at least 25 people for this exercise, so please seriously consider participating. Please notify Mike Gedert at mike@sunsetresources.com as soon as possible if you would like to take part in this event.



This and That...

No Uniforms? A Solution on the Way.

Policy Board member and team Administrative Officer Todd Grisier is currently working with a company to put together an order form for the BDU uniform that the team uses. As soon as that is prepared he will be sending out in a team e-mail. At that time, if you need uniforms you will be able to place the order directly through the supplier. The blue team t-shirts are available also, but we are currently out of a few sizes. If you need one or two let Todd know and he will check on availability. Todd's e-mail address is todd@powersupply.net

Changes in Contact Information

If you have any changes in contact information please contact Diana O'Neal at the OFDA office as soon as possible. Remember, if we can't contact you, we can't deploy you in the event of an incident. Diana will pass the information along so we can update all e-mail and call down lists.

See an interesting Article on Mass Fatality Response...Pass it on!

As you can see by the "by lines", right now I am putting together most of the newsletter, however, I would like to see other information get added as well. If you happen to see an interesting article or participate in a good exercise and would like to share your experience, please send me whatever you would like to put in the newsletter. I may have to edit it for size, but it would be a welcome addition.

*The 6 P's of
disaster response:
Proper Planning
and Preparation
Prevents Poor
Performance!*

MRT Website:
www.ofdamrt.org

OFDA-MRT Policy Board Contact List

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