



City of Pataskala

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 02/05/18

PATASKALA, LICKING COUNTY –

The Licking County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is partnering with the City of Pataskala and the West Licking Fire Department to conduct an emergency response exercise on Tuesday, February 20. The exercise will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will be held at the West Licking Fire Station located at 851 East Broad Street, Pataskala.

The emergency response exercise will provide a real-time opportunity for area first responders and local service providers to test response processes and departmental coordination. The Licking County EMA has been conducting similar emergency response exercises since 2015, but this is the first including the City of Pataskala and the West Licking Fire Department.

Licking County Emergency Management Director, **Sean Grady** stated, “This is a continuation of our efforts to work with partner agencies to practice effective coordination of disaster response. Only through these types of drills can we identify capabilities that need improvement and practice the coordination necessary to ensure effective response.”

BJ King, Pataskala City Administrator, is pleased to see the drill being held. “This is our first emergency response exercise for Pataskala service personnel and West Licking Fire first responders in conjunction with EMA. This is a great exercise so that we can be better prepared to respond to and manage a disaster, should one occur. We will take what we learn from this exercise and improve our process.”

Members of the public near West Licking Fire Station will see increased emergency vehicles and personnel on Tuesday, February 20, during the emergency response exercise from 8am to Noon. The Licking County EMA continues to educate and exercise with local response agencies to practice emergency response efforts.