

**May 17, 2002**

**For Immediate Release:**

On May 21, 2002 Cuyahoga County will test an emergency response plan for hazardous materials at the NASA Glenn Research Center in an annual exercise planned to start at 9:00 A.M. and end at noon. This exercise involves emergency responders from the County's west side and is coordinated by the Cuyahoga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the County's Division of Emergency Services. NASA Glenn personnel, the Fairview Park and Brook Park Fire Departments, the West Shore Hazardous Materials Team, the Southwest Emergency Response Team and Police Enforcement Bureaus for the Southwest and West Shore areas will be the principal participants in this hazardous materials training exercise.

This annual exercise is conducted at local facilities that store hazardous substances. These facilities must be included in the LEPC plan under Ohio emergency planning laws as well as Title III of the federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. NASA Glenn, located at 21000 Brookpark Rd. in Brook Park, has agreed to participate and serve as the 2002 training site.

NASA Glenn's emergency response personnel, as well as west side emergency responders will have an opportunity to test their procedures and personnel. Michael Von Duhn, Director of Public Safety for the City of Brook Park, and NASA Emergency Preparedness Program Manager Luke Wilkins both agree that this is an excellent training opportunity for everyone involved and are grateful for the opportunity to participate. Von Duhn added "mutual aid would be essential for any major disaster. This drill will give us the opportunity to experience what obstacles we may incur with a major disaster. We will experience first hand problems with communication and procedures that are different from one department to another. Thus, we can then formulate a plan that best serves us all."

According to Wilkins "this type of exercise is one of the many training tools used by NASA to maintain its excellent safety record." Chief David Simon, Fire Chief for the City of

Fairview Park and the exercise coordinator, added “the drill scenario the LEPC Exercise Design Committee has planned is, of course, hypothetical, but it will provide both West Shore and Southwest emergency responders an excellent opportunity to work with NASA Glenn personnel. The agreement between the City of Cleveland and the City of Brook Park resulted in changes in response jurisdiction for NASA Glenn and our people are eager to learn more about the facility, its personnel and its emergency protocols,” said Chief Simon.

There will be response activity along Cedar Point Road in Brook Park, North Olmsted and the Metroparks, however through traffic will be maintained throughout the exercise. The Ohio State Emergency Response Commission and regional emergency responders will monitor the procedures of Countywide emergency response organizations to evaluate performance and effectiveness.

Other participants in the exercise include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Cleveland Metroparks Rangers, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR: Media representatives are invited to NASA Glenn to observe the hazardous materials emergency response exercises being held in the Center’s west area, just past OAI. Media will only be allowed to enter Glenn from Cedar Point Road. To get to the viewing location, take exit 6/6A going south on Great Northern Blvd from I-480. Turn left on Butternut Ridge Road, left onto Columbia Road, and then right onto Cedar Point Road. Photo I.D.s are required.

Press Release  
Cuyahoga County Division of Emergency Services  
May 17, 2002  
Page 3 of 3

**CONTACT:**

**Chief David A. Simon, LEPC Exercise Coordinator  
Fairview Park Fire Department  
20777 Lorain Rd.  
Fairview Park, Ohio 44126  
(440) 356-1214**

**Chief Glenn Krueger  
Brook Park Fire Department  
17401 Holland Rd.  
Brook Park, Ohio 44142  
(440) 433-1215**

**Jeanne M. Schmotzer, Assistant Manager  
Cuyahoga County Division of Emergency Services  
1255 Euclid Ave., #102  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1807  
(216) 443-7622**