

# Beech Street Journal

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ENGINEER'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## From the Engineer's Desk .....

Fereidoun Shokouhi P.E., P.S.  
County Engineer

### Are We Ready

– for a disaster? To the Champaign County Engineer's office, it is more than a question, it is the professional obligation of the office to provide an answer that its properly planned participation and response will minimize the loss of life and avoid the interruption of the delivery of its essential services in the event of disaster. In as much as maintenance and upkeep of county roads and bridges both on township and county roads are the obvious and primary responsibility and duty of the Champaign County Engineer, the public rightfully expects the public entities to be available to participate and provide the critical function in disaster relief and recovery in the event of disaster.

The implementation of Champaign County Engineer's EIRS ( Emergency incidents respond system ) was intended to improve the office's emergency communication and subsequently the efficiency of its response. The disaster planning and preparedness are crucial in minimizing loss of life and providing continuity of critical organizational functions of the office in the case of emergency. The

function of the County Engineer and our office have been spelled out in detail in the Disaster Plan of the Champaign County Emergency Management booklet. These duties are coordinated functions that are complimentary to the county wide plan and coordinated efforts.

We have to have a mind set that we are prepared for anything to occur any where and we have all the necessary steps taken to mitigate and reduce the impact of the disaster. It is important that we understand the most important part of the planning which is making sure that emergency response resources ( equipment, vehicles, supplies and buildings) as well as the personnel will survive the disaster itself. The current devastating earthquake in Bam, Iran resulted in the loss of over 32,000 lives and many thousands of injuries. As a result of this quake 60% of total public employees lost their lives, as well as 70% of the emergency equipment and vehicles were damaged beyond use. We do not know what the final results of the casualties would have been if the above resources would have survived.

Having a good plan and the willingness to implement will not be effective unless we have a good assessment as to our vulnerability. We have to ask the right question at the right time to be successful, asking it after the fact will be mute. Therefore, Are we ready for a disaster?

# Christmas Potluck 2003

On December 24, we enjoyed our traditional potluck dinner to celebrate the Christmas Holiday. We enjoyed the many dishes brought in by employees and deep fried turkey and grilled pork loin. As usual the food was fantastic.

It was really great to see several of our retirees in attendance as well as some of our summer employees from last summer.



Several employees received service awards;

John Gillfillan - 25 years  
Gary Pendergrass - 20 years  
Doug Bovey - 15 years  
Phil Kandel - 15 years  
Brett Herron - 10 years  
Mark Watkins - 10 years

Mr. Shokouhi thanked everyone for another successful year. We also were thanked for our dedication and service to the public by Commissioners Steve Hess and Bob Corbett.

Happy 2004 to Everyone!

# October, November and December

## Birthdays

Mark Mowrey	10-27
Ted Black	11-02
Lawrence Nott	12-24

## Employment

## Anniversaries

Rick Bails	10-01-84
Lawrence Nott	10-13-87
Fereidoun Shokouhi	12-21-87
Phil Kandel	10-31-88
Brett Herron	10-25-93
Mark Watkins	11-15-93
Todd Anderson	10-17-94
Tom Alexander	10-23-00
Mark Mowrey	12-30-02

## New Dump Truck

We received new truck # 17, a 2004 International Model 7400, on December 9, 2003. This unit replaces a 1996 International truck with over 100,000 miles. The cab and chassis was purchased directly from International through the State Cooperative Purchasing Plan. The dump body, hoist, sander and snow plow were purchased and installed by Kaffenbarger Truck Equipment of New Carlisle, Ohio. The total cost for this truck was \$68,629.00.



New # 17 Truck

## Safety Tip

Now that winter is here there is a real danger, to those who work or enjoy recreation outside, of hypothermia. Because hypothermia can affect reasoning and judgement, you can quickly find yourself in a life threatening situation without realizing you are in danger.

Hypothermia is defined as a decrease in core body temperature to a level at which normal muscular and cerebral functions are impaired. The most common cause of this loss of body temperature is exposure to cold and /or wet conditions. The body can lose heat through several route, including conduction (contact with cold wet objects such as snow or wet clothing), convection (heat carried away by wind, i.e. wind chill) and evaporation ( sweating and respiration). Once the body's core temperature begins to drop, hypothermia occurs.

Symptoms of mild hypothermia include shivering, skin numbness, goose bumps and lack of hand coordination. Hypothermia can quickly progress to moderate and severe

stages in which the victim experiences I intense shivering, muscular rigidity, extreme confusion and incoherence and finally unconsciousness and cardiac or respiratory failure and death.

Treatment for mild or moderate hypothermia is fairly simple. The first step is to eliminate the exposure, remove wet clothing and replace with dry. Encourage victim to stay active and to drink a warm, not hot, sugary liquids. Avoid alcohol and caffeine. In moderate and severe case it is essential that the victim be taken to a medical facility as soon as possible.

There are several easy steps to reduce your risk of hypothermia. Wear proper clothing. Layer clothing so that it can be taken off or added to if necessary. Ideally, a breathable layer next to the skin (such as cotton or polypropylene), an insulating middle layer, (wool is good) and a waterproof, but breathable outer layer (such as nylon or gore-tex). Be sure to drink plenty of water when outdoors to keep yourself hydrated. Be aware of the symptoms of hypothermia so that you can recognize them early. In addition, be aware that some medications can affect your body's resistance to hypothermia. If you are taking a sedative or antidepressant or cardiovascular drug, these may affect your ability to withstand cold temperatures. You will want to contact your doctor or pharmacist for more information on your medications.

**If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for upcoming issues of our newsletter, please contact Rick Bails.**