

## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release:**

August 5, 2008

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**ALLEN COUNTY HAZMAT CERTIFIED AS  
OHIO'S FIRST "TYPE II" TEAM**

(LIMA, OH) – Allen County’s hazardous materials (HAZMAT) response team is now officially the state’s first and only “Type II” HAZMAT team. The recognition came following an intensive inspection and assessment visit last week by more than two dozen state officials and fire chiefs from across Ohio. The group looked at the team’s training records, personnel qualifications, monitoring and assessment equipment, personal protective equipment, decontamination systems, and communications capabilities. The “Type II” certification means that the Allen County team is now in compliance with the National Incident Management System requirements and is eligible for out of county assignment, and federal reimbursement, in the event of a major or national event. “Type II” certification means that the team is recognized as having achieved an “advanced” level of hazardous materials response capability.

“We are extremely pleased at this recognition of the hard work of our team members, the county commissioners and local fire and police chiefs that have long supported our efforts here.” Said Russ Decker, director of the Allen County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The Allen County HAZMAT Team is comprised of 68 first responders from 11 different police and fire agencies. Already in 2008, team members have completed more than 600 hours of training. Over the past several years the team has responded to requests for service in Allen, as well as, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Marion, Putnam and Van Wert counties. In 2007, Allen County handled 116 hazardous materials calls for service; so far in 2008 there have been 70 such incidents.