

PR03-0106A

## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release:**  
January 6, 2003

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**ALLEN COUNTY TO BE FEATURED AT  
WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN TORONTO**

(LIMA, OH) – Lima and Allen County’s handling of the anthrax mail and the irradiation project at Titan Scan Technologies here will be featured at this summer’s 13<sup>th</sup> annual World Conference on Disaster Management in Toronto, Canada.

Allen County Emergency Management Agency director, Russ Decker has been invited to be among 59 speakers from 11 countries making presentations at the 5-day international forum.

Decker’s presentation will focus on the anthrax irradiation project involving U. S. mail from the Washington, D. C. area and the coordination of that effort by local, state and federal officials. Decker served as coordinator for local and state resources during the project that saw 148 semi-truckloads of mail processed at the Titan Scan facility on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Lima. During the period nearly fifty different federal, state and local agencies took part in the unique mission.

Decker will also speak about the LASER Task Force, a local homeland security group involving private and public sector partners that was established here shortly after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001. Ohio governor Bob Taft recognized the group as a “best practice example for Ohio and the nation” during his Homeland Security forum last fall.

The World Conference will be held June 21-25 at the International Plaza Hotel in Toronto, Canada. This year’s theme is “The changing face of disaster management, new threats, new approaches.”