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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **2004 RECORD YEAR FOR LOCAL HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE**

(LIMA, OH) An increase in calls for service of more than twenty percent over the past twelve months is among the reasons 2004 is being labeled a record year at the Allen County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.

The local agency handled 332 calls for service in 2004 compared to 276 the previous year. 113 or 34% of the calls were for response to hazardous materials incidents, 21 severe weather incidents occurred, with the balance of 198 or 60% of calls coming for miscellaneous services including the agency's free mercury pick up and disposal program.

The agency also expended nearly \$1 million in federal homeland security equipment grants making various purchases to support local law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, public health, emergency management, hazmat, and explosive teams.

"One highlight of the year has to be the completion of the county's outdoor warning siren system," explains Director Russ Decker. "That project began back in 1994 and is now comprised of forty sirens, fulfilling all requests for sirens from the various local townships, villages and cities. The ten-year, \$625,000 project included 80% federal and private sector funding, 15% funding from the county general fund, with local governments only paying 5% of the total project cost."

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**ALLEN COUNTY**  
**OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**2004 EQUIPMENT GRANT PURCHASES**

<u>Item description</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Hazardous Duty Robot (w/ trailer)	\$250,000
Mass Casualty Response Trailer (fully stocked)	\$ 60,000
Emergency Decontamination Systems (3)	\$ 75,000
Special Operations Equipment (w/ trailer)	\$ 50,000
Hazmat Protective Chemical Level "A" Suits (18)	\$ 15,000
Portable Air Monitoring Equipment	\$ 50,000
Emergency Lighting & Generators (10)	\$ 28,000
Outdoor Warning Sirens (18)	\$300,000
Tactical Response Vehicle	\$ 30,000
Secure Communications Equipment	\$100,000
Explosive Detection Canine (1)	\$ 12,000
Bomb Technician Protective Suit (1)	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
	<b>\$980,000*</b>

*\* All equipment purchases made with 100% federal homeland security funding.*