

SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 19, 2024

The Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee (EMEC) meeting was called to order on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 10:02 am in the Summit Emergency Communications Center, 630 North Ave., Tallmadge, OH.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lori Pesci motioned to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2024, meeting, with Jeff Funai as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence Sent and Received

Tommy Smoot discussed the correspondence.

- Letter of support to the ADM Board's application for RFA's #68 Behavioral Health Disaster Preparedness Project. This grant will be used to develop a community-wide behavioral health disaster preparedness plan.
- Letter from FEMA for the closeout of the FEMA Arthur Street acquisition project.
- A letter from Mayor Killway thanking us for allowing them to use the Mobile Observation Tower and IMAT trailer for Circle Fest 2024.
- A letter from Debbie Chitester from the American Red Cross regarding their reorganization and that she will move to a regional role with ARC.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- None

V. EMA AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Emergency Management Agency Report

Tommy Smoot reported:

New Members

- Congratulations to Chief Jamie Norris

Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunity

- The President declared a Major Disaster (FEMA-4777-DR) for the State of Ohio due to tornadoes and high winds affecting western and central Ohio counties this spring. As a result of the disaster declaration, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds are available statewide for eligible sub-applicants to apply for projects that reduce the risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects.
- The deadline to submit HMGP pre-applications to the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch is January 21, 2025. The State Hazard Mitigation Team will meet in late January to prioritize HMGP pre-applications. The highest-ranking pre-applications will be invited to develop complete HMGP applications. Joseph St. John sent the pre-application via email.
- The projected HMGP funding available due to this disaster declaration is \$902,570.53.

Incidents

- Summit County did not qualify for federal or state IA or PA funding for the August 8th Flash flooding.
- Supported the City of Akron's September 5th hazmat incident at 1081 Rosemary, evacuation, and reception center.
- Worked with the SOS's office to support the BOE and communities during the November 5, 2024, General Election.

Applications

- CISA SHARES program - SHARES is YOUR HF radio system for PACE* plan Reliance
 - The *Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency (PACE) plan designates how information moves through available communications systems until contact with the desired distant element can be established. Mike Szabo applied on our behalf.
- Tim applied to receive National Response Center reports. Tim has not yet heard back about the status.

Training and Exercises

- We hosted two EMA 101s for Summit County Elected Officials on October 3 and 10, 2024
- We facilitated a tabletop exercise with the Medical Examiner staff on October 16, 2024.
- We are working with CISA to host a BOE Tabletop exercise planned for 2025.
- Summit County Police and Fire Chiefs ASHER TTX Feb or March 2025. The objectives will be to:
 - Test reunification plan
 - Update 1-page policy/plan
- We observed the Akron Zoo Full Scale Exercise with APD/AFD on November 13, 2024. The Akron Zoo did an excellent job with the exercise.

Events

- Presented proclamations for the outstanding achievements below:
 - City of Hudson fire open house 175th anniversary on October 14, 2024
 - VAP for the Angel Tree Ceremony on December 2, 2024
 - Chief Mike Schultz - City of Norton Retirement - December 4, 2024

Updates

- Mike Banks provided an update on text to 9-1-1 live in Summit County as of October 7, 2024. Mike stated there have been 113 text messages since 11/1 to text to 9-1-1.

NWS

- Effective October 1, 2024, the NWS will replace the Wind Chill Advisory, Wind Chill Watch, and Wind Chill Warning with a new Cold Weather Advisory and Extreme Cold Warning System. These changes simplify hazard communication and enhance public safety during harsh winter conditions.
 - Under the New Advisory System:
 - Cold Weather Advisory: Issued when air temperatures or wind chill values range from -15°F to -24°F. This advisory warns of potential hazards from prolonged exposure to these temperatures.
 - Extreme Cold Warning: This warning is issued for air temperatures or wind chill values of -25°F or lower. It indicates an elevated risk of frostbite and hypothermia and urges residents to take immediate action to protect themselves and their property.

Legislative Updates

- Senate Version of the DHS Funding Bill (FY25) Overview: as of 12/9/24
 - In November, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its FY25 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding bill. Key highlights include increases in overall DHS funding and specific allocations for FEMA, disaster relief, and critical grant programs.
 - Key Funding Highlights:
 - Total DHS Discretionary Funding: \$66.16 billion (+\$3.64 billion from FY24).
 - FEMA: \$27.9 billion (+\$94 million from the budget request, +\$2.4 million from FY24).
 - Grants: \$331 million (restoring to FY23 levels).
 - CISA: \$2.9 billion (-\$31 million from FY24).
 - Disaster Relief Fund (DRF): \$22.392 billion (equal to the request, likely anticipating a disaster supplemental).

Tim Gemind reported on the following:

- All branches finished a strong 2024 training calendar and have submitted their 2025 schedules.
- The seven new diver instructors will soon complete their required training
- The SCSORT Board promoted two Hazmat Branch Deputy Directors, F/M Andrew King from the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department and F/M Dennis Basch from the Macedonia Fire Department.
- Water Rescue Branch Director Lt. Chris Bicket has resigned due to his upcoming retirement. The SCSORT Board will search for a replacement.
- Activations
 - Hazmat response to Akron to assist with the September chemical fire at SMB International.
 - Technical Rescue response to Macedonia/CVNP for three lost teenagers – one was injured from a 35' fall and needed to be rescued.

- Hazmat phone call assessment to Northfield Center FD for a fuel spill from a crash.

Angela Robinson reported the following:

Completed Grants:

- FY21 SHSP- Equipment and training
- FY22 HMEP Year 2- 4 Hazmat Training Courses
- FY24 SAR- Equipment
- FY24 SAR- Water- Equipment
- FY22 Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant- Update the Hazard Mitigation Plan

The grants totaled close to \$906,537.00. These grants provided essential equipment and training to first responders throughout Summit County and Ohio Region 5 to ensure that they are adequately trained and equipped to respond to and recover from various disasters that occur not only in Summit County but across the region.

Currently Working on:

- FY22 SHSP- 8 projects awarded totaling \$636,612.00. All projects have been completed as of 8/5/24. Working with the State to utilize the remaining grant funds.
- FY23 SHSP—4 Teams 18 Projects awarded totaling \$755,784.00—Many projects are completed; a lot of equipment recently came in within the last week or two. We are working to finish several projects in the first quarter of next year. We will work with OEMA to determine how to expend the remaining grant funds.

Recent Grant Awards:

- FY22 HMEP Year 3- Recently awarded for three hazmat trainings totaling \$53,550.00. We will have until September 1 to expend grant funds. The selected training courses are HazMat IQ-Foam IQ, Air Monitoring, and ARM Decon. These training courses will allow the Summit County Hazmat Team to respond effectively to incidents involving chemicals released in the air or waterway while transported during a train derailment, tanker explosion, chemical plant, or highway. The Hazmat Team has seen an increase in incidents this year.
- FY24 SHSP- Grant was submitted on 9/13/24 for 4 projects. On November 20, we received notice that 2 of the four teams were awarded grant funds: Region 5 Bomb Squad and Region 5 SWAT. Faylin can answer any additional questions about the \$474,726,00 awarded projects.
- FY24 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO HazMat Training Grant)- Submitted for two specialized hazmat training. We received a partial award of \$18,550.00. Purchase orders have been encumbered to schedule training with various vendors. Safeware Corrosive Response training with Dr. Baxter will be held March 19-21, and a full-scale all-hazards exercise with Bad Day Training.
- FY25 SAR- Standard SAR Sustainment grant of \$9,334 typically used for equipment to sustain the collapse search and rescue team. This grant is complete

- The FY25 SAR Water—Standard SAR—Water Sustainment grant of \$8,083.00 is typically used for equipment to sustain the water rescue team. We have placed an order for the equipment and are waiting for it to arrive.
- Quarterly Reporting for the period ending 12.30.24
- EMPG Cash Request for the period ending 12.30.24
- Single Audit due mid-January
- Annual Inventory due 1.31.25

Faylin Thurn reported the following:

- Facility Transport Liaisons and Hospital ER – MCI Tabletop 1/9/25 SCPH
- SCPH Chemical Surge TTX 1/16/25 TBD
- HME – Homemade Explosives 1/29/25 SECC
- Sky Warn 4/16/25 Akron Red Cross
- NECO Regional Exercise 4/29/26 TBD
- Working with Homeland Security in creating a targeted violence and terrorist prevention strategy

Joseph St. John reported the following:

- Mitigation
- 2024 Plan update
 - Have received adoptions from all 31 communities and 3 organizations
 - Sent all adoptions to OEMA in November
- EOP
 - Due for state review in 2025
 - Last review started in January, expecting the same schedule
 - Have already started reviewing and updating sections of the EOP
 - Will work with DPSC subcommittees to review and update relevant annexes
- DPSC
 - EMS Subcommittee
 - Subcommittee held two train-the-trainer sessions for fire departments on triage tag use and updated MCI plan aspects (September and October)
 - Distributed new tags at these sessions for EMS use; hospitals also received allotments
 - Worked with NECO Region 5 to provide more information about the tags and regional MCI response at their meeting in September
- Communications Subcommittee
 - Met in October to discuss EOP annexes B (communications) and C (Notification and Warning) to review and discuss what updates need to be made (especially since SECC and new EOC were established)
- Summit Ready
 - 10 communities/organizations have begun the process and submitted initial applications
 - 3 communities/organizations are Summit Ready through 2028
 - Will be reaching out to outstanding initial applicants in January
- Exercise
 - Akron Zoo full-scale exercise in November; observed the PIOs/JIC
- EMA App

- Most current download numbers (as of August 15)
- 3,400 (both iOS and Android) requested new download numbers this week
- Other
 - Tommy and I were featured on the Akron Mirror Podcast by the Akron Library in September to talk about an overview of EMA and responsibilities
 - Met with the Salvation Army representatives hosted by Hudson in November to hear about their response abilities, hoping to have a representative on DPSC subcommittees

Summit County Public Health

Chris Barker updated that flu and COVID activity is relatively low. They just did sewage testing, and it spiked up 400% from the past month. Pertussis and walking pneumonia are rampant in our state. SCPH has finished its Preparedness garage, which will house its assets. SCPH is working with the FBI and CISA to bring in cyber training for healthcare organizations sometime in April or March.

800 MHz Radio System Report

Mike Szabo reported that 46 communities/organizations utilize the radio system (6900 radios). The system has processed nearly 12 million calls on the network and 29,000 hours of airtime. There have been no system issues since the system was activated 10 years ago. We do generator testing and verify there are no issues quarterly with PM, the HVAC systems, and bi-annually on the generator. Every month, we visit each site to verify no problems. Motorola does an annual pm on all the electronics at the sites. At the beginning of the year, we changed the connection to the state's zone controller links directly through AT&T and Spectrum to improve reliability. Just a reminder, there is a deadline of July 1st for the link layer authentication to prevent unauthorized radios from using the system.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Green Public Works joined the 800 Radio system.

VII. Adjournment

Tommy Smoot made a motion to adjourn with Tina Merlitti as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The next meeting will be on February 27, 2025, at 10:00 am at the SECC.