

# **SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

June 26, 2025

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The Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee (EMEC) meeting was called to order on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Summit Emergency Communications Center, 630 North Ave., Tallmadge, OH.

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Bruce Koellner motioned to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2025, meeting, with Lori Pesci 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 from OEMA stating that SCEMA passed the monitoring review for FY18 SHSP.
- Tommy Smoot wrote a letter to our State Representative/Senator to express our opposition to House Bill 335 to levy inside millage. He sent a second letter to urge the State to continue supporting county-level emergency managers in case of federal budget cuts.
- Tommy Smoot distributed the new DHS terms and conditions for federal funding. You are encouraged to read all new grant terms and conditions carefully.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS**

- None

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- Summit County EOP Updates – Annexes
  - Joseph St. John presented EOP documents for approval by EMEC. They were previously sent via email. The group discussed the changes.
- Annex A – Direction and Control
- Annex E – Law Enforcement
- Annex G – Engineering, Utilities and Public Works
- Annex P – Behavioral Health
- Appendix C – Anti-Terrorism
- Appendix D – Mass Fatality

Chris Barker motioned to accept the above changes with Chief Bickett as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

## **V. EMA AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:**

### **Emergency Management Agency Report**

**Tommy Smoot** reported:

Introduced Joseph Schabel as our summer intern from the University of Akron, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program.

#### **Training / Exercise -**

- CAK Tabletop Exercise May 13th at 8 am
- We are hosting the NECO Region 5 Sim Cell in the Summit County EOC on April 29, 2025

#### **Incidents**

- Supported the search for the missing individuals in Cuyahoga Falls – June 22, 2025
- Monitoring, assessment, and coordination with Ohio Edison during the Extreme Heat Watch, which was upgraded to a Heat Advisory during the week of June 22, 2025 (Goodyear Heights, Akron Brownouts, Countywide power outages, and Summa Barberton Hospital)

#### **Meetings**

- Summit County Public Health hosted a Mass Fatality Workshop for Region 5 on April 24, 2025- Dr. Kohler was the main presenter and did an excellent job covering the topic.
- Akron Zoo hosted the Senior Officials Workshop for All-Hazards Preparedness (MGT312) on May 6, 2026.
- The County Executive hosted a meeting with First Energy, Ohio Edison External Affairs staff Amy Hopkins and David Turner on May 12, 2025. Amy Gardner has taken over Kurt Gardner.
- We attended the ADM Board stakeholder meetings and workshop for the Behavioral Health grant project on April 22, April 23, June 12, and June 13.
- Attended the Secretary of State's (SOS) Primary Election Physical Security Meetings in preparation for the May 6 Primary/Special Election.
- We hosted the Summit TVTP Stakeholder Meeting- Case Assessment Tabletop Exercise on June 4, 2025. Faylin explained more about the Targeted Violence Task Group.

#### **Communications**

- Link Layer Authentication is still in the process of being implemented statewide.

## **Community Events**

- We attended the Cuyahoga Falls and Silver Lake Police Memorial on May 14, 2025.
- Congratulations to Copley Township on the opening of its new Safety Center, now home to both the police and fire departments. The June 22nd open house and dedication drew an excellent turnout and served as a wonderful celebration of this important milestone.

## **Tim Gemind** reported the following:

- All Branches continue monthly training schedules. The Technical Rescue Branch trained with the National Guard for three days out at Camp James A. Garfield in Ravenna, where there is a large structural collapse training site.
- The Hazmat truck replacement committee met with a total of three vendors to discuss options for the new vehicle. The estimated cost is between \$1.2 million - \$2 million, and build times are from 24 to 40 months. The committee is waiting for engineering drawings from all three vendors to help narrow the search.
- On July 16, the Hazmat Branch will be participating in a LEPC State graded exercise. The exercise will be a train derailment at the Norfolk Southern RR Yard in Macedonia.
- Incidents
  - Hazmat response to Barberton last week for a corrosive leak from an over-the-road tanker
  - Water rescue response to Munroe Falls earlier this month for a missing person believed to be in the lake. After a two-hour search, the person was located on the land.
  - Water rescue response to Cuyahoga Falls last Saturday for a father/child in the Cuyahoga River. County water rescue assets assisted until Tuesday night. The Summit County IMAT was on the scene Monday and Tuesday, assisting with accountability and logistical support
  - Water rescue response to New Franklin Portage Lakes State Park last Tuesday for a missing swimmer.

## **Angela Robinson** reported the following:

- FY25 HMEP – We are waiting to hear if we are awarded funding for three trainings.
- FY24 SHSP - We were approved to begin procuring equipment under the bomb squad project. The SWAT projects are still under federal hold. Faylin is working with the respective teams to gather specs to begin procurement.
- FY23 SHSP—We are working with the State to reallocate funds.
- FY22 SHSP- The Homeland Security conference is the only remaining project. We are still working with the State to reallocate the remaining funds.

**Faylin Thurn** reported the following:

- HSEEP 9/3-4, 2025 at the SECC
- Complex Coordinated Attacks – LSU, 10/7-8, 2025, at the SECC
- Working to set up ICS 300-400 classes for November/December 2025
- In May, LSU- NCBRT/Academy of Counter-Terrorism Education hosted the Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response (LASER) course. This course was very well attended and very informative. LSU provides one of the best educational and well-rounded courses.

**Joseph St. John** reported the following:

- EOP
  - We are still working to complete a comprehensive review/update.
  - Working with DPSC subcommittees to review and update related annexes.
  - Brought several documents to the committee today for approval (sent out previously)
- DPSC (subcommittees continuing to help with EOP updates)
  - PIO Subcommittee (smaller work group formed)
  - Evacuation Subcommittee
  - Behavioral Health (annex for approval today)
  - Shelter and Mass Care
- Summit Ready
  - Continue working with interested organizations and communities to get certified.
- Exercise/Training/Response
  - IMAT trainings – May (CVNP) and June (CJAG)
  - IMAT deployment to Cuyahoga Falls
  - CAK tabletop exercise
  - SORT Hazmat functional exercise
  - NECO regional exercise – SimCell Support
- EMA App
  - Working with OCV to improve the layout of the app for better accessibility features.
  - Most current download numbers (as of April)
  - 4,027 (up from 3,862 on 12/19) for both iOS and Android
- Damage Assessment
  - Working with Crisis Track to update the Self-Reporting form. Issue with how the form appears in certain web browsers.
  - Sent updated parcel information to update property values in the system (still being completed by Crisis Track).

- Other
  - Updated and distributed the county drone database.
  - Collaborating with SECC on the use of IPAWS during large-scale incidents.
  - Working with County Communications to update Reverse Alert logo.
  - Interviewed by News 5 about the BBB “Rebuild with Trust” program.

### **Summit County Public Health**

Chris Barker reported Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) took a 28% cut this fiscal year, but funding could be restored to last year's level based on congressional allocations (currently being discussed). It is anticipated, however, that a 50% cut will impact PHEP funding the following year. Public Health and ODH are discussing contingency models for program sustainability. Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) funding will be relocated to a restructured office under the CDC. This is a shift as HPP was administered out of ASPR (intended to be disbanded and programs reallocated). Funding is line-itemed for HPP; however, funding cuts will occur based on allocation levels. It is unclear at present what the outcome of the intended changes will be.

### **800 MHz Radio System Report**

Motorola completed a system refresh in May and relocated some antennas in Stow. Please continue to encourage all users to update their radios. Unofficial report is that the update will be after 6/30. As of last month, we were 90% complete in Summit County.

### **VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- None

### **VII. Adjournment**

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

The next meeting will be the Workshop on September 10<sup>th</sup> at Maumee Bay.