

SCSORT Executive Board Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2026

Board Members:

Brett Reinbolt
Tommy Smoot
Steve Leslie
Scott Pascu

Staff/Guests:

Tim Gemind Brad Hemphill
David O'Neal (Z)
Paul Amonett
Richard Smith
Steve Blasdel

Board Members Absent:

Dennis Ragins

Z= Zoom

Chief Reinbolt called the Summit County Special Operations Response Team (SCSORT) Executive Board meeting to order on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Summit Emergency Communications Center, 630 North Ave., Tallmadge, OH.

- **Approval of minutes – February 10, 2026**

Chief Leslie moved to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2026, meeting, with Deputy Chief Scott Pascu seconding. The motion was carried by voice vote.

- **Chairperson's Comments/Correspondence**

Chief Reinbolt reviewed and spoke on the correspondence.

- Welcome email from Tim Gemind to the new team members from February 2026.
- One electronic vote - \$19.78 overage on the FY26 SAR Water grant.
- Chief Leslie made a motion to approve two training reimbursements for Tim Morgan, February 11-13, 2026 (\$275.00) and March 11-13, 2026 (\$453.75), with Deputy Chief Pascu seconding. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- Chief Leslie made a motion to approve the new team member apps listed below, with Deputy Chief Pascu seconding. The motion was approved by voice vote.
 - Water – Teddy Hapanowicz, Brandyn Yospur, Grant Masl, Christian Hall, Alex Bauknecht, Nick Corriere, Stephanie Fetsko, Xavier Brown, Kari Frank, Ryan Henry
 - HazMat – Aaron Hoxworth (change of department to Stow Fire)
 - TROT – Rick Ferdig, Izaac Zarges

- **SORT DISPATCH**

David O'Neal stated there were no team call-out requests.

- **BRANCH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- **HAZMAT**

- Team Typing in December; we have been officially re-typed as a Type I hazmat team.
- Expired duodote kits can be disposed of properly following your medical director's protocols.

- The draft SC Hazmat Medical Director job description was sent out to the board via email.
 - Chief Leslie made a motion to approve the SC HazMat Medical Director Job Description, with Deputy Chief Pascu seconding. The motion was approved by voice vote.
 - The Organic Oxidizers and Peroxide Training was completed in March.
 - Bonding, Grounding, and Liquid Transfer is next month at AFD Training.
 - Sent out a 10-question survey on training needs to the hazmat team.
 - Tires will need to be replaced on 3816.
 - Starlink Proposal submitted to move forward with a standard Starlink kit with the monthly service fee.
 - Chief Leslie made a motion to approve spending up to \$800 on the initial Star Link hazmat setup and purchase of the unit. Deputy Chief Pascu seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.
 - Chief Leslie made a motion to fund the monthly \$65.00 service fee from the Pipeline Fund. Deputy Chief Pascu seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.
 - Once Starlink is set up, we will disable two FirstNet cell phone lines.
 - **WATER**
 - No updates
 - **TROT**
 - The monthly training was relocated to the Operating Engineers facility, where the team conducted trench shoring drills (L-trench and 4-foot evacuation). A thank-you letter will be sent.
 - Several trailers received a PM.
 - A Trench Certification class is scheduled for September 26, 2026.
 - The team is looking for availability in the Rope 1 and 2 classes being held in May.
 - Ashland Fire's request to borrow team equipment for an SCO class from April 28 to May 1, 2026, was approved.
 - The ATV has been moved to Twinsburg Fire.
 - The replacement dipstick for the forklift has not yet arrived
 - **IMAT**
 - MCI plan will be reviewed in February in Green.
 - March training, we reviewed Crisis Track and Quick Capture
 - Chief Leslie made a motion to appoint Assistant Chief Brad Hemphill from Green Fire as the new IMAT Branch Director, and Deputy Chief Pascu seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- **REGION V**

Ohio Fire Chiefs ERP Notifications: Some noted they did not receive the state ERP call notification from Athens County, though others did. Most are receiving test notifications.

- **SPECIAL TEAMS PLANNER**

Tim Gemind reviewed the purchase sheet for two items (tires and annual PM for SCUBA). Chief Leslie made a motion to approve the purchase sheet, seconded by Deputy Chief Pascu. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Tim Gemind reported PMs are underway for all county trailers and apparatus. Four trailers are complete with no major issues found. Several generators for technical rescue require significant PM.

Tim Gemind reviewed the LEPC approval to send two hazmat members to the IAFC Conference.

PIPELINE Funding Request

Dave O'Neal presented a request for pipeline funds to host a Jurisdictional Incident Management Team course for approximately 50 personnel from across Summit County. The proposed off-site training in College Station, Texas, is a custom, scenario-based course with a cost not to exceed \$250,000. This is being pursued as the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is not accepting new applicants until 2029. The concept is supported by the Summit County Executive's Office and the Akron Mayor's Office and was unanimously approved by the Domestic Preparedness Steering Committee. Tommy Smoot noted that we have pending grant applications for training with AFG and the FY25 SHSP. The Board will discuss the proposal further and provide an update at the next meeting.

SECC Barn Storage

Tommy Smoot updated the board on efforts to restore electrical service. Maintenance staff were unable to activate the correct breakers at the adjacent ballpark because the breakers were not properly labeled. Thompson Electric may need to be consulted to trace the high-voltage wiring and label the breakers for a future project. It was noted that the building lacks heat and has holes, making it potentially unsuitable for certain technological equipment (computers, TV screens, and printers).

- **HAZMAT TRUCK COMMITTEE**

No updates.

- **ASSET REVIEW AND FUTURE SUSTAINMENT**

No updates

- **OLD BUSINESS**

Tim Gemind reported that we received the hazmat team reimbursement from the TNT incident.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

WATER

Certification Issue: A situation has arisen with Dive Rescue International (DRI) regarding certification for a recent Surface Ice Rescue class hosted by New Franklin Fire. DRI's new QA officer flagged the class because attendees were from multiple agencies, which contradicts the team's past practice.

Resolution Efforts: Captain Tenney, with input from Chief Duber, Lt. Bickett, and DRI trainer Fred Jackson, is in contact with DRI. A letter was sent explaining the collaborative nature of the Summit County team, and Fred Jackson has also contacted the DRI CEO. We need to use Summit County Dive for future training.

SCFCA / SORT Awareness Training Summit

Assistant Chief Steve Blasdel discussed a training summit scheduled for September. Assistant Chief Simich would like to see all the specialty operations teams come together for a couple of days of awareness training, especially for those who haven't interacted with them. The group also discussed different strategies for achieving the training and familiarization goals with the specialty teams. It was mentioned that the Summit County Fairgrounds Arena could be reserved. Overtime costs could be an issue later in the fall.

- **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- **NEXT MEETING**

April 16, 2026, 10 am at the SECC 630 North Ave., Tallmadge

- **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Chief Leslie motioned to adjourn with Deputy Chief Pascu as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.