

SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 7, 2025

The Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee (EMEC) meeting was called to order on Thursday, November 7, 2025, at 11:00 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 June 26, 2025, meeting, with Joseph Natko 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 to OEMA stated Summit County EMA will only be the fiscal agent for Summit County Special Teams beginning with FY2025 SHSP.
- Press release regarding the LEPC Hazmat exercise in Macedonia
- Letter from NACo appointing Thomas Smoot to the Resilient Counties Innovation Council
- Letter to the YMCA (from Joseph St. John) regarding use of their facilities for the Family Assistance Center.
- Letter from OEMA to Mayor Judge in Barberton for closeout of hazard mitigation funds for the offer to purchase homes on 15th St. in Barberton.
- County Council Res 2025-240 declaring the month of September 2025 as Preparedness Month in Summit County
- Letter from the City of Hudson regarding a notification of flood hazard revisions

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 D – Emergency Public Information
- 10-Annex I - Medical
- 12-Annex K - Shelter and Mass Care
- 22-Appendix E - Heat Advisory

Chief Funai motioned to accept the above changes with Lori Pesci as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

V. EMA AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Emergency Management Agency Report

Tommy Smoot reported:

Welcome to Deputy Chief Pascu, a new member of the EMEC.

- Completed the 2025 Ohio EMA Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) surveys.
- Summit County Community and Agency NIMS reporting due to SCEMA on December 5, 2025.
- Angela Robinson distributed a MARCS grant announcement to Fire Chiefs.

Incidents

- Supported the General election on November 4, 2025.
 - Participated in the monthly SOS Physical Election Security Conference Calls leading up to the election.
- Notified and on standby for EOC support of the Bath Twp mass shooting incident on Nov 2, 2025.

Meetings

- Summit County Public Health hosted the AWR- Mass Fatality Awareness Training on June 10, 2025. Dr. Kohler was a guest lecturer.
- Attended the ADM Board behavioral health planning meeting for the 2026 grant application on August 19, 2025.

Safety and Security

- HB 96 - Resumed DPSC Cyber/IT subcommittee meetings.
- Attended the Bath, Fairlawn, and Copley quarterly safety meeting.

Communications

- Summit County completed the Governor's Office Communication Survey distributed by Ohio EMA.
- Training/Exercise/IPAWS – Updated the notification form in August of 2025.
- Requested Ohio EMA to apply for a new grant -the FY 2025 Next Generation Warning System Grant Program.

Community Events

- The International Association of Emergency Managers announced that August 2025 was the inaugural National Emergency Management Awareness Month.
- Joseph participated in the Ohio EMA September 17, 2025, lunch and learn with the Akron BBB.
 - The Akron BBB emergency preparedness booklet has been added to our website.
- Attended the CC AGMC presentation from Dr. Khaled Atalla on Hospital Preparedness for Mass Casualty Events on Sept 19, 2025. Dr. Khaled Atalla, Director of the Emergency Department at the Galilee Medical Center in Israel.
- Attended the Cuyahoga Falls Firefighters Memorial 10.15.25.

Tim Gemind (reported by Tommy) reported the following:

Training/Equipment

- Monthly training continues for all branches.
- On July 16, the HAZMAT Branch participated in a LEPC State Graded Exercise hosted by the City of Macedonia. This was a simulated train derailment at the Norfolk Southern RR Yard. Nine objectives were met during the exercise, and the State issued a passing grade.
- The HAZMAT truck replacement committee continues to meet; review wants, needs, options, and drawings. Committee members have made one trip to Columbus to meet with a potential vendor and plan another trip to a different vendor, as well as to look at HAZMAT vehicles in Worthington, Columbus, and Lorain in December.
- On December 19, members of the State's HAZMAT Technical Advisory Committee will be here to retype the HAZMAT Branch. Apparatus, equipment, supplies, and records will be reviewed to ensure the Branch maintains its Type 1 response status, which has the highest level of capabilities.
- One of the two main Technical Rescue vehicles was moved from the Green Fire Department to the Akron Fire Department. On-duty personnel will respond to technical rescue incidents in the city and county with the SORT vehicle. Thank you to Chief Funai and his staff for housing the vehicle for several years.

Incidents since the last meeting:

- HAZMAT Response Assessment phone call to Fairlawn for a chemical odor in a residence.
- HAZMAT Response Assessment phone call to Cuyahoga Falls for a small Chlorine leak.
- HAZMAT response to Twinsburg for a chemical reaction inside a building.

Angela Robinson reported the following:

Currently working on the following grants

- FY24 SHSP- All the projects are going well and are being procured. The election security project is currently on hold due to the Federal Government Shutdown. Hopefully, the request will be approved once the Federal Government re-opens.
- FY23 SHSP- All the awarded projects have been completed, procured, and the equipment has been delivered to the teams. There are remaining grant funds available, and a request to Ohio EMA was submitted for approval to spend them down. We hope this request will be approved so that funding does not have to be de-obligated.

Completed Grants-

- FY22 SHSP- This grant is complete. This grant is for equipment and/or training. The grant ended August 31, 2025. All projects awarded under the FY22 SHSP have been successfully procured, and all the equipment has been delivered to the team.
- FY24 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Grant (PUCO)- This grant is complete. The grant ended June 30, 2025. This training consisted of 2 Hazmat courses. All training has been completed, and the reimbursement request has been submitted.
- FY22-24 HMEP Year 3- This grant is complete. The grant ended on September 30, 2025. This grant was awarded for three hazmat training courses. All training has been completed, and all reimbursement requests have been submitted.
- FY24 EMPG- This grant is complete. The grant ended on September 30, 2025.

New Grants Submissions-

- FY25 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Grant (PUCO)- The grant application was submitted, and the Hazmat Team was awarded funding for 2 Hazmat Training Courses totaling \$18,825.00. The courses are Grounding & Bonding and Hazardous Materials Refresher Training with Exercise. This grant must be completed by June 30, 2026.
- FY25 HMEP- The grant application was submitted; however, there has not been an award yet. This is due to the federal government's shutdown. No appropriations can be made during this time.
- State Search and Rescue Grant- These grants for the technical rescue team and water rescue team will be disbursed before the end of the year.
- FY25 SHSP Grant Application

Tommy sent out the grant applications to all partners on 9/22/25. Each agency could submit up to three projects. The applications were due to the Ohio EMA by 10/24/25. Summit County EMA submitted its grant application on 10/21/25 for the following three projects.

- Project 1
 - TEEX Training MGT 314-Unified command Training- All travel and training expenses paid for up to 45 participants.
- Project 2
 - Summit County Specialty Teams (Hazmat, Water Rescue, and Collapse Search and Rescue)
 - Hazmat Team-24 Portable Radios with accessories to work in conjunction with the SCBAs
 - Collapse Search and Rescue- Deployment Trailer with overnight accommodation for up to 72 hours for up to 24 professionals from various disciplines, depending on the needs of the recovery efforts.
 - Water Rescue Team- 9 Dry suits
- Project 3
 - Summit County Law Enforcement Specialized Teams Project
 - Summit County Bomb Squad- Deployable X-ray System
 - Cuyahoga Falls PD SWAT Team- 8 sets of Night Vision Equipment
 - Summit County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team-15 Sets of Night Vision Equipment
 - Akron PD SWAT Team-15 Sets of Night Vision Equipment

Grant Reporting/Maintenance

- All quarterly reports for July 1-September 30, 2025, have been submitted to Ohio EMA.
- All Grant Time and Effort for Faylin and Angela have been submitted via reimbursement requests
- The Emergency Notification System is going through the process of being procured for next year. We are finalizing payment.

Faylin Thurn reported the following:

- ICS 300-400 classes for November/December 2025 in Lakemore
- Faylin will send out the 2026 trainings at the beginning of January

Joseph St. John reported the following:

EOP

- We are still working on completing a comprehensive review and update.
- Working with DPSC subcommittees to review and update related annexes.
- Bringing several documents to the committee today for approval (sent out previously).

- After tentative approvals today, five annexes/appendices are left to finish the update.

DPSC

- Restarted the Cyber/IT Subcommittee with great turnout.
 - o Looking to form a small group to review and add a new cyber annex or appendix to EOP
- Family Assistance Center Workgroup
 - o Continue working on plan.
 - o Working with YMCA and Akron-Summit County Library on potential locations.
- All other subcommittees continue to meet either regularly or as needed.

Summit Ready

- SCPH became certified in August

EMA App

- Updated app layout with accessibility features went live over the summer

Other

- Worked with the SECC to update the mass notification process for IPAWS and Reverse Alert
- Established a Disaster Animal Response group to assist during evacuations and sheltering operations
- Presented on the Ohio EMA Lunch and Learn series in September with the BBB on the Rebuild with Trust program and booklet

Summit County Public Health

Chris Barker reported that Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funding remains available in full for another grant period. He also discussed WIC funding, indicating that WIC serves 10,500 clients in Summit County and the potential implications if the shutdown continued.

800 MHz Radio System Report

Tommy Smoot stated the link-layer authentication deadline is approaching at the end of 2025. Maintenance and site visits continue this fall.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Discussed Issue 2 and property taxes and the effect they could have on the community per capita.
- Issue 1 passed for the ADM Board.
- Tommy confirmed with the EMEC Committee that this format of meeting after the DPSC meeting works well for everyone. EMEC meetings will be held on the first Friday of every other month at 11 am at the Summit Emergency Communications Center.

VII. Adjournment

Tommy Smoot made a motion to adjourn, with Bud McDaniel seconding it. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The next meeting will be on January 9, 2026, at 11:00 am at the SECC.