

SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

January 9, 2026

The Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee (EMEC) meeting was called to order on Friday, January 9, 2025, at 11:05 am in the Summit Emergency Communications Center, 630 North Ave., Tallmadge, OH.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bud McDaniel moved to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2025, meeting, seconded by Tina Merlitti. The motion was carried by voice vote.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence Sent and Received

Tommy Smoot discussed the correspondence.

- Letter from Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands, Summit County Court of Common Pleas, in reference to Tommy Smoot's appointment to the Courthouse Security Committee.
- Letters from IAEM in reference to Tommy Smoot's 5-year CEM renewal.
- Letter from IAEM Region V President in reference to Tommy Smoot's CEM renewal.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- 2026 EMA budget
 - Tina Merlitti moved to approve the 2026 budget, seconded by Bud McDaniel. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 2026 EMA Per-capita
 - Tina Merlitti moved to keep the same rate for the 2026 per capita, seconded by Joe Natko. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 2026 EMEC Elections
 - Bud McDaniel moved to elect Bill Holland (Chair) and Bruce Koellner (Vice Chair), seconded by Tina Merlitti. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- 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 B – Communications
 - Annex C – Notification and Warning
 - Annex H – Public Health
 - Annex O – Community Containment

Joe Natko moved to accept the above changes to Annex B, C, H, and O, with Tina Merlitti seconding. The motion was carried by voice vote.

V. EMA AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Emergency Management Agency Report

Tommy Smoot reported:

Meetings

- NexGen 911 meeting on GIS data and the status around the county
- NECO Region 5 Meeting December 18, 2025

Grants/Funding

- BRIC - The U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts granted full summary judgment in favor of over 20 plaintiff states in the case of Washington v. FEMA. The court ruled that FEMA's termination of the BRIC program was unlawful and issued a permanent injunction restoring the program.

Communications

- The ReverseAlert.net trademark and service mark have been renewed - Thanks to Alex Burt for her assistance throughout the process.

Tim Gemind reported the following:

Training/Equipment

- All branches have submitted their 2026 training schedules for another full year of continuing education.
- The HAZMAT replacement truck committee members made a trip to Columbus last month to meet with a vendor. Members toured the manufacturing plant and viewed two different vehicles from the Columbus and Worthington Fire Departments.
- On December 19, members of the State's HAZMAT Technical Advisory Committee were here for a typing re-certification visit. We have not received the visit results, but I am confident we will maintain our Type 1 status. All county HAZMAT apparatus and equipment were on display at Stow FD #1.

Incidents since the last meeting:

- On 22 November, the Region 5 Urban Search and Rescue Team was deployed to Austintown for a partial building collapse. Approximately forty members responded. Upon arrival, members were briefed and conducted a detailed review of the current situation. It was determined that the remaining structure was safe and stable, and no further action was needed.

Tommy Smoot reported the following on behalf of Angela Robinson:

Currently working on the following grants

- FY24 SHSP- All projects are progressing on schedule. We were officially awarded the funding for the election security project on 12/1/2025. We are in the process of accepting the funding. We are working with the Summit County Board of Elections on this project. They have requested equipment to support the network and cybersecurity, as well as additional machines to read ballot results more quickly.
- FY23 SHSP- Completed all projects initially awarded by the state. Working with OEMA to determine whether remaining funds can be used to purchase a hazmat meter for the hazmat team. We received approval to spend the remaining grant funds by Ohio EMA on 12/12/2025. We will be purchasing a Hazmat Meter/Chemical Analyzer for the Summit County Special Operations Hazmat Team. This device would enable the team to analyze more than 15,000 potential chemicals and to identify and respond appropriately to any chemical spill in Summit County or across Region 5. A grant extension has been requested and approved. The new performance period will end on 7/31/2026.

Completed Grants-

- 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- Funding awarded on 12/19/2025, for the full amount of \$34,135.70. We are in the process of accepting this funding. This grant is for 2 specialized hazmat trainings- Risk Based Response to Oxidizers and Peroxides and Propane Response-101 to Advanced Tactics for up to 90 students each training.
- FY26 State Search and Rescue grants for the technical rescue team and water rescue team grant agreements were received on 12/10/2025. We are in the process of accepting the grant award and will start procurement later in January.
- FY24 SHSP – Election Security Project- we have been given until 6/30/2027 to complete the project.
- FY25 SHSP Grant Application – No awards received yet.

Grant Reporting/Maintenance

- All quarterly reporting is prepared and ready to be submitted to Ohio EMA.
- SHSP Time and Admin- Grant Reimbursement for the period ending 12.31.2025
- Single Audit is prepared and ready to submit
- Ohio EMA Annual Inventory is prepared and ready to submit

Tommy Smoot reported the upcoming training on behalf of Faylin Thurn:

- ICS 300-400 classes for April/May in Springfield.
- The Skywarn Registration link is open and will be hosted at the Summit County Public Health Auditorium on April 6, 2026.
- In a previous meeting, Phil McHugh reported that there is a way to complete Incident Management Courses, including ICS 300 and 400, as well as All Hazards Position-Specific courses, online through DC Homeland Security's Learning Management System. Please visit the following link for additional details: <https://hsema.dc.gov/hsema-training-and-exercise>

Joseph St. John reported the following:

- EOP
 - Wrapping up the update cycle with one outstanding annex.
 - Bringing several documents to the committee today for approval (sent out previously)
- DPSC
 - Cyber/IT Subcommittee had a presentation from the Ohio Cyber Range.
 - Looking to use a group to add a new cyber annex or appendix to EOP.
 - Family Assistance Center Workgroup
 - Continue working on plan.
 - Working on finalizing which library locations will work best.
 - Will look to find additional locations to ensure coverage around the county.
 - Disaster Animal Response Workgroup continues to meet and is working towards a response plan.
 - EMS Subcommittee will meet later this month to discuss MCI response to the Bath active shooter incident.
 - All others continue to meet either on a regular basis or as needed.

Summit County Public Health

Chris Barker discussed the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funding and upcoming program considerations.

Chris Barker discussed the highlights of the recently completed Summit County Community Health Assessment. Additional details can be found at: [Assessments & Reports | Summit County Public Health](#)

800 MHz Radio System Report

Mike Szabo provided an update on system maintenance, upgrades, and upcoming link-layer authentication deadlines.

Mike Banks provided an update on NextGen 9-1-1 progress and outlined the upcoming steps for Summit County.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Tommy Smoot reviewed Stark County's November 19, 202025, Active Shooter Exercise at Belden Village Mall. An AI-generated news monitor picked up the Stark radio traffic and reported the exercise as a real incident. The group discussed the future operational considerations.
- Tommy Smoot stated that Judy Kelly's last day was January 2, 2026, and that Faylin Thurn's would be January 30, 2026. He expressed his gratitude to Judy Kelly and Faylin Thurn for their dedicated service to the Department and their exceptional contributions to public safety, homeland security, and emergency management.

VII. Adjournment

Tina Merlitti moved to adjourn, with Bud McDaniel seconding it. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The next meeting will be on March 6, 2026, at 11:00 am at the SECC.