

SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 6, 2026

The Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee (EMEC) meeting was called to order on Friday, March 6, 2025, at 11:05 am in the Summit County Public Health Board Room, 1867 W. Market, Akron, OH, 44313.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bud McDaniel moved to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2026, meeting, seconded by Jeff Funai. The motion was carried by voice vote.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence Sent and Received

Tommy Smoot discussed the correspondence.

- FirstNet Principles for Preservation
- Northern Ohio Public Safety Support will begin providing rehabilitation (Rehab) services, as outlined in the attached flyer, starting this Sunday, February 1st.
 - Our trained volunteer teams will deliver these services to fire, EMS, law enforcement, and other government agencies (including County EMA's, local Fire Investigation Units, and the Ohio EPA) that lack their own rehab systems or need additional resources during large-scale incidents or training events. Operating under national safety standards and the Incident Command System (ICS), our goal is to ensure every responder can rest, recover, and rehydrate, protecting their health and enhancing operational safety.
- The Ohio Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service, in partnership with Lamar Advertising, will be expanding the Ohio Traveler Alert System (OTAS) into our area.
- The Ohio DJFS ESF-6 Newsletter highlighting the work of the Summit County Shelter and Mass Care Subcommittee

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 J - Evacuation
- Bud McDaniel moved to accept the above changes to Annex B, C, H, and O, with Jeff Funai seconding. The motion was carried by voice vote.

- Joseph St. John discussed the EOP Distribution plan. DocuSign will be used to distribute the EOP to all stakeholders and to obtain signatures confirming receipt of the updated plan documents.

V. EMA AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Emergency Management Agency Report

Tommy Smoot reported:

Training/Exercise

- American Red Cross Thunderbolt Exercise - Volunteered to be an evaluator/observer. Thunderbolt was a spontaneous, one-time occurrence taking place on February 2, 2026
- Participated in the following exercises
 - NECO Region 5 Hospital surge exercise on February 5, 2026.
 - The University of Akron's Annual Clergy Act required Emergency Management Exercise - February 23, 2026
 - The Summit County Public Health TTX on February 26, 2026
- Skywarn scheduled for April 6, 2026, at the SCPH auditorium on April 6, 2026
- CAK Tabletop exercise is scheduled for May 12, 2026
- Akron Zoo - MGT 312 - May 19, 2026
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Meetings

- Summit County Board of Elections - alternate voting sites
- Summit County Courthouse Safety Committee, January 30, 2026

Incidents

- Winter storm Fern monitoring and assessment - January 24, 2026
- CC AGMC's water main break incident 2.7.26
- Upcoming election support - SOS and BOE

Community Events

- The City of Green State of the City Address
- The City of Hudson State of the City Address

Tim Gemind reported the following:

Training/Equipment

- All branches training well underway for 2026.
- No updates on the search for a new HazMat vehicle replacement.
- On December 19, members of the State's HAZMAT Technical Advisory Committee were here for a typing re-certification visit. The HazMat team has been reverified and confirmed as a Type I HazMat team.

Incidents since the last meeting:

- None

Angela Robinson reported the following:

Currently working on the following grants

- **FY25 SHSP** - The awards are currently on hold due to the government shutdown. They should be announced once they have reopened.
- **FY24 SHSP** - All projects are on schedule and have been delivered to each team. We are waiting for the SWAT Tactical Robots to arrive.
- **FY24 SHSP Election Security** - We officially received the funding for the election security project on 12/1/2025. We are working closely with the Summit County Board of Elections on this initiative. They have requested equipment to enhance network and cyber security, along with additional machines to speed up reading ballot results. All the projects are currently in the procurement process.
- **FY23 SHSP** - Finalizing this grant. The grant has been extended to July 31, 2026. The hazmat meter was ordered, has arrived, and there are remaining funds. We will use those funds to purchase additional Level A hazmat suits for the Summit County Hazmat Team.

Also working on the following grants;

- **FY25 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Grant**—Grant award of \$12,550.00. The performance period ends on June 30, 2026. The grant covers two hazmat trainings: Grounding and Bonding from April 15-17, 2026, and All Hazards Refresher on May 20-21, 2026, both facilitated by Bad Day Training and Consulting. If you are interested, please contact the Hazmat Team. Each course will be held consecutively over three days, allowing each Hazmat Rotation to be trained.
- **FY25 HMEP Year 1 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant** award of \$34,135.70 is to be completed by 9/30/2026. The grant covers two specialized hazmat training courses: Organic Oxidizers, facilitated by Safeware Inc, on March 18-20, 2026, and Propane Response-101 to Advanced Tactics, scheduled for August 19-21, 2026, for up to 90 students. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Hazmat Team to enroll. Each course will be held consecutively for three days, allowing each Hazmat Rotation to be trained.
- **The FY26 State Search and Rescue grants** for the technical rescue team and water rescue team grant agreements were received on 12/10/2025. All equipment has been ordered, and we are waiting for a few items to arrive. We are on track to complete the grant before the May 31, 2026, deadline.

New Grant Applications

- **FY2025 EMPG** - Ohio EMA anticipates they will send out the grant agreements within the next few weeks.
- **FY2025 HMEP – Year 2** - PHMSA has not yet released the federal application or NOFO guidance for FY2025 HMEP – Year 2. Once the application becomes available and submission deadlines are confirmed, we will distribute project application materials. In the meantime, please start planning potential projects for the upcoming performance period (10/01/2026 – 09/30/2027). Please note that HMEP reimbursements are unaffected by the DHS shutdown.

Grant Reporting/Maintenance

- Gearing up to complete all grant quarterly reporting, the performance period ending 3/31/26. Reports due April 30, 2026.
- SHSP Time and Admin- Grant Reimbursement for the period ending 3.31.2026.

Joseph St. John reported the following:

DPSC

- Cyber/IT
 - Cancelled March meeting due to light agenda/meeting venue scheduling conflict
 - Will work on establishing a group to review a cyber appendix to the EOP
- Family Assistance Center Workgroup
 - Continue working on the plan.
 - ◦ Chose 8 potential library locations for FAC use, considering factors like parking availability, building capacity, nearby facilities, and public transit options.
 - ◦ Working on an MOU with the Library for the use of their locations.
 - ◦ Collaborating with Cuyahoga Falls to use the Natatorium as an FAC location.
 - ◦ Exploring options in the northeast corner of the county.
- The Disaster Animal Response Workgroup has not met yet but will hopefully meet soon to continue working on a response plan.
- EMS Subcommittee met in January to review the MCI response to the Bath active shooter incident. Several action items emerged from the meeting that we will include in the MCI plan.

Other

- Attended the School Safety Summit in January at Revere High School.
- As of 1/1/26, all school EOPs must include a policy on cell phone use for students during emergencies. We review plans to ensure this is included.
- EMA app meets the new ADA WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standards.
 - Continue to promote downloads for the app.
- The OH-139 Exercise Design and Evaluation course scheduled for fall will be combined with either Cuyahoga or Lorain County because three neighboring counties requested it during the same exercise cycle.
- 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.

Summit County Public Health

No report.

800 MHz Radio System Report

Mike Szabo provided an update on system maintenance and upgrades. Maintenance is scheduled for March 24, and an announcement will be sent to all users.

9-1-1 / Next Gen 9-1-1

Dave Gatie gave an update on the CAD progress; it went much more smoothly than previous updates.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Chief Chris Martin discussed the upcoming Cuyahoga River safety project. It is led by Akron's GIS, Metro Parks, and the National Park System. The project covers the entire Cuyahoga River and includes developing a website based on GIS data, among other initiatives. It uses government water gauges installed in the water. There will be signs that will tell you exactly where you are on the river and what the conditions are right in front of you.

VII. Adjournment

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

The next meeting will be on May 1, 2026, at 11:00 am at the SECC.