



SUMMIT COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Hazardous Materials Planning and Community Right-To-Know

LEPC Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: March 5, 2026

Location: Summit County Public Health, 1867 W. Market, Akron, Ohio

MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Groves – Chair	Valley Fire District
Tommy Smoot	Summit County Emergency Management
Tim Gemind - Secretary	Summit County Emergency Management
Sam Rubens	Summit County Public Health
Judy Bearer	Direction Home
Kelsey Kurcsak	Davey Tree
Kurt Kollar	OEPA
Scott Pascu	Akron Fire Department
Brenda Robnison	Huntsman
Melissa McFadden	Summit County DOSSS
Rebecca Wrightsman	Akron Children’s Hospital

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kandy Fatheree	Summit County Sheriff’s Office
Pam Williams	American Red Cross
Sharen Breyer	Community
Alison Reichard	Huntsman
Bruce Koellner - 2nd Vice	Copley Township
Shawn Metcalf	Akron METRO RTA
Julia Harber - Vice Chair	NEO Regional Sewer District
Chris Norfolk	Cuyahoga Falls Police Department
Katlyn Prater	Akron Children’s Hospital

GUESTS PRESENT

Andrew King	Summit County HazMat
Joseph St. John	SCEMA
Michelle Sowers	Ohio EMA
Tanya Miller	Baker Hughes



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Approval of minutes

- The November 18, 2025, meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Sam Rubens and a second by Kurt Kollar. The motion passed unanimously, with no opposition.

Correspondence

- Two electronic votes:
 - To approve sending six hazmat technicians to an advanced air monitoring class/certification
 - To approve a resolution as part of the annual LEPC Grant application.
- Thank you letters from Captain Paul Amonett and FF Andrew King on behalf of the six hazmat technicians for the LEPC sponsoring their attendance at the MSA RITE meter maintenance certification course.
- The 2026 LEPC Budget
- The current roster of 2025-2027 LEPC members

Reports

- Tim Gemind presented the Information Coordinator Report:
 - Since the last meeting, three spill reports, four 30-day follow-up reports, and three right-to-know requests were received.
 - 553 Tier 2 Reports have been imported, as 1 March was the deadline.
- Tim Gemind presented the Special Teams Planner Report:
 - Hazmat training included:
 - January, Radiation.
 - February, Ohio 52nd Civil Support Team, Metering and Sampling.
 - March, Oxidizers.
 - April, Bonding, Grounding & Product Transfer.
 - All Level A and Level B HAZMAT suits were tested.
 - Nothing new to report on the new HAZMAT vehicle.



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Subcommittee Reports

- EHS – LEPC site visits completed at:
 - JC Chemical in New Franklin has recently updated all leak detection systems and the emergency call box release notification. The company plans a major renovation soon. EnviroServe is removing five 1970s vintage above-ground storage tanks from the property. The company is committed to sending personnel to emergency response training at the Mississippi State Fire Academy. The company's Branch Manager is an instructor at the academy.
 - PPG in Barberton, we conducted a 45-minute driving tour with three safety personnel from both North and South Plant operations. Emergency Response programs at the Barberton Facility were discussed, including the annual training and tour for area first responders. Approximately 130 employees are trained at the hazmat technician level each year. All supervisor roles within the facility attend Incident Commander training annually. PPG pays ISTS Company about \$60,000 annually to train employees and local first responders. PPG utilizes a new emergency trailer equipped with hazmat suits, SCBA, respirators, C-kits, portable secondary containment, decontamination supplies, and more. PPG Barberton's Safer system is used for plume modeling and related purposes. A US EPA RMP Audit was conducted in January 2026 and was successful. PPG is constantly audited by numerous agencies. The 500,000-gallon water tank for fire systems was inspected.
 - Reuter-Stokes in Twinsburg. Their EHS leadership and a Chemical Engineer reached out to us with questions about emergency planning and response for some of their acids. Chairperson Groves spoke with the engineer, and I met with the EHS leader. The company is looking into additional training for employees that may include a TTX with first responders and the HAZMAT Branch.
- Spill Reporting and Compliance: Tim Gemind emailed documents to everyone.
- Training, Education, and Exercise Subcommittee: We are beginning to work on this year's LEPC workshop; please forward relevant speakers and topics. We are considering sometime in the Fall (October 2026).



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- Finance Subcommittee:
 - The budget was emailed to all
 - Tim Gemind requested a motion to send two HAZMAT Technicians to the Annual IAFC HAZMAT Conference in June in Baltimore. \$5,000.00. This includes tuition, hotel, and parking expenses. Sam Reubens made the motion with Melissa McFadden as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.
 - Tim Gemind requested a motion to replace two OOS Surface Pros on 3826 with two ruggedized laptops. The lowest quote was \$3,804.37, and the quotes were sent via email for review. Scott Pascu made a motion with Melissa McFadden as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.
 - Tim Gemind requested a motion for the calibration of all hazmat radiation Meters in the amount of \$3,000.00. Sam Reubens made the motion with Rebecca Wrightsman as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.
 - Michelle Sowers stated the NE counties should be up next (summer 2026) for the state to calibrate the Ludlum 26-3 meters.
- Planning Committee: No report
- Incidents
 - Akron: an estimated five diesel saddle tank spills (e.g., Smith Road; jackknife near Kenmore leg).
 - Hudson: Oil and brine leaked from a gas well behind Hudson High School due to a tank problem. The containment dike was intact, but the rainwater plug was pulled. Several hundred gallons affected the parking lot and possibly athletic fields. Hudson handled the cleanup using booms, pads, and absorbents. Summit Petroleum was hired for field cleanup.
 - Erie County: Railcar chemical release at a high-end facility on Huron River; secondary containment held, but the valve was left open; rainwater complicated the situation; tertiary containment through storm sewer gate valve failed (never effectively tested). Rapid river-containment measures (sinking, magnetic, and floating



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booms) minimized the impact. This incident highlights the gap between plans and actual performance; we recommend live-flow or dye tests to verify containment, valve function, and pathways.

New Business

The group discussed the LEPC Media seat for the next LEPC cycle 2027-2022. There is an anticipated state interpretation that could restrict "media" to broadcast/print; ORC requires the seat. - - Stark County petitioned SERC to broaden per federal guidance (allow PIO/social media). SERC receptive; formal opinion pending.

Old Business

We are working on a cost recovery from the Twinsburg incident (TNT), and the group maintains a full reimbursement stance.

SERC

Coffee Talk scheduled for March 11; recorded for later viewing.

Good of the Order

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2026, at 8:30 AM at the SECC

Adjournment

Kurt Kollar motioned to adjourn the meeting with Sam Rubens as the second. All in favor: None opposed.