

# SCSORT Executive Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2026

Board Members:

Brett Reinbolt  
Tommy Smoot  
Steve Leslie  
Scott Pascu

Staff/Guests:

Tim Gemind Brad Hemphill  
David O'Neal Greg Gerhart  
David Tenney Dennis Basch  
Richard Smith Kelly McKee

Board Members Absent:

Dennis Ragins

Z= Zoom

Chief Reinbolt called the Summit County Special Operations Response Team (SCSORT) Executive Board meeting to order on Thursday, March 16, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Summit Emergency Communications Center, 630 North Ave., Tallmadge, OH.

- **Approval of minutes – March 24, 2026**

Chief Leslie moved to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2026, meeting, with Director Smoot seconding. The motion was carried by voice vote.

- **Chairperson's Comments/Correspondence**

Chief Reinbolt reviewed and spoke on the correspondence.

- A welcome email from Tim Gemind to the new team members in March 2026.
- A thank-you letter to the Ohio Operating Engineers Main Office was sent.
- Chief Leslie made a motion to approve the new team member app listed below, with Deputy Chief Pascu seconding. The motion was approved by voice vote.
  - TROT – Kenneth Henry (Hudson)
- No electronic votes.
- No training reimbursements.

- **SORT DISPATCH**

David O'Neal stated there were no team call-out requests. The group met in Springfield to discuss the Ohio Region 5 CSAR process. It was confirmed that the established process through SECC dispatch will continue, with activation occurring through the Ohio Fire Chiefs Response Plan. Members should not respond until the Region 5 CSAR team is officially activated.

- **BRANCH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- **HAZMAT**
  - Responded to a callout in Cuyahoga Falls for a sulfuric reaction. The incident was handled effectively.
  - A new RedWave gas identification meter was received.
  - A new refrigerant meter will be looked at for this month's training.

- Monthly training will focus on grounding, bonding, and product transfer, emphasizing hands-on equipment use.
- **WATER**
  - Captain Tenney reported no callouts this month.
  - Multi-day training was conducted with some members of TROT. The training went well, but there were issues maintaining attendance throughout all three days.
  - Truck in service at Station 11.
  - Dive Rescue reported the hiring of a new processor, with some initial operational challenges noted.
    - When submitting rosters in the future, write “[Your Department]/Summit County” to avoid any issues with flagging.
  - The trailer received new SARS brand gear.
  - The trailer and gear are currently at Professional Diving Resources for annual PM.
    - The trailer is in service.
    - The dive gear is out of service.
- **TROT**
  - 214 Unit Log for April 2026:
    - Discussed March training at Operating Engineers.
      - There were issues with the Line Gun that have been addressed in the Purchase Order for this meeting.
    - April training with Swiftwater at Cuyahoga Valley National Park in the river and park.
  - Trauma in the Park on May 12, 2026:
    - TROT has been asked to participate again, looking to expand and get more people involved this year.
    - Organizers mentioned getting people on ropes and rappelling.
  - Discussions with the Ohio Operating Engineers about their Crane and Lead Climbing training, and a date for that training will be picked.
  - Fall Trench Certification Class for County Personnel is still in motion.
  - Ashland Fire’s request to borrow the Summit County trailer for a Structure and Collapse training from April 28 to May 1, 2026, was approved.
    - Ashland Fire is currently working on some of the items on that trailer to prepare for the upcoming training.
    - SORT is requesting to send team members to attend that training.
  - The ATV has been moved to Twinsburg Fire during Hudson’s station renovation.
- **IMAT**
  - Deputy Chief Hemphill gave an update on the recent Swiftwater training with TROT.
  - Lakemore requested the IMAT Trailer for their June Rock the Docks event.
    - Discussion about potential trailer use policy requiring IMAT team members to accompany the trailer when it is requested without trained personnel.

- **REGION V**

The April meeting was canceled due to overlap with the FDIC International Conference. The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, and will be held virtually on Zoom. The June meeting will be canceled.

- **SPECIAL TEAMS PLANNER**

Tim Gemind reviewed the purchase sheet for three items (an MSA meter, Parts/Equipment for the TROT Line Guns, and four generator batteries). Chief Leslie moved to approve the purchase sheet, seconded by Deputy Chief Pascu. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Tim Gemind also reported that new tires have been installed on the hazmat water spill trailer and that the Starlink satellite has been received. The satellite will be delivered to the hazmat zone coordinators at the next meeting.

### **PIPELINE Funding Request**

In the March meeting, 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, would include a custom scenario-based course with a cost not to exceed \$250,000.

The Fire Chief's Association Executive Board met with Dave O'Neal and decided more information was needed before making the final decision.

### **SECC Barn Storage**

Tommy Smoot updated the board on efforts to restore electrical service, which is still in progress.

- **HAZMAT TRUCK COMMITTEE**

The committee needs to meet again soon; the group would like to meet with an additional vendor to discuss the final minimum specifications. Tim Gemind will schedule that meeting.

- **ASSET REVIEW AND FUTURE SUSTAINMENT**

No updates

- **OLD BUSINESS**

Batteries for portable HazMat and TROT radios will be purchased, as needed.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

- **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Branch directors will proceed from today's meeting to the Fairgrounds for a site visit and to meet with the Chair of the Fairgrounds to discuss using the facilities for the September training.

Tommy Smoot introduced Kelly McKee as the new Administrative Specialist, who will be assisting with meeting minutes, invites, and membership going forward.

- **NEXT MEETING**

May 18, 2026, 10 am at the SECC, 630 North Ave., Tallmadge.

- **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Chief Leslie moved to adjourn, with a second by Deputy Chief Pascu. The motion was carried by voice vote.