

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHAPIRO**
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Amateur radio operators and EMA collaborate to enhance safety

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—County Executive Ilene Shapiro and her Emergency Management team recently partnered with Summit County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to enhance the volunteer organization’s capabilities to assist in an emergency response. The County is now hosting ARES equipment on its radio tower at Summit Emergency Communications Center, ensuring reliable communication throughout the county and with state partners in the event of an emergency.

ARES is comprised of licensed amateurs radio operators who voluntarily register their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service if a disaster strikes. Members are required to meet certain national standards, including completing Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Weather Service training. The group has 60 volunteers dedicated to supporting their community and many also serve as volunteers with the Twinsburg, Copley and Summit County Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

“Summit County is proud to support ARES and its dedicated volunteers. When disaster strikes, we need all hands on deck to respond,” said County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “By providing access to our radio tower, we are better prepared for emergencies and will have stronger communication capabilities should an event occur.”

Summit County EMA and ARES have a long history of collaboration. ARES has provided backup communication for the County’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in both actual incidents and training exercises, helping to coordinate high-quality emergency response efforts and increasing preparedness and response capabilities. ARES also provides support to the American Red Cross, Akron Marathon and other local public service events. And as trained SKYWARN spotters, ARES members help monitor and report severe weather conditions. The group’s participation in yearly SKYWARN training ensures they are prepared for weather-related information during emergencies.

“ARES appreciates Summit County’s support and the strong collaborative relationship we have maintained for many years. Our volunteer members are committed to supporting our local public safety forces in the event of an emergency or disaster. Working together, we are keeping our community safe,” said ARES Emergency Coordinator Ken Dorsey.

Learn more about Summit County EMA at <https://co.summitoh.net/departments/Emergency-Management-Agency.html> and about ARES at <http://www.summitares.org/home.php>.

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