

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro—Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Date: July 17, 2025

Contact: Greta Johnson
Director of Communications & Assistant Chief of Staff
Office of Executive Shapiro
ExecutivePress@summitoh.net
330-643-2656

Summit County EMA hosts hazmat exercise in Macedonia

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO — The Summit County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) recently collaborated with the City of Macedonia Police, Fire, and Service Departments, the State Emergency Response Commission, Norfolk Southern Railroad, and the Summit County Hazmat Response Team for a full-scale hazardous materials training exercise.

The drill took place at the Conrail Yard and simulated a response to a leaking tanker rail car. The exercise aimed to strengthen coordination among multiple agencies and test unified command procedures in a realistic, high-stakes environment.

At the center of the training was the Norfolk Southern Safety Train, a mobile classroom equipped with specialized tank cars and box cars designed to provide hands-on, advanced training in hazardous materials response, rail operations, and emergency techniques. Local first responders had the opportunity to engage directly with the Safety Train, gaining critical experience in managing complex rail-related incidents.

The core objective of the exercise was to reinforce the principles of unified command, an incident management approach that ensures fire, police, dispatch, public works, hazmat teams, and other responding agencies operate together under a shared framework. Regular drills such as this are essential to prepare first responders for the real-world coordination required during large-scale emergencies.

"This type of training is invaluable," said Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro. "It ensures that all agencies are speaking the same language and working as one cohesive unit when it matters most."

EMA Director Tom Smoot added, "Our goal is to build muscle memory through exercises like these. When a real incident occurs, there's no time to figure out the process. We need to act swiftly, safely, and together."

The Summit County EMA and its partners remain committed to providing first responders with the tools, training, and experience necessary to keep the community safe during emergencies involving hazardous materials and other threats.