

Common Vision

Newsletter for the Emergency Management Agency of Summit County

Vol. 4 No.3

Summer 2001

James B. McCarthy, County Executive



A message from James B. McCarthy, County Executive



**Summit County,
Ohio**

*“Charting a Course for
the 21st Century”*



EMA Specialist II, Valerie De Rose educates SafetyTown students

All of us remember when we were in grade school and our teachers made us do different drills to prepare us for different kinds of emergencies. At the time, all of us probably thought it a little inconvenient to line up with our head against the lockers and our hand covering our head or marching out in single file during a fire drill.

But the most important thing is...we all remember it. Our teachers prepared us in case an emergency occurred.

While their methods might be a little different, staff members from our Emergency Management Agency are doing the same thing with 1,300 grade school children in 11 Summit County communities this summer.

Valerie De Rose and Tina Merlitti are teaching the kids 9-1-1 and tornado safety in conjunction with Safety Towns and Safety Cities programs held in Barberton, Bath, Coventry, Cuyaboga Falls, Fairlawn, Green, Mogadore,

Munroe Falls, Reminderville, Richfield and Stow.

Just as our teachers did with us, Valerie and Tina are educating our children at an early age how to react in the case of an emergency situation and I appreciate their efforts.

New House Subcommittee for FEMA

Oversight in the House of Representatives of FEMA operations in emergencies and disasters has been moved to the newly created Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. During the 106th Congress, jurisdiction for emergency management issues fell under the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management. That subcommittee has been eliminated. The new subcommittee's purview includes disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

The subcommittee overseas FEMA activities authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, which makes federal emergency assistance available whenever the president determines that assistance is necessary to supplement state and local efforts to save lives, protect property and ensure public health and safety or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.

For further information contact:

e-mail: transcomm@mail.house.gov
WWW: www.house.gov/transportation

*Economic Development,
Public Buildings and Emergency
Management Subcommittee
589 Ford House Office Building,
Washington, DC 20515-6260
phone: (202) 225-3014
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Mission

Summit County Emergency Management leads, coordinates and supports the emergency management system, in order to protect lives and prevent loss of property from all hazards.

Upcoming Training

"Oilfield Emergency Response"
August 24 & 25
 Wayne County
 Firefighters and Haz-Mat Team

"Domestic Preparedness Awareness"
October 9 or 10
 Akron General's Health and Wellness Center
 Public Safety
 Telecommunicators

"Conflict Management"
October 9
 Washington TWP. Fire Dept.
 All are Welcome

Thomas R. Weiss Award Recipient

The second annual Summit County Public Safety Telecommunicators' Recognition Dinner was held on April 22, 2001. There were nearly 200 attendees from all over Summit County. This event was made possible by the support from our governmental and private sector organizations that contribute monetary donations along with great door prizes.

This year's recipient of the Thomas R. Weiss Award was Tammy Collins. Tammy is a three year public safety communicator with the Cuyahoga Falls Police and Fire Departments. She was selected by a selection committee. The committee had received nominations from supervisors and peers throughout

Summit County.

Tammy has been said to exemplify the qualities needed for an excellent telecommunicator; multi-tasking, organization, empathetic and quick to react. These attributes are a great contribution, especially on her busy afternoon shift. Tammy is an enthusiastic team player, which makes her even more suited to the high stress environment of the communications center. Her positive attitude toward life uplifts those around her.

Congratulations to Tammy Collins on being the recipient of the Thomas R. Weiss Award for 2001.

Beat the Heat

Each year 175 Americans succumb to the summer heat according to the National Weather Service. Hot summer temperatures combined with high humidity can be catastrophic. The Heat Index gives an accurate measurement of how it really feels when air temperature and relative humidity are combined. The National Weather Service will initiate alert procedures (advisories and warnings) when the Heat Index is expected to have a significant impact on public safety. To find the Heat Index, look at the Heat Index Chart (Right).

Important: Heat Index values are devised for shady, light wind conditions. Exposure to full sunshine can increase the Heat Index values by up to 15 F. Also, strong winds, particularly with very hot, dry air, can be extremely hazardous.

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 James B. McCarthy, Executive
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Visit us on the web at:
www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm

Heat Index Chart

Air Temperature and Relative Humidity Versus Apparent Temperature

		Relative Humidity (%)													
		F	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
Air Temperature	110	136													
	108	130	137												
	106	124	130	137											
	104	119	124	131	137										
	102	114	119	124	130	137									
	100	109	114	118	124	129	136								
	98	105	109	113	117	123	128	134							
	96	101	104	108	112	116	121	126	132						
	94	97	100	102	106	110	114	119	124	129	135				
	92	94	96	99	101	105	108	112	116	121	125	131			
	90	91	93	95	97	100	103	106	109	110	117	122	127	132	
	88	88	89	91	93	95	98	100	100	106	110	113	117	121	
	86	85	87	88	89	91	93	95	97	100	102	105	108	112	
	84	83	84	85	86	88	89	90	92	94	96	98	100	103	
	82	81	82	83	84	84	85	86	88	89	90	91	93	95	
80	80	80	81	81	82	82	83	84	84	85	86	86	87		

Tips to prevent a medical heat emergency during excessive heat:

- Stay indoors as much as possible and avoid too much sunshine. Take frequent breaks if you work outside.
- Increase your intake of fluids. Water is the best and safest liquid to drink during a heat emergency. Avoid beverages with alcohol or caffeine – they can cause dehydration.
- Eat small meals and eat more often. Large, heavy meals are difficult to digest and cause your body to increase internal heat to aid digestion.
- Protect the face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat. Also wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- NEVER leave children or pets alone in a closed vehicle.

For further information, visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website at: www.nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/

With Prolonged Exposure and/or Physical Activity

Extreme Danger
Heat stroke or sunstroke highly likely
Danger
Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion likely
Extreme Caution
Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion possible
Caution
Fatigue possible