

Common Vision

Newsletter for the Emergency Management Agency of Summit County

Vol. 4 No. 2

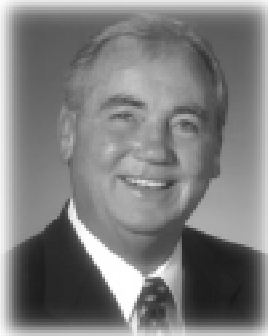
Spring 2001

James B. McCarthy, County Executive



**Summit County,
Ohio**

“Charting a Course for
the 21st Century”



James B. McCarthy, Executive

A message from the County Executive

Author James Carse once wrote that, “To be prepared against surprise is to be trained. To be prepared for surprise is to be educated.”

I believe that quotation aptly describes the function and mission of the Summit County Emergency Management Agency. The staff at Emergency Management Agency works closely with the highly trained public safety personnel throughout the county to assure that everyone knows their role in the event of a catastrophic incident.

We are blessed in Summit County to have state-of-the-art equipment at the disposal of these public safety specialists to respond in the best manner possible in an emergency situation.

The Emergency Management Agency staff also works year-round to educate the citizens of our community as to how to respond in case severe weather or other disruptions hit their community.

No one can predict when an emergency situation will strike. But, because of the work done by the Summit County Emergency Management Agency, I believe the county is prepared to respond in a timely and professional manner to these incidents.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week is April 8-14, 2001

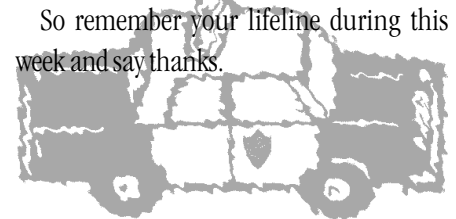
This week honors the heart of our public safety personnel - the public safety telecommunicators. If you are fortunate enough to work with one of these dedicated individuals take a moment to thank them for their countless hours of serving you and

the public. If you are one of these dedicated individuals, pat yourself on the back for you truly are one of the unsung heroes.

This week is to honor those who perform the duties in public safety communications serving such groups as law enforcement,

9-1-1 calltakers, fire departments, Emergency Medical Services, emergency management and all other special disciplines that have developed over the years.

So remember your lifeline during this week and say thanks.



Tornado Safety Tip

Highway overpasses are not a safe place to seek shelter during a tornado. In fact, overpasses are among the most dangerous places to seek shelter during severe high winds. An overpass creates a funnel, which can boost wind speed an additional 25 percent. In addition, the design of most overpasses offers a person no shelter from flying debris and nothing for a trapped person to hang on to. More information on this topic may be found on the Internet at www.nwsnorman.noaa.gov/papers/overpass.html.



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

"Everything You Wanted to Tell Your Chief, But Were Afraid You'd Get Fired"

4/11-9a-12p, 4/12, 6p-9

Stow Fire Dept.

Public Safety

Telecommunicators

"Media and Response to Collective Behavior"

April 24th

Health and Wellness Center

EOC Representatives

"Conflict Resolution"

May 8th

Washington Twp. Fire Dept.

All are welcome

"Basic Disaster Operations"

May 22nd

Emergency Operations Center

Airport Drill Participants

Y2K - Who's to pay still in litigation

On January 1, 2000, the Y2K bug was squashed. Businesses that had invested little to protect themselves fared as well as those that had invested millions.

Not surprisingly, companies that had invested heavily to ward off Y2K problems turned to their insurers for help. Using an obscure "sue and labor" provision in property insurance policies, the companies maintain that insurers are obligated to pay for some of the costs incurred in efforts to prevent a loss.

Xerox has the largest case pending, suing American Guarantee & Liability Insurance for \$183 million.

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Visit us on the web at:

www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm

Chief Ronald R. Floyd, Sr. Retires

After nearly 35 years of dedicated service, Chief Ron Floyd has retired from the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. Emergency Services Department.

Ron is a recognized leader and expert in the Akron and Summit County areas. He has spent countless hours working and training with area fire depart-



Chief Floyd

ments and teaching at both The University of Akron and Stark State College of Technology. In 1984, he helped set up both the City of Akron and the Summit County Hazardous Materials Response Teams (HAZMAT) and served as the first Director of Operations for the county team.

Ron and his wife, Susan, have three grown children and plan to remain in the Akron area after retirement. "Meals on Wheels" and the county HAZMAT program are two areas where he plans to spend some of his retirement time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ron for his dedication and commitment to Summit County and look forward to working with him in the future.

Lisa Novasat-Gradert Discusses Local Emergency Planning Committee Agenda

As the newly elected chairperson of the Summit County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), I look forward to the vast opportunities that lay ahead for an active and involved LEPC. I am excited about this opportunity to apply and utilize my knowledge and extensive experience with the State Emergency Response Commission's (SERC) Right-To-Know program acquired during my five years as legal counsel with the Ohio EPA. I intend on applying this knowledge and experience to strengthen and develop the committee.

During my term, I hope to enhance our working relationship with the SERC to gather current, accurate information about issues and pending legislative developments. I look forward to the opportunity to represent the LEPC on right-to-know matters from a local perspective in order to gain a better understanding on implementation, training, resources and money allocation matters which serve to challenge an LEPC.

In addition, I hope to establish a networking forum for professionals within the environmental emergency response sector to bet-

ter define roles during a response action and to gain valuable information relative to available resources. In this effort, I will encourage individuals within this area of specialty to attend our LEPC quarterly meetings to offer a brief overview of their agency's role (state or local), the scope of their involvement during an incident, their corresponding legal authority and funding resources that may be available.

I believe the LEPC can be better served through activating, strengthening and utilizing the executive committee of the LEPC. This executive committee will be responsible for outlining our goals and objectives during my term. The executive committee will also serve to review, evaluate and revise LEPC policies and procedures. I also envision the executive committee becoming more active in the assessment of additional monies that may be available to undertake those action items identified through their evaluation of the LEPC's goals and objectives.

If you have any questions pertaining to LEPC matters, you may contact me at lngradert@brouse.com