

Common Vision

Newsletter for the Emergency Management Agency of Summit County

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James B. McCarthy, County Executive



A message from James B. McCarthy, County Executive



Summit County, Ohio

“Charting a Course for the 21st Century”

In his recent testimony before the Senate, Joe Allbaugh, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA), cites communication as a key factor in emergency response. Communications has been a goal for the Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee since its infancy and it is a priority of my administration to see those goals are met.

Summit County is making great strides to meet the Emergency Management Agency's goal for a countywide 800 MHz radio network. I have recently had the opportunity to sponsor a resolution for a \$7.25 million contract with Motorola, Inc. This contract is for the installation of a countywide 800 MHz radio communications system. This project will integrate with the City of Akron's current system to further the ability of those involved in public service to communicate during disasters.

Summit Shines During Stressful Time By Annette Petranic, EMA Coordinator

Attending the recent International Association of Emergency Managers' in California gave me the opportunity to gain a new perspective. I came away from the conference feeling very good about how Summit County responds to disasters. I believe it helped me appreciate how well our local emergency management system works in times of great national distress.

The tragic events of September 11th, brought to light the hard work and dedication of many, here at home. While sitting in the Metro Forum at the International Conference, I realized we should be proud of our level of knowledge and functional approach to emergency management. We have many sparkling gems within every sector of Summit County from public health, hospitals, exceptionally trained firefighters and law enforcement, to name just a few. This is my way to thank some of those gems.

I would like to give credit to the EMA staff: Valerie DeRose, Tina Merlitti, Mike Oberuch and Sharon Ulman. They possess a drive for excellence that I can depend on when coordinating activities and assisting with any situation that might arise. The great strides our emergency management program has made in Summit County is directly attributable to the Emergency Management Executive Committee.

The leadership, guidance and dedication demonstrated by the members of this committee has been unbelievable.

We are equally fortunate to have emergency responders on both the local and federal levels who display the highest degrees of professionalism when responding to many emergency incidents. Since September 11th, their willingness to offer assistance in several educational outreach programs is deeply appreciated.

Our newest first responders, public health and hospitals, have shown a true commitment to work cooperatively in mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. This commitment continues to be demonstrated.

It is unfortunate that the events of September 11th

See Shines on back



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.

Lee McCutchan Retires

After a lifetime of public service, Lee McCutchan is deservedly retiring. Lee has been a long time active member of the Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee, (as her husband before her), representing the citizens of the County of Summit. Her active participation at board meetings and her participation and support of the Summit County Emergency Management Agency and its training programs will be irreplaceable. Thank you Lee for your drive, dedication and commitment. We will miss you.



Mrs. Lee McCutchan

Shines cont.

occurred in our world. However, this tragedy allowed us to see all of our hard work pay off. Assisting our community to cope with and respond to such an event, in such a professional manner, should make us all very proud to be public servants.

Thanks for making emergency management easier!

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Visit us on the web at:
www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm

Wireless 9-1-1 Changes Route

Summit County's Enhanced 9-1-1 Plan has been revised. Enhanced 9-1-1 was implemented in Summit County in May of 1988. Since this time, the Summit County Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol has handled cellular 9-1-1 calls. These calls, (which are now referred to as wireless), have increased dramatically and are no longer just calls from drivers along our highways. Due to the increasing numbers and natures of the wireless 9-1-1 calls, the Ohio State Highway Patrol found

it necessary to discontinue handling these calls. The 9-1-1 Planning Committee researched different avenues to find the best way to handle these calls. The committee recommended that the best way to serve Summit County is to have each public safety answering point (PSAP) handle the calls from the towers located in their jurisdictions. The wireless companies have been directed how to route these calls and the changes will be complete in December.

HAZMAT Response Team Drill

The Summit County Hazardous Materials Response Team conducted their annual Local Emergency Planning Committee Drill on September 29, 2001 at Vopac, formally known as Van Waters & Rogers in Twinsburg Township. The scenario for this year's exercise was a tanker truck which had sprung a leak. The chemical in the tanker was an ammonia solution. As the driver tried to stop the leak he became overcome by the fumes. This is how the drill began. The design team had decided to cover 10 of the 14 objectives, which needed to be covered in the next four year cycle. The objectives they tested were; Initial Notification of Response agencies,

Incident Assessment, Incident Command, Communications, Response Personnel Safety, Population Protective Actions, Shelter Management, Emergency Medical Services, Containment and Recovery Operations. The objectives were evaluated by Virginia Abell of Summa Health Systems and District Chief Marcus Moore of the Akron Fire Department. We had volunteers from the American Red Cross set up a canteen along with a shelter for the scenario. Students from The University of Akron Emergency Management Degree Program played our shelter victims. The drill was considered a success.

Imagination: The Force That Shapes Our Future

Seven individuals (*James Bowery, Chief, Munroe Falls Fire Department, Roger Ramsthaler, Chief, Norton Fire Department, Donald Cooper, Deputy Chief, City of Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department, Tim Black, Chief, Macedonia Fire Department. David Calderone, Chief, Coventry Township Fire Department, Patricia Lutz, Dispatch Supervisor, University of Akron Police Department and Michael Prebonick, Lieutenant, Akron Police Department*) completed the Advanced Level of the Summit County Disaster Operations Training, they were recognized at the 2001 Emergency Management Agency Open House. The Disaster Operations

Training is a home study program based on the Summit County Emergency Operations Plan, which is the all-hazard disaster plan for the County. These individuals took the initiative to learn how all agencies mitigate, plan, respond and recover from disasters. This program is designed to increase efficiency and prevent duplication of services. Currently, 140 individuals are participating in the program at various levels and 14 have completed all 4 training levels.



James Bowery, Roger Ramsthaler and Donald Cooper