

Common Vision

Newsletter for the Emergency Management Agency of Summit County

Vol. 5 No.1

Spring 2002

James B. McCarthy, County Executive

Homeland Security:

A message from James B. McCarthy, County Executive

I am happy to announce that Annette Petranic, Summit County Emergency Management Coordinator will represent Ohio at the National Governors' Association Policy Planning Academy. Ohio is one of eight states receiving tailored assistance to improve their homeland security and biological terrorism preparedness plans. Representatives from Ohio Emergency Management, the State Fire Marshal, local law enforcement, local public health, state medical services, state public health, the Ohio Hospital Association and Ohio-based FBI agents, will join Ms. Petranic who will represent local emergency management. Summit County's Emergency Management Agency has one of the most advanced programs in the state and we are proud that Summit County has been selected

to participate in this National forum. I believe this academy will afford our county the opportunity to assess our local capability to respond to terrorism while assisting in the development of state strategies within the context of an overall national strategy.



James B. McCarthy

Color Coded Advisory System Created



March 12, 2002, Tom Ridge, Chief of Homeland Security released a new color-coded U.S. Threat Advisory System to create "a national frame work and common vocabulary" so that government and the private sector can deal effectively and efficiently with the threat of terrorist attack.

Each code is intended to trigger specific actions by federal, state and local government agencies. The Akron/Summit County Domestic Preparedness Task force is in the process of developing a coordinated, comprehensive strategy to address issues involving acts of terror. The Task Force oversees mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from terrorist incident in the City of Akron and Summit County.



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.

Training

"Skywarn Spotters"

March 27 at 6PM
Oliver Ocasek Government Building
Open to the Public

"Domestic Preparedness Awareness"

April 17 and May 15
Macedonia Fire Department
Public Safety and Health Professionals

"Domestic Preparedness Operations"

April 17 and May 15
Macedonia Fire Department
Public Safety and Health Professionals

"Emergency Operations"

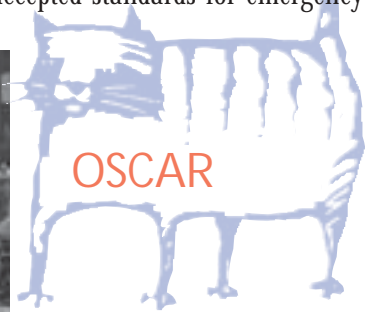
April 23
Summit/Akron Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
Designated EOC Representatives

"Domestic Preparedness Incident Command"

June 5
Stow Fire Department
Must have completed Emergency Medical (EMS) or Awareness and Operations

Who's OSCAR? Chief Matulavich's Cat? No.

The Ohio State Capabilities Assessment for Readiness (OSCAR) provides a format for self-assessment of a county's ability to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from disasters. January 8 and 9, 2002, the Summit County Emergency Management Agency hosted an OSCAR program facilitated by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Over 190 professionals from Summit County attended the two-day program. The county/state self-assessment process seeks to answer three basic questions: Is the emergency management program comprehensive enough to meet the needs of the county? Are the goals, objectives and missions of the organization being achieved? Is the county able to commit strategic resources to meet its preparedness and mitigation needs and redirect resources for response and recovery? The result of this OSCAR program will eventually evolve into recommended practices in emergency management which, through refinement, could then become generally accepted standards for emergency management as we move into the 21st century.



Renee Young, OEMA, facilitates OSCAR program at the Fairlawn Community Center.

New Hazmat Director of Operations

The Summit County Special Operations Response Teams' Executive Board announced the appointment of Walter Hower as the new Director of Operations for the Summit County Hazardous Materials Team. Currently, Mr. Hower is a full-time fire fighter in the City of Cuyahoga Falls and a part-time Lieutenant for Bath Township. It was in Bath Township that he first developed an interest in the fire service. As a young boy, he would hang around the fire station with his father, who is currently Asst. Chief in Bath. Walt Hower's interest grew when Bath Fire Department started an Explorer Post and he had the opportunity to become a charter member. Following his graduation from Revere High School in 1987, Mr. Hower joined

the Bath Township Fire Department part-time while he continued to pursue an Associates Degree in Fire Protection Technology, a Bachelors Degree in Construction Technology, and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Akron. Mr. Hower has always been a big proponent of education. His dedication has been demonstrated over the years as he has continued to study all aspects of the fire service including inspection, rope rescue, paramedics and scuba diving, to name a few. He has attended training in Colorado for Highway Specialist, the National Fire Academy for Site Operations Practice and is a Certified State Fire Instructor. Through his continued study, he was finally able to find his calling in hazardous materials response. Mr. Hower joined the Summit County Hazardous Materials Response Team in 1992. As his level of activity grew, he became a Zone Coordinator in 1996 and then Assistant Director of Training in 1999. Mr. Hower sites support from both the City of Cuyahoga Falls and Bath Township Fire Departments that has enabled him to take the position of Director of Operations.

Summit County Emergency Management Agency

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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

In the Spotlight, Try These Speaking Tips

1. Determine what you hope to accomplish with your presentation. Without an outcome, your speech is more likely to be bland or boring.
2. Decide your major points. Don't overload your audience with information. If your speech is less than 30 minutes, do not try to convey more than five major points.
3. Unless you are a natural comedian, do not open with a joke. Instead, open and close with a story. Everybody loves stories.
4. Tell stories about what you know. Paint pictures for the audience with your words and use colorful images the audience can visualize.
5. Unless you are an experienced and confident speaker, write out your speech completely. Then edit it and remove any unnecessary words or phrases.
6. Bring your whole speech to the podium with you as well as a shorter outline for quick reference.
7. Regardless of the topic, use quotes. Audiences like quotes. Use interesting sources but refrain from quoting dead presidents.
8. Antidotes, current event items and facts that you can reference add credibility and interest.
9. Be confident that everything you say is accurate.
10. Keep sentences short so you can breathe in the right places.
11. Tape record your speech in your own voice and play it over and over. The better you know your speech and the more you have practiced, the more you and your audience will enjoy it.

Adapted from: www.selfgrowth.com