

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

In October, the members of Akron/Summit County Domestic Preparedness Task Force attended a strategic planning retreat to address the ever changing needs of the domestic preparedness program in Summit County. The retreat gave Summit County an opportunity to bring together local experts in the areas of public safety, health, and human services to update priorities and discuss the needs of the community. The Task Force was established in 1999 by the Emergency Management Executive Committee to plan, distribute, and manage equipment and training for the county's counter-terrorism program. The Task Force oversees mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from domestic terrorism incidents in the City of Akron and Summit County.

Volunteer Training

The County of Summit is forming a Citizen Corps Council. Through the council, the county joins a national network of 50 state and 845 local/county Citizen Corp Councils. The Citizen Corps, a component of the USA Freedom Corps, strives to "harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds."

Summit County's Citizen Corps Council will oversee a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program. CERT offers citizens the opportunity to learn emergency preparedness and, in the event of a disaster, will provide the necessary skills for individuals to take a more active role in personal and public safety. The training will be available to anyone who lives or works in Summit County. Group training will be offered to business, communities, and volunteer organizations. For more information, visit our website: <http://www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm>

An Explosive Training Exercise

On September 6, a chemical terrorism training exercise was held at the former Brown & Graves Lumberyard.

Participating in the exercise were the Summit County Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Summit County Sheriffs Bomb Squad, and the Ohio National Guard 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team. The Titan Corporation, along with key personnel from the other participating organizations, planned and executed the exercise. This exercise gave the Summit County Hazardous Materials Response Team the opportunity to test eight Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) objectives. The day long exercise had participants responding to a scenario that involved a simulated terrorist group who had set-up a lab in an abandoned building to produce numerous chemicals. The response teams had to identify the chemicals and avoid, secure, and dispose of secondary explosive devices.



Disaster Operations Training

The Deadline to turn in your tests and be part of this years graduating class is November 12, 2003. Summit County Emergency Management Agency will host its' Annual Open House on December 4, 2003. Award Presentation for those completing the Disaster Operations training will be at Noon. If you have question, contact the Summit County Emergency Management Agency at (330) 643-2558.



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.

TOP 10 FACTS

Every CONSUMER needs to know about the National Flood Insurance Program

- 1. Everyone lives in a flood zone.**
 - You don't need to live near water to be flooded.
 - Floods are caused by storms, melting snow, hurricanes, and water backup due to inadequate or overloaded drainage systems, dam or levee failure, etc.
- 2. Flood Damage is not covered by homeowners policies.**
 - You can protect your home, business, and belongings with flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.
 - You can insure your home with flood insurance for up to \$250,000 for the building and \$100,000 for your contents.
- 3. You can buy flood insurance no matter what your flood risk is.**
 - It doesn't matter whether your flood risk is high, medium, or low, you can buy flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.
 - And, it's a good idea to buy even in low or moderate risk areas: between 20 and 25 percent of all flood insurance claims come from low-to moderate risk areas.
- 4. There is a low-cost policy for homes in low- to moderate risk areas.**
 - The Preferred Risk Policy is available for just over \$100 a year.
 - You can buy up to \$250,000 of coverage for your home and \$60,000 of coverage for your contents.
- 5. Flood insurance is affordable**
 - The average flood insurance policy costs approximately \$400 a year for about \$100,000 of coverage.
 - In comparison, a disaster home loan can cost you more than \$300 a month for \$50,000 over 20 years.
- 6. Flood insurance is easy to get.**
 - You can buy NFIP flood insurance from private insurance companies and agents; call yours today!
 - You may be able to purchase flood insurance with a credit card.
- 7. Contents coverage is separate, so renters can insure their belongings too.**
 - Up to \$100,000 contents coverage is available for homeowners and renters.
- 8. Up to a total of \$1 million of flood insurance coverage is available for non-residential buildings and contents.**
 - Up to \$500,000 of coverage is available for non-residential buildings.
 - Up to \$500,000 of coverage is available for the contents of non-residential buildings.
- 9. There is usually a 30-day waiting period before the coverage goes into effect.**
 - Plan ahead so you're not caught without flood insurance when a flood threatens your home or business.
- 10. Federal disaster assistance is not the answer.**
 - Federal disaster assistance is only available if the President declares a disaster.
 - More than 90 percent of all disasters in the United States are not Presidentially declared.
 - Flood insurance pays even if a disaster is not declared.



·Whether you rent or own your home or business, make sure to ask your insurance agent about contents coverage. It is not automatically included with the building coverage.

For more information, call the National Flood Insurance Program toll free at:

1-888-CALL-FLOOD, ext. 304

TDD# 1-800-427-5593

<http://www.fema.gov/nfip>

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Visit us on the web at:

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