

Common Vision

Newsletter for the Emergency Management Agency of Summit County

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Summer 2003

James B. McCarthy, County Executive



A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "James B. McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the color of the "Common Vision" header.

A message from James B. McCarthy, County Executive

Summit County is receiving \$436,000 in federal homeland security funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This money will finance planning exercises, training for local safety forces, and purchase emergency response equipment. For the past two years, the Summit County Domestic Preparedness Task Force has worked diligently to address the issue of coordinated planning in emergency operations - staging mass casualty exercises and holding training sessions for local law enforcement and other emergency responders. This federal grant will provide the additional resources necessary to continue their vital mission of preparing our communities to respond to potential threats to our security.

Summit County: First to Pilot National Accreditation

State and local emergency managers and emergency management programs play a crucial role in preparedness. Often, they are the sole entities responsible for planning and coordinating disaster mitigation and recovery. However, there are no consistent standards or processes for emergency management agencies to demonstrate compliance in their work. Professional organizations and affiliations have provided the only guidance.

For this reason, several governmental agencies and professional organizations collaborated to create the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). Summit County Emergency Management Agency was the first in the country to pilot the program.

EMAP will provide a voluntary accreditation process for states and territories to foster improved and consistent emergency management capabilities. Soon, local agencies responsible for preparing for, and responding to disasters will have the opportunity to enroll. Adopting EMAP standards will strengthen community capabilities to respond to all types of hazards, from tornadoes and earthquakes to school violence and bio-terrorism. As a result of the pilot process, Summit County's program secured 2/3 approval toward EMAP accreditation. The Emergency Management Executive Committee is very interested in pursuing EMAP accreditation for Summit County when it becomes available.

EMAP was conceived through the collaboration of the National Emergency Management Association, International

Association of Emergency Managers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Transportation, Association of State Flood Managers, Institute for Business and Home Safety, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Association of Counties, National Association of Development Organizations, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Governors Association, National League of Cities, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The logo for the Emergency Management Agency of Summit County. It features a circular icon with a spiral pattern on the left. To the right of the icon, the word "emergency" is written in a lowercase, sans-serif font, and "MANAGEMENT" is written in a larger, bold, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below this, "AGENCY OF SUMMIT COUNTY" is written in a smaller, uppercase, sans-serif font.

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.

"This is a Drill"

May 9, 2003, a full-scale disaster drill was held at the Akron/Canton Regional Airport. The drill started at noon with a fictitious threat being called into an airport ticket agent stating that a plane has been hijacked. Three hours later, the hijacked plane landed at the airport, Summit and Stark County Sheriff's deputies, including the Summit County Bomb Squad and the Summit County SWAT, FBI Negotiators and SWAT worked through the scenario until the mock negotiations, prompted to fail, caused the hijackers to fake a plane crash at 10 p.m. Emergency medical crews from throughout Summit and Stark counties assessed over 80 role-playing victims who were transported to 9 hospitals throughout the area to test the hospitals disaster response plans. The Summit and Stark County fire departments worked to put out the massive fire set in a plane simulator. SARTA buses, Summit and Stark County Amateur radio and Akron and Stark Red Cross helped Summit County Emergency Management transport, track and feed the volunteer victims through the drill. Drills like

this allow Airport officials, Summit and Stark County Emergency Management and various department controllers and evaluators assess internal procedures and disaster coordination.

"Coordinating these types of exercises allows us to test the countywide emergency operations plan and gives various jurisdictions and disciplines the opportunity to work together before a real disaster strikes. We would like to thank everyone who participated." said Annette Petranic, Coordinator of the Summit County Emergency Management Agency.



"Mike Oberuch, Specialist, Summit County Emergency Management tells volunteers what they can expect at the scene of the mock plane crash."

Up Coming Training

July 28th	WMD Crime Scene Management
July 29th-30th	WMD Evidence Collection
August 28th	Regional Health Table Top

Call in the Calvary

Summit County Special Operations Response Team has a new activation procedure. Summit County public safety communicators and responders attended a training hosted by Summit County Emergency Management Agency, on May 28, 2003, to review these new procedures, which went into effect on June 1, 2003. Some of the changes included the omission of zones to activate personnel. The procedure to request Akron Special Operations Response Team members has not changed. Copley Township Communications Center will continue team activation requests, Akron Communications Center will remain the alternate. If there are any questions, please contact Summit County Emergency Management Agency at (330)-643-2558.



Conjunction, Junction...

On April 26, 2003, a joint training exercise was held in conjunction with the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway, the Akron Fire Department and the Summit County Hazardous Materials Response Team. This training exercise was held at the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway's Akron yards, located at 1907 E. Market Street. Approximately 50 Hazardous Materials Team members participated along with on duty Akron Firefighters.

The scenario involved a train crew who were switching cars and noted that a tank car of carrying Ethyl Hexyl Chloroformate was

leaking. The crew reported the fictitious leak to their dispatcher, who notified the Akron Fire Department. A re-con of the area was performed revealing that a mock tank car of Aniline and a tank car of Methanol were both leaking from the bottom outlet valve. The team has several opportunities to practice entries before the leaks were properly secured and the scene was rendered safe.

A special thanks to the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway for allowing us to have this drill at their facility. Also, thank you to the Akron Fire Department for hosting this drill.

Summit County Emergency Management Agency

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James B. McCarthy, Executive
Annette Petranic, Coordinator

Visit us on the web at:

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