

Common Vision

Newsletter for the Emergency Management Agency of Summit County

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Summer 2004

James B. McCarthy, County Executive

Trophy awarded in the Tropics

At the 5th annual Public Safety Communicators Recognition Dinner, Monna Sue Ezzie, of the Copley Police Department, was honored with the Thomas R. Weiss Award.

Thomas R. Weiss was a dispatcher with the City of Norton for 28 years, and lost a battle with cancer in 1999. In memory of Tom's dedication and excellence in public safety communications, an award was created



in his honor. The award is given each year to a dispatcher/telecommunicator from Summit County who has performed above and beyond the call of duty.

Sue's family and friends added to her surprise by attending the tropical themed event to celebrate her award and her thirty years of service. The Summit County Public Safety Telecommunicators Training Committee would like to thank the many elected officials, public safety leaders, organizations and private businesses for their contributions and helping to make the event the most attended recognition dinner to date.

Haz-Mat's High Honor

Dennis Evans, of the Barberton Fire Department, has been honored as the recipient of the prestigious Ron Floyd Award. The Ron Floyd Award is the highest honor presented to a member of the Summit County Hazardous Materials Response

A message from James B. McCarthy, County Executive



In the past few years, we have learned much about our capabilities and limitations when responding to a disaster. We recognize that communications is a key factor in emergency response. Currently, when emergency responders join together to help each other in a large-scale emergency they do not have the capability to talk to each other, due to different types of radios & frequencies. To correct this limitation, Summit County and the City of Akron have joined together to build the infrastructure to enable forward progress toward the goal of a countywide communications system.

This infrastructure project has been broken down into three phases. During phase one, the County of Summit and the City of Akron invested over \$15 million to expand the current 800 MHz radio system and add towers for broader coverage. Phase two will use Homeland Security money to add an additional

sixteen channels to all tower locations. While phase three will entail construction of two or more towers to achieve complete coverage of Summit County.

Once the infrastructure is complete, communities can begin the transition of their existing radio systems to the new countywide system. It's not going to happen overnight, but I am dedicated to this project for the safety of the citizens and the safety forces that serve them.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "James B. McCarthy".

Team. Since 1985, Dennis has responded to hazardous materials incidents. For the past 13 years, he has served as the Summit County Hazardous Materials Team Director of Training, and has been the recipient of the Summit County Hazardous Materials Team Director of Operation award twice. Congratulations Dennis!



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.

Communicating with the Akron Community

Akron's Communication Center is a combined police, fire and EMS center for the city and is staffed with 57 technicians (23 call takers and 34 dispatchers). There is also a police sergeant, fire lieutenant, and civilian supervisor assigned at all hours of the day.

During 2003, the communication center received (148,169) 9-1-1 calls, (197,559) calls on the non-life threatening police line, and (12,907) calls on the non-life threatening fire line, equaling out to a total of 358,635 incoming calls. From those calls, our technicians generated (264,008) police incidents and (36,634) for fire and EMS incidents.



Top: Pictured at one of our two new adjustable workstations is Lynette Slack. Two of our 10-calltaking positions have been upgraded to allow people to work in either a standing or sitting position, if they desire.

It is important to know that there are four major positions in this center. The service position handles requests from officers for tow trucks, callbacks, check phone numbers and alarm drops for fire. While the LEADS (Law Enforcement Automated Data System) position handles warrant confirmation, assists officers with inquiries to the State and other confidential information. Call takers handle all incoming phone calls and the dispatch position interacts with officers and firefighter/paramedics, via the radio and/or data network, to direct them to emergency locations throughout the city.

Welcome, Tommy!

The County of Summit would like to welcome Tommy Smoot to the Emergency Management Agency. In early-June 2004, Tommy accepted the position of Emergency Management Specialist. A few of Tommy's responsibilities will include being the new administrator for the Summit County Special Operations Teams, managing equipment, and purchasing and training records. He will also be accountable for maintaining the Summit County Resource Guide.

Tommy holds a Bachelors Degree from Kent State University in Computer Information Systems and has gained a wealth of experience in public policy making while interning at the Office of Statewide Information Technology Policy in Columbus, Ohio. Tommy currently lives in Akron and is very active in his church community.

Buchtel Students Make History: Bringing Safety to Day-to-Day Lives

Students from Buchtel High School completed the first "in-school" Citizens Emergency Response Training (CERT) in Summit County. Among the lessons learned were disaster preparedness and first aid. The students advised that this course would be helpful not only in their studies, but also in their daily lives.



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

First Row (LtoR): Chantai Lipford, Ginneh Ivery, Dominique Johnson, Kayla Spear, Ashli Johnson, Alicia Traylor, Erin Skipper

Second Row: Jessica Bush, Whitney Colbert, Brittney Lamon, Akesia Dudley, Deonna Minter, Gretchen Ulrich, Candice Richards, Jennifer Williams.