

# 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

I would like to thank our Emergency Management Staff and members of the public safety community who worked over Labor Day weekend to coordinate

local efforts to help the communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina. We are continuing to send personnel and equipment down to the devastated Gulf Coast. For those victims who came to Summit County to stay with friends and family, our Job and Family Services coordinated service, federal identification and computer access so victims could register with FEMA. It is important these efforts are coordinated through the Emergency Management Agency to assure efficient responses to our neighbors in need while maintaining a high quality of service to our citizens.

## Self-Sufficient Communities



Since the 1950s, the federal government through Civil Defense, Disaster Services and now, FEMA, has preached 72-hour preparedness for citizens and local governments. Would you be prepared to evacuate your office, your home, your town? Now is a good time to review building, community and countywide plans.

- Do you have Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) in place? *How you will actually perform tasks?*
- Have you completed the National Incident Management System (NIMS) training? *Who is in charge and how to manage a large incident?*
- Do you know your responsibilities during a disaster? *State, local and community laws and ordinances.*
- Have you done the Emergency Operations Plan home study workbooks? *Know how everybody else will respond.*

## Evacuation



Evacuation is more common than many people think. There are many circumstances under which you and your family may feel threatened or endangered and you would need to leave your home, school, or workplace to avoid these situations. Hundreds of times each year, transportation and industrial accidents release harmful substances, forcing thousands of people to leave their homes. Fires and floods cause evacuations even more frequently. When community evacuations become necessary, local officials provide information to the public through the media, by telephone calls, and in some communities, they use outdoor warning sirens. If you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Listen to a battery operated radio for evacuation instructions. Follow recommended evacuation routes, shortcuts may be blocked. Remember to take your pre-assembled emergency supplies with you.

*Summit County Emergency Management recommends these basic emergency kit supplies:*

- Radio and flashlight (battery-powered) and plenty of extra batteries.
- Water-3 day supply (1 gallon per person per day), store water in sealed, unbreakable containers; identify the storage date and replace every six months.
- Food, non-perishable, packaged or canned and a non-electric can opener.
- First aid kit and prescription medications.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- Extra supplies or equipment for any special medical needs.
- Credit cards, cash, and extra car keys.
- Clothing, shoes, and rain gear.

If you would like to know more about being prepared, see our web site at <http://www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm> or call the Summit County Emergency Management office at (330) 643-2558.

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Visit us on the web at: [www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm)

# Cuyahoga Falls Communications Center

In the early seventies, the Cuyahoga Falls Communications Center had just three dispatchers, two phone lines, no 9-1-1. They dispatched on just one Police and one Fire channel. The center expanded with the COMM-9 concept where Cuyahoga Falls was going to dispatch for nine different communities. The system actually dispatched for several years for four different agencies. Today, they have more than 12 different phone lines and 24 radio talkgroups being handled by the center.

Cuyahoga Falls Communications Center uses New World Systems Computer Aided Dispatch Software, Records System and dispatches by way of a Mobile Data System for the Police, Fire and EMS Departments. They are a 24-hour operation that takes over dispatch duties of all other city departments after 5:00 PM. The center has a Joint Response Agreement with the City of Akron Fire and EMS Departments and provides mutual aid to all surrounding departments. The Center has 12 full-time dispatchers and is authorized 3 part-time dispatchers. The service area covers over 25 square miles and more than 51,000 citizens. The center handles all communications coming into the Police Department and handles over 45,000 calls for service each year.

The Communication Center is supervised by Mr. Mark Wiggins, who has over 30 years of public safety experience, as well as Captain Randy



(Left to right: Seated) Barbara Reid, Tammy Collins, (Left to right: Standing) Robert Johnston, Barbara Sovil, Shannon Bennett, & Terry Wiggins.

Rivers, the Communications Division Commander. Cuyahoga Falls Communicators are trained in the Emergency Medical Dispatch procedures and have been very successful in assisting the public with their medical emergencies. The Communication Center had the honor to have both the 2005 State Dispatcher of the Year, Tricia Snyder and the 2005 Summit County Dispatcher of the Year, Karen Tomlinson.

## Camporall

“BE PREPARED” was the theme for the Boy Scouts of America 2005 Council Wide Camporall, held Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Summit County Fair Grounds. Over 1000 participants, from ages 8 – 21, participated in this year’s Camporall. Field demonstrations were provided by Summit



County Sheriff’s Office (K-9, Bomb Squad, Crime Unit, Mobile Command, Mounted Unit, Snipers, SWAT) and Summit County Special Operations Response Teams. Displays and information were

also provided by NASA, Civil Air Patrol, Ohio Wing, United States Air Force Auxiliary, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and the Summit County Health Department. Participating agencies helped teach the Boy Scouts how to meet the challenge of readiness for any emergency situation. Numerous



topics were covered throughout the weekend including first aid, readiness, emergency preparedness, decontamination, search and rescue, safety, CPR and traffic directing.

“Emergency preparedness means being prepared for all kinds of emergencies and being able to respond in a time of crisis to save lives and protect property,” said Annette Petranic, Summit County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator. “The emergencies of today’s world demand, more than ever, that our young people and adults be trained as individuals and as units to meet emergency situations.”