

# 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*

It is my pleasure to announce that the Akron/Summit County Domestic Preparedness Task Force has set aside \$750,000.00 of 2005 Homeland Security funding for Summit

County communities to purchase 800MHz radios for use on the Summit County Regional 800MHz Radio System. Each community is eligible to request a maximum of \$125,000.00 with an additional twenty-five percent community match for the purchase of these radios. This grant funding is specific to communities that are prepared to become a user of the Regional Radio System.

Interoperability in the Public Safety community is of utmost importance and has been the primary mission of the Domestic Preparedness Task Force and myself. This grant is an effort to assist communities within Summit County to meet these objectives.

The deadline for funding assistance is August 1, 2005, for all interested communities. If you have any questions or require assistance in completing the grant package, please feel free to contact Steve Libby, Division of Public Safety, at 330-643-2003.



## Karen Tomlinson 2005 Thomas R. Weiss Award Recipient



*Karen Tomlinson accepts the Weiss Award*

A tropical theme set the mood for the 6th Annual Public Safety Communicators Recognition Dinner. This event recognizes the service and dedication of Public Safety Telecommunicators throughout Summit County. Each year, one Communication Specialist is recognized for their dedication and service. Nominations are received from supervisors and peers throughout Summit County and the winner is chosen through a blind selection process. This year's Thomas R. Weiss Award was given to Karen Tomlinson from the City of Cuyahoga Falls.

Karen or "Mama Leads", as her co-workers call her, always goes the extra mile. No matter what the situation, she does whatever it takes to find the solution. Karen puts herself in the officer's shoes and asks the questions as if she is responding to the crisis. She is a role model whose integrity, passion, courage, and professionalism are second to none.

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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)

## EMA Promotes Dam Safety in Summit County Through the Month of July

Many dam failures are considered disasters because they cause great harm, damage, or serious and sudden misfortune. Uncontrolled floodwaters are one of the most powerful and destructive forces in nature. Dams in Ohio are divided into four Classes based on storage volume, dam height and potential downstream hazard with Class One dams being the largest. Summit County has the largest number of Class One dams in the state.



Owners of dams and operating/maintenance personnel must be knowledgeable of the potential problems, which can lead to failure of a dam. These people regularly view the structure and, therefore,

need to be able to recognize potential problems so that failure can be avoided. If a problem is noted early enough, engineers from the Division of Water, Dam Safety Engineering Program of the Department of Natural Resources are available at any time to inspect a dam if a serious problem is detected or if failure may be imminent. Contact the division at the following address and telephone number:

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Water  
Dam Safety Engineering Program  
1939 Fountain Square, Building E-3  
Columbus, Ohio 43224-1336**

***In an emergency, call (614) 265-6731 or the 24-hour number (614) 799-9538***

### What to look for:

#### Concrete Dams

- Concrete surfaces should be visually examined for spalling and deterioration due to weathering.
- Rust stains on concrete may indicate internal corrosion and deterioration.
- Spillway floor slabs and upstream slope protection slabs should be checked for erosion of underlying base material.
- Concrete walls and tower structures should be examined to determine if settlement and misalignment of construction joints has occurred.

#### Earth Dams

- Look for erosion over the top embankment due to uncontrolled flow of water over, around, and adjacent to the dam.
- All earth dams have seepage resulting from water percolating slowly through the dam and its foundation. However, uncontrolled seepage can progressively erode soil from the embankment or foundation.
- Problems with piping action can be recognized by an increased seepage flow rate, the discharge of muddy or discolored water, sinkholes on or near the embankment and a whirlpool in the reservoir.
- Look for cracking, settlement and slides as some of the more common signs of structural failure of embankments.

***If you need repairs to your dam,  
a list of qualified dam engineers can be obtained at:  
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/dsafety/firmlist.htm>***



Summit County residents suffered two flood related deaths in 2003 and millions in property damage during the 2003 and 2004 floods. Floods and flash floods are two of the leading severe weather-related killers in the United States and flooding is Ohio's most frequent and costly severe weather hazard.

The Summit County Emergency Management Agency (SCEMA) offers the following tips on what to do to protect yourself and your property from flood:

- If you live in a low-lying area or near a creek, pay close attention to water levels during heavy rain events. Water rises rapidly during flash floods, often taking victims by surprise. Be prepared to move quickly to higher ground if water levels begin rising rapidly.
- The best source for up-to-date weather information is from a tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio. This device automatically sounds when the National Weather Service issues a severe weather watch or warning.
- Everyone lives in a flood zone. You don't need to live near water to be flooded. Floods are caused by storms, melting snow, and heavy rains overloading drainage systems.
- Homeowners' insurance policies do not cover flood damage. Protect your home through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Six inches of rapidly moving flood water can knock a person down. A mere two feet of water can float a large vehicle, even a bus. "Don't Drown, Turn Around."