

# Common Vision

Newsletter for the Emergency Management Agency of Summit County

Vol. 8 No. 1

Winter 2005

James B. McCarthy, County Executive



Sheriff Drew Alexander and Executive James B. McCarthy examine the first responder kit.

## *A Message from James B. McCarthy, County Executive*

As we continue to work to protect the home front, a priority of our homeland security efforts is the protection of our first responder. Our Summit County Emergency Management Agency has distributed 1,776 kits of personal protective equipment to all of the law enforcement and fire departments throughout Summit County. These kits include boots, protective clothing, gloves and masks to enable some first responders to escape dangerous situations and others to enter a chemical or biological scene. It is important that we first protect those who have dedicated themselves to protecting us. We will continue to work with all public safety agencies to remain vigilant in the war against terror.

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

## Tradition of Vigilance

Bath Township was founded in 1818 as part of the Western Reserve and originally called Wheatfield. The Bath Police Department was officially established in 1963 along with the communications division. In late 1994 the new public safety building was completed and dispatch was switched over in October.



Bath Communications Division dispatches for Bath Township Police, Fire, Roads and Parks departments and serves it's 9,600 residents 24 hours a day. They monitor and conduct mutual-aid with Copley, Fairlawn, Norton, Valley, and Richfield. The Communications Specialists are responsible for monitoring seven non-emergency phone lines as well as two 9-1-1 emergency lines. Bath Communications Specialists are deputy clerks of Akron Municipal Court and Summit County Juvenile Court. Also, they are all Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) certified, including first-aid and CPR.

Bath's Communications Specialists have a broad range of experiences that they offer the township, from 17 years of service to less than one. Bath Communications Division currently employs six full-time employees, a full-time supervisor, and two part-time employees. The Communications Division is staffed by two Communications Specialists from 7am to 1am and one Communications Specialist from 1am to 7am.



### 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.*

## Planning for the Future

In October, the Akron/Summit County Domestic Preparedness Task Force met for two days to begin to set goals for 2005 and review the accomplishments of 2004. The primary goal of this retreat is to determine the priorities of the Domestic Preparedness Program in Summit County. The Task Force has representatives in attendance from all discipline that may be affected by a WMD incident. Task Force Members identify needs for funding, set training and develop and adopt policy for the upcoming year.

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 the County of Summit.



Tony Brizzolara (FBI), Barry Gradwohl (Summit County Security Coordinator), Charles Gladman (Chief, Akron Fire), and Annette Petranic (Summit County Emergency Management Coordinator)

## Above and Beyond

Nineteen individuals, who completed the Advanced Level of the Summit County Disaster Operations Training were recognized at the 2004 EMA Open House. This home study program is based on the Summit County Emergency Operations Plan, which is the all-hazard disaster plan for the County of Summit. These individuals took the initiative to learn how all agencies mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from disasters. This program is designed to increase efficacy and prevent duplication of services.



**Back (LtoR):** Jack Davis, Mark Beers, Deborah Woide, Michael Yohe, Heidi Day, Thomas Reese, Tommy Smoot, Dale Soltis

**Front (LtoR):** Pamela Houk, Virginia Abell, James Woolf, Steven Bosso

**Not Pictured:** Amber Adkins, Samuel Hevener, Dennis MacFarland, Barb Reid, William Sandmann, David Schindler, Dani Smith

## Snow Shoveling

Snow shoveling can cause serious injuries or death to people who are elderly, have chronic health problems or are not used to strenuous activity.

### Tips

- Wear sturdy shoes with rugged soles to help prevent slips and falls.
- Never smoke while shoveling. Tobacco smoke constricts blood vessels just as cold air does; the combination can be dangerous.
- If you become short of breath while shoveling, stop and rest. If you feel pain or tightness in your chest, stop immediately and call for help.
- Have a partner monitor your progress and share the workload. If you have a heart attack, your partner can call for help and if trained, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until help arrives.
- A shovel full of dry snow can weigh about four pounds; wet snow can weigh significantly more. Warm up before shoveling by walking and stretching your arms and legs for a few minutes. Warm muscles are less likely to be injured and work more efficiently.
- If you have a known health problem, use a snow blower or hire a snow removal service. Keep in mind; pushing snow blowers through heavy, packed snow can also present a health risk. Don't assume using a snow blower alone will eliminate your risk.

### Summit County Emergency Management Agency

191 South Main Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308  
330.643.2558

James B. McCarthy, Executive  
Annette Petranic, Coordinator

Visit us on the web at:

[www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm)