

# Common Vision

Newsletter for the Emergency Management Agency of Summit County

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James B. McCarthy, County Executive



## Watching over Seniors and Businesses in Fairlawn

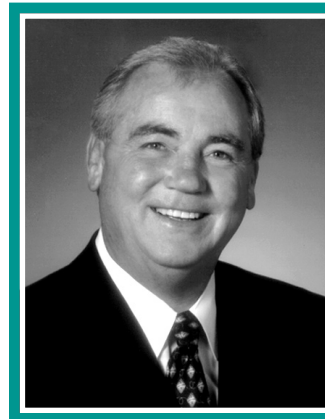
In 1958, the Village of Fairlawn was formed from a portion of Copley Township. Due to a rapidly growing community, the citizens decided to become a city in 1971. At that time, dispatch was located in a "store front" and officers were alerted to a call for service by a beacon light at the top of a phone pole.

In 1973, the municipal complex was completed housing the police, tax offices and city officials. Over the years, due to the tremendous residential and commercial development, the communications center was modified and expanded several times. The City of Fairlawn covers only 4.4 square miles, yet it is home to the 3rd highest number of service and retail businesses in Summit County. The most recent census has the night time population of the city at 7,300; however, the daytime population averages approximately 45,000. These census figures do not include the high volume of traffic traveling through the city to what most people refer to as "Montrose".

With the construction of a new police department, the communications center moved to its current location in December of 1999. It is a state of the art center with 3 functional dispatch positions and an office for the communications coordinator. The communications center is a 24-hour operation that dispatches for police, fire, EMS, service and parks & recreation departments. With 11 full-time dispatchers who work 4 10-hour shifts or 5 8-hour shifts.

The Fairlawn dispatchers serve as deputy clerks of court for Akron Municipal Court and provide various services for the City of Fairlawn Mayor's Court. In addition to the routine dispatch responsibilities, Fairlawn is the communications center for METRO SWAT. Dispatchers also monitor an alarm panel, which consists of approximately 100 commercial accounts. On a daily basis, the communications personnel contact senior citizens, who are disabled or living alone, to ensure they are doing well and not in need of police or some sort of personal assistance. The Senior Watch Program was implemented in 1998.

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



In 2005, the Akron/Summit County Domestic Preparedness Task Force awarded over \$1 million in matching Homeland Security grants to local communities for 800 MHz radios. Communities joining the Sheriff's Office and the City of Akron on the countywide system are Green, Munroe Falls,

Norton, Tallmadge, Coventry, Springfield, Lakemore, Mogadore, New Franklin, Silver Lake, Peninsula, the Valley District and the Akron-Canton Airport.

Time and time again, as we watch a disaster unfold around the country, communication issues continue to hinder response and recovery. Interoperability for Public Safety continues to be one of my primary goals and I know it is a primary goal of the Domestic Preparedness Task Force. Working together with our public safety officials we will keep on moving forward to improve our capabilities for the safety of all Summit County citizens.

*James B. McCarthy*



## 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.*

## Training Together to Tackle Tragedy

Seventy representatives from various disciplines within Summit County participated in an Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) February 13 – 16, 2006 at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD. The IEMC course was a four day exercise based training facilitated by instructors from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Training was divided into classroom instruction and real-time



exercises. Instructors shared their experiences from national incidents such as the Oklahoma City bombing, the Loma Prieta earthquake and Hurricane Katrina. The Seventy participants were also given instruction on

the Incident Command System, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and Disaster Management. Participants agreed that the training was very worthwhile and meaningful. One instructor stated “Summit County was one of the best communities I have ever worked with. . .”

## 30-30 Rule Can Prevent Death or Crippling Injury

*Lightning kills 80 and injures 300 every year in the U.S.*



“Finishing the game or completing your outside chores is not worth someone’s life, said Annette Petranic, Summit County Emergency Management Coordinator. Abiding by the 30-30 rule will help prevent lightning strike tragedies. Just remember, if the time between the lightning flash and the sound of the thunder is less than 30 seconds seek shelter. Stay sheltered for 30 minutes or more to be sure the storm has passed. Please following both guide lines for a safe spring and summer.”

Summit County Emergency Management recommends the following guidelines when choosing a shelter location:

- A house or other fully enclosed substantially constructed building.
- Second best choice is a car with a metal roof and sides. The metal shell will protect you as long as you are not touching anything metal.
- If stuck outside find a low lying area and avoid areas with water, trees, utility poles or metal fences that may be high in the air or conduct electricity.
- If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your head between you knees and your hands over your head. Make yourself as small a target as possible and minimize your contact with the ground.

## South Summit Public Safety Officers Come Together

Fifty senior fire and law enforcement officials from Coventry Township, City of Green, Village of Lakemore, New Franklin, Springfield and the Summit County Sheriff’s Office recently attended the new 3-day NIMS (National Incident Management System) Course (ICS-200) at the IBEW Training Center in Southern Summit County. Although this training is available online, the police and fire chiefs felt that training together would be more beneficial. It has been well documented that public safety responders work much more effectively when they train and drill together.

These courses have been customized for the south Summit area. The course exercises/scenarios had been redesigned to include local geography and resources instead of the generic national scenarios found in the national curriculum. These courses have also been expanded to include important additional training. For example, Geauga County gave a presentation on the new BSSA Interoperability Vehicle. The Summit County Emergency Management Agency and the Summit County Sheriff’s office gave a presentation on public warning systems (i.e EAS, Reverse Alert, Amber Alert) and then conducted several exercises requiring their use. A comprehensive Public Safety Communications module was also included.

This group of executives and supervisors will meet together again in April to take 3 days of intermediate command and management training (ICS 300) and then once again later this year to take the advanced level training (ICS 400). ICS is required by NIMS; however, the chiefs believe that the real benefit is having the five communities training together, police and fire, side by side, improving their trust and relationships.

### SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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