



Clermont County Local Emergency Planning Committee

January 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Attendees (In-Person): Kathy Bailey, Mark Baird, Bonnie Batchler, Steve Downey, Pam Haverkos, Hannah Lubbers, Brooke Matzen, Tim Neyer, Jeannette Nichols, Tom Peck, Laurie Schlueter, Jessie Wiederhold, Mike White, and Robb Wing.

Attendees (Virtually): Tyler Braasch, Bruce Crase, Robert Hirsch, Andrew McAfee, and Mike Mills.

Guests (In-Person): Jennifer Haley, Ralph Linne, and Neil Yockey

Guests (Virtually): Jim Freeman

Call to Order
The meeting began at 1:34 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions
Approval of the Minutes
A motion was made by Tim Neyer and seconded by Tom Peck to adopt the minutes from the September 26, 2024 meeting. The motion passed.
New Business
Memberships EMA has received four resignations and four applications for membership to the LEPC: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephen Downey (Monroe Township Fire & EMS Chief) replacing Chief Kevin Riley (Central Joint Fire and EMS District Chief – pending retirement) as the Fire Representative from the Clermont County Fire Chief’s Alliance• Kim Francis (Community Disaster Program Manager) replacing Steve Armstrong (American Red Cross Volunteer – Government Liaison - retirement) as the First Aid Representative from the American Red Cross• Ursula Miller (Communications Coordinator) replacing Mike Boehmer (retirement) as the Media Representative from Clermont County Communications• Mike White (Lieutenant) replacing Chris Stratton (Chief Deputy/newly elected Sheriff) as the Law Representative from the Clermont County Police Chief & Sheriff’s Association
A motion was made by Bonnie Batchler and seconded by Brooke Matzen to accept the four resignations and four applications for Membership to the LEPC. The motion passed.
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Clermont County is updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2025. EMA applied for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant in 2023 and just received the award in late 2024. EMA solicited quotes from qualified consultants and selected the low vendor, JH Consulting, LLC. An Implementation meeting with EMA and the contractor is scheduled for 1/29/25. The first public meeting will be scheduled in February 2025. This process will need input from the cities, townships, villages, public safety agencies and community stakeholders. Once the Plan has been completed and approved by Ohio EMA and FEMA, it will be sent to the Board of Commissioners for adoption. We will have a one-year period for the participating cities, villages, and enhanced townships to adopt the plan. Batavia, Miami and Union Townships are designated as enhanced

townships are required to officially adopt the plan to be included. The other townships will be encouraged to adopt the plan as well. The City of Loveland and the City of Milford are encouraged to participate in our planning process, but have the option to have their own plan or participate in Hamilton County's Plan. Regardless, the City of Loveland and City of Milford will still be referenced within the Clermont County Plan.

Due to the delay in the grant award, the planning process will take 9-12 months, which is beyond the expiration date of our existing plan. This will not preclude any jurisdiction from applying for any disaster mitigation grants.

Ongoing Business

HazMat Spills:

There has been 1 reportable spill since the September 26, 2024 meeting.

- 10/18/24 – 1152 US 50 - Miami Township – Worldwide Fuel Services – 35 gallons Diesel Fuel – Spilled from truck on property into storm drain/catch basin and onto US50 between 1152 & 1005 US 50.

Information Requests:

EMA has received 1 information request since the September 26, 2024 meeting.

- 01/09/2025 – 758 Old SR 74 – Union Township – Westech Environmental Solutions

Tier II Reports:

Tier2 submissions are due by March 1, 2025. Facilities that use/store/manufacture extremely hazardous/hazardous substances are required to report if they have chemicals (above the reporting threshold) on site for more than one – 24 hour period in calendar year 2024. EMA has received five reports as of the meeting.

2025 LEPC Exercise:

We are entering year 4 of the 4-year cycle and must complete a full-scale exercise before the June 30, 2025. We will be testing 8 objectives including: 2-Incident Assessment, 3-Incident Command, 5-Resource Management, 6-Communications, 7-Response Personnel Safety, 9-Emergency Public Information, 12-EMS, and 13- Hospital Services. The tentative scenario will be a transportation accident near the Purina Plant and involve Williamsburg Township Emergency Services. Purina is not currently a Tier II Facility, but anticipates having hazardous materials onsite in 2025.

EMA solicited quotes from qualified exercise consultants. The lowest quote was selected. Once the contract has been approved by the BCC, an implementation meeting will be set up. If anyone is interested in being on the exercise planning committee, please let EMA know. The Exercise will be held in late spring/early summer 2025.

Budget

The Final 2024 and the 2025 LEPC Budget was e-mailed to LEPC members and included in the packet.

FY23 State Homeland Security Program Grant: Grant performance period: 09/01/2023 through 10/31/2025
County EMAs, Law Enforcement, and County Board of Elections were eligible to apply.

FY24 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

City of Cincinnati – Hamilton County is slated to receive \$1,476,785. The performance period ends 12/31/25.
City of Cincinnati and the Hamilton County EMA are Administrator's of the Grant.

FY24 State Homeland Security Program Grant:

Ohio released the grant guidance for this competitive application process. The information was sent out to all stakeholders.

- Applications were due to Ohio EMA by 9/20/24.
- Eligible applicants - County EMA, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, & Local Department of Public Safety (fire departments that are primary host agency for a specialty response team)
- Only 1 Project within our region was funded.

Other Grants

EMA emailed out information on available Mitigation Grants to the local jurisdictions. All counties, cities, townships & villages are eligible to apply for these grants. Pre-applications are due to Steve Ferryman (saferryman@dps.ohio.gov) by January 31, 2025.

- [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) - The objective of the BRIC grant is to implement the [All-Hazards Mitigation Plan](#), \$451,000,000 is available.
- [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#) - FMA grant focuses on the mitigation of repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties due to flooding. \$600,000,000 is available.

Department Reports

Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District

- Fire Departments who have foam can participate in the Ohio AFFF's Takeback Program. For more information, see <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/communications-and-outreach/AFFF/afff-takeback-program>

Greater Cincinnati HazMat Unit:

Upcoming Training:

- Battery IQ – March 26th @ Sharonville Fire
- Anhydrous Safety & Emergency Response Training – May 6th, 7th & 8th @ Greater Cincinnati Water Works
- Anhydrous Hydrogen Fluoride Seminar – TBD @ Cincinnati Fire Union Hall & Boy Scouts Facility
- GCHMU trains the 2nd Saturday of every month @ 9:00 a.m. Location: GCHMU
- GCHMU can also provide training at your location

Any agency interested in training can contact Brooke Matzen @ 513-779-1200 or brmatzen@gmail.com.

Fire Chief's Alliance:

- Chief Kevin Riley (Central Joint Fire & EMS) will be retiring effective April 1, 2025.

SERC:

- A new Ohio Hazardous Materials Exercise and Evaluation Manual has been completed. It will be effective for the next exercise cycle (July 1, 2025)
- The next SERC meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2025. Meeting info can be found at: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/air-pollution-control/state-emergency-response-commission>

Public Health

- Public Health will be holding a Chemical Table Exercise on February 4th
- They will also be holding a dispensing drill and a Chempack drill in 2025.

Chamber of Commerce

- The Chamber will be holding the 2025 Business Excellence Awards on February 13th. For more info: <https://business.clermontchamber.com/chamber-calendar/Details/2025-business-excellence-awards-annual-meeting-1234099?sourceTypeId=Website>

EMA:

- EMA is updating the County’s EOP Base Plan and Flood Annex. This will be taken to BCC for promulgation. EMA will email a copy of the Plan and the Flood Annex to the LEPC members for review before BCC submission.
- The NWS is requesting assistance in identifying potentially dangerous ice accumulation on the Ohio River and its tributaries. If anyone sees any accumulation of 4” or more. Please report it to Julie Dian-Reed @ julia.dian-reed@noaa.gov.
- EMA is in the process of hiring a Program Manger I. We received applications and have scheduled interviews for the week of January 27th.
- EMA is in the process of updating our contact lists. Emails will be going out within the next couple weeks.
- EMA still has PPE available. If you have any PPE needs, please contact EMA. We will be distributing a portion of the remaining PPE to Matthew 25 in the near future.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. at the Clermont County Emergency Operations Center at 2279 Clermont Center Drive in Batavia.

Adjournment

Brooke Matzen made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tim Neyer seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 2:16 p.m.