



Clermont County Local Emergency Planning Committee

April 24, 2025, Meeting Notes

Attendees (In-Person): Randy Davis, Steve Downey, Pam Haverkos, Brooke Matzen, John McManus, Robert McLelland, Tim Neyer, Laurie Schlueter, Jeff Smith, and Jessie Wiederhold

Attendees (Virtually): Jill Ernst, Ursula Miller, Michael Mills, and Mike White

Guests (In-Person): Anne Benedict, Tim Kelly, Ralph Linne, Matt Terrell, and Neil Yockey

Guests (Virtually): Michael Hoh and Gail Rose

Call to Order
The meeting began at 1:34 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions. With only nine (9) official members in attendance, the LEPC did not have a quorum. The meeting continued in an informal capacity. No actions could be taken by the LEPC during this meeting.
Approval of the Minutes
The January 23, 2025 minutes will be held for approval at a July 17, 2025, meeting.
New Business
Memberships The LEPC Membership cycle is ending on April 14, 2025. It is time to review/update the LEPC membership appointment for the next 2-year period (August 15, 2025 – August 14, 2027). Completed membership applications should be submitted to EMA by June 30, 2025, so that LEPC can vote on the applications at the July 17, 2025, meeting.
Public Meeting- Virtual Policy ORC 121.221 was amended on April 9, 2025. ORC 121 addresses Ohio public meeting requirements, specifically allowing virtual attendance for quorums. In order to follow these ORC changes the committee must have a Virtual Policy in place. EMA will work with legal to draft a policy for the LEPC to approve.
Severe Storms & Ohio River Flood Update The Ohio EMA has requested that local agencies submit documentation of expenses that occurred from March 30, 2025 through April 10, 2025 due to the severe storms/wind, flash flooding and Ohio River Flood. In order to receive Individual Assistance (IA), the County would have to have a minimum of 25 uninsured primary residential structures or businesses that received major damage or were destroyed. As the County only 8 uninsured structures sustained major damage, and an additional 5 structures sustained major damage, but were unable to verify insurance coverage. Clermont County will not meet the threshold for Individual Assistance. Ohio EMA also requested that the local jurisdictions, county agencies, and certain private non-profits submit expenses to determine eligibility for state/federal Public Assistance. To be eligible Clermont County must have a minimum of \$984,596 in eligible expenses. The State of Ohio must have a minimum of \$22,300,956 for a FEMA PA declaration. The Preliminary Damage Assessment is due to OEMA by Friday April 25, 2025. As of this meeting, Clermont County received \$942,215.78 in estimated expenses.

Multiple private and faith-based organizations have been providing support with cleanup efforts due to the event. Organizations include Ohio Southern Baptists, Crossroads: Masters of Disasters, American Regulators, and Team Rubicon. A Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) will be created to disburse the donations received by Connect Clermont.

Ongoing Business

HazMat Spills:

There have been 2 reportable spills since the January 23, 2025 meeting.

- 02/28/25- 110 Glendale Milford Dr./SR 126- Miami Township- Irvine Wood Recovery, 100-gallon diesel fuel & 35-gallon hydraulic oil released during an excavator fire.
- 03/15/25- 5997 Hunt Rd- Wayne Township- Duke Energy- 40-gal non-PCB oil.

Information Requests:

EMA has received no information requests since the January 23, 2025 meeting.

Tier II Reports:

Tier2 submissions were due on March 1, 2025.

- **EHS Filers:** 45 includes 2 first time filers, and 2 government filers.
- **HS Filder:** 107 includes 1 first time filers.
- **Total filers to date:** 136 filers.

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 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.

The Exercise is scheduled for June 6, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM with a Hot Wash to follow. The tentative backup/rain date will be June 30, 2025.

Budget

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 administer 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.

- State to receive: \$5,571,852
- Cincinnati UASI Region slated to receive: \$1,476,785

- 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)
- Ohio Priorities: Communications, Early Warning/Notification, Exercise, Planning, Sustainment of Specialty Response Teams, and Mass Casualty & Fatality Management.

Department Reports

Engineer's Office

- The Engineer's Office has finished the cleanup efforts from the spring storms and flooding.

Public Health

- Tyler Braasch has been promoted to Director of Water and Waste. Tim Kelly will be filling in on the LEPC until the position has been filled.

Greater Cincinnati HazMat Unit:

Upcoming Training:

- Battery IQ – GCHMU will be holding 3 additional trainings
- 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.

SERC:

- There are 8 remaining LEPC exercises in our region to be completed by June 30, 2025.

EMA:

- Hazard Mitigation Plan: The kickoff meeting was held on March 5, 2025. The first phase of the process will be research and gathering data from the jurisdictions, stakeholders and the public. EMA requested assistance with distributing the surveys via social media platforms, websites, public spaces, and community events, etc. Cities, villages & townships have been asked to identify critical infrastructure that are vital to their communities. During the next phase the contractor, JH Consulting, will be reaching out to the local jurisdictions to discuss the status of the mitigation efforts that were identified in the 2020 Plan. FEMA wants to see if projects were completed, ongoing, deferred or deleted and what challenges prevented the projects from moving forward.
- In March 2025, EMA hired a Program Manager I. Anne Benedict started March 17, 2025.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. at the Clermont County Emergency Operations Center at 2279 Clermont Center Drive in Batavia.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.