



Clermont County Local Emergency Planning Committee

September 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attendees (In-Person): Bonnie Batchler, Mike Boehmer, Tyler Braasch, Pam Haverkos, Tim Neyer, Jeannette Nichols, Thomas Peck, Laurie Schlueter, Jeff Smith, and Rob Wing

Attendees (Virtually): Steve Armstrong, Robert Hirsch, Andrew McAfee, and Jessie Wiederhold.

Guests (In-Person): Andy Braasch, Jennifer Haley, Mike White, and Keith Wise.

Guests (Virtually): Sam Reed

Call to Order
The meeting began at 1:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions
Approval of the Minutes
A motion was made by Steve Armstrong and seconded by Tim Neyer to adopt the minutes from the July 21, 2022 meeting. The motion passed.
New Business
HazMat Plan Update – No Change: The Annual update of the Hazardous Materials Plan is due to the SERC by October 17, 2022. Due to the tornado that happened on July 6, 2022, EMA was unable to complete the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis. EMA is requesting that the Committee approve the submittal of a “No-Change” for this year and we will update all information in 2023. EMA will still submit a request to the local Fire Departments to complete a hazard vulnerability analysis for any new reporting facilities. A motion was made by Jeanette Nichols and seconded by Tyler Braasch to submit a “No-Change” for the 2022 HazMat Plan reporting year. The motion passed.
Ohio LEPC Funding and Equipment Purchasing Policy Update: At the August 2022 meeting, SERC approve an updated <i>Ohio LEPC Funding and Equipment Purchasing Policy</i> . EMA reviewed the document and there were no major changes between this policy and the information provided each year within the SERC Chemical & Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know grant guidance. The document spells out rules and restrictions more clearly on how LEPCs may purchase equipment for first responders. Laurie Schlueter, with concurrence from Sam Reed, stated that due to COVID, a number of county LEPCs have received exemptions for exercises for the last couple years and as a result have an excess amount of funding available. The policy states that before any funds can be spent on first responder equipment, the LEPC must: complete the training of emergency management personnel within its district, have a functional committee, complete a hazard analysis for all EHS facilities, have a current HazMat Plan, conduct an active compliance program, and require that all personnel who will be using the first responder equipment have the level of training needed for their expected level of involvement.
2023 Meeting Schedule: The tentative meeting dates for 2023 are for the fourth Thursday of January, April & September. July will be held a week earlier due to the Clermont County Fair.

- 01/26/2023
- 04/27/2023
- 07/20/2023
- 09/28/2023

A motion was made by Bonnie Batchler and seconded by Tom Peck to accept the 2023 meeting dates as listed. The motion passed.

LEPC Memberships:

EMA received one resignation and one application for membership to the LEPC.

Woody Woodmansee, Highway Superintendent of the Clermont County Engineer’s Office, is retiring September 30, 2022 and has submitted his resignation. Jeff Smith, will be filling his position at the Engineer’s Office and has submitted an application for the LEPC.

A motion was made by Jeanette Nichols and seconded by Rob Wing to accept Woody Woodmansee’s resignation and Jeff Smith’s application to the LEPC. The motion passed.

Ongoing Business

HazMat Spills:

There have been three reportable spills since the 07/21/2022 meeting.

- 07/18/22 – 691 US 50 – City of Milford – Approx. 100 gallons of Non-PCB Mineral Oil released due to Duke Energy pole failure
- 07/23/22 – 824 Main Street – City of Milford – Approx. 40-50 gallons of gasoline spilled due to transporter overfilling tanks at Kroger Fuel Center.
- 08/05/22 – Westbound SR 32 @ Elick Lane – Union Township – Approx. 40-80 gallons of diesel fuel spilled due to truck accident.

The EMA keeps track of all reported spills since 1995 including those that are non-reportable quantities.

Keith Wise from the Ohio EPA discussed the role of the OEPA On—Scene Coordinator, which is primarily to ensure that any spills are cleaned up properly.

Information Requests:

EMA received one information request since the 07/21/2022 meeting.

- 07/28/22 – 4354 Ferguson Drive – Union Township – Partner Engineering & Science, Inc.

Tier II Reports:

2021 Reports were due March 1, 2022.

- EHS Filers: 41 including 3 Government filers
- HS Filers: 90
- Total Filers: 131

COVID-19 Update:

Tyler Braasch provided some updates on the current COVID-19 status:

- Clermont County Public Health is still offering the COVID-19 Vaccine. They currently have the new biValent Vaccine.
- CCPH is still investigating cases for some groups, but in general contact tracing has stopped.
- The Clermont County Library still has some COVID-19 tests in stock, but it is a limited supply.
- For more information on testing and vaccines, you can go to the CCPH website:
 - Testing: <https://ccphohio.org/covid-19-testing-locations/>
 - Vaccinations: <https://ccphohio.org/covid-19-vaccine-info/>

Pam Haverkos stated that there is still PPE available if it is needed. In stock: N95, KN95, surgical masks, child size cloth masks, gowns, gloves, and face shields. If anyone is in need, please contact EMA.

Clermont County Tornadoes Update:

On July 6, 2022, there were multiple weather events within the region. It has been confirmed that an EF1 tornado occurred within Miami Township, an EF2 tornado started in Miami Township and continued on into Goshen Township and an EF1 started at the Clermont County into Brown County primarily in the Lake Lorelei area. The strong EF2 (just short of an EF3) tornado was approximately 500 to 750 yards wide and the length of the path was at least 2.5 miles, possibly longer, with wind damage that was approximately 950 yards wide.

The National Weather Service was apologetic that no notice was given for these tornadoes. However, there was no indication on radar of the event. Damages occurred primarily within three townships: Goshen, Miami and Wayne Townships, with isolated damages in Stonelick, Jackson & Batavia Townships. There were over 451 structures reported to have some damage. These structures included residential, commercial, and outbuildings.

In order to receive Individual assistance programs for those who had damages, the county as a whole would have needed to have 25 properties that were destroyed or had major damages without insurance coverage. The Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch completed their own damage assessment and determined that there were only 16 properties that fell into those categories.

In order to receive FEMA's Public Assistance, the State as a whole would have had to have over \$19 million in damages. As we did not meet that threshold, the Ohio EMA is reviewing documentation to see if the County had over \$855,264 to possibly receive funds from the State Disaster Relief Fund. In August, EMA submitted documentation for several agencies and jurisdictions for over \$5 million in estimated damages. Ohio EMA will review this documentation and then submit their recommendation to the Governor. The Governor will then make a determination and submit a request to the State Controlling Board to see if funds are available. As of this meeting, EMA had not received any word on approval.

Volunteer Organizations continue to work on removing woody debris. The Goshen woody debris staging site has been closed, but the one at Stonelick Park will be open until 10/16/22.

An LTRC (Long Term Recovery Committee) has been created and meets weekly to provide additional assistance to residents affected by the tornadoes. Aaron Ellerman from the Goshen Community Church is the chair of the committee and Bob Pautke from Connect Clermont is the Vice Chair. The LTRC has hired a Case Manager to work directly with the residents and the LTRC to determine need.

If anyone knows of any individuals who were affected by the tornadoes and needs assistance, please refer them to the EMA Hotline at 513-735-8500 or clermontema@clermontcountyohio.gov.

One large concern has been how to handle damages within an MHP (Mobile Home Park). MHPs are regulated at the State level, through the Department of Commerce, Industrial Compliance section rather than the local Building Inspection Departments. The Department of Commerce has a list of private licensed inspectors that can be used. The County Building Department has no authority in MHP.

An After Action Report Meeting will be held at a future date to review what went right or wrong and for agencies to see where plans need to be updated.

EMA has a lot of information on their website regarding storm relief: <https://ema.clermontcountyohio.gov/7-6-2022-storm-relief/>

2021-2022 LEPC Exercise:

The four-year exercise cycle started on 07/01/2021. The LEPC is required to complete 1 Full-Scale, 1 Tabletop and 1 Functional Exercise as well as test all 13 objectives during the four-year period.

EMA received an exercise exemption from SERC for the 2022 State Fiscal Year (7/1/21 to 6/30/22). This means that the LEPC will need to test all 13 objectives in the next three years. The intent is to do a Tabletop Exercise for the 2023 State Fiscal Year in spring 2023. It was discussed that the Clermont County Water Resources Department may be able to be involved in an exercise, testing their Water Intake at Harsha Lake. EMA will reach out to the local Fire Department to see if they are interested in completing an exercise.

Budget – A copy of the 2022 budget is attached.

FY20 State Homeland Security Program Grant: Grant performance period: 09/01/2020 through 03/31/2022.

\$644,037. Hamilton County EMA is the Grant Administrative Agency.

FY21 State Homeland Security Program Grant: Grant performance period: 10/01/2021 through 03/31/2024

\$591,422. Butler County EMA is the Grant Administrative Agency. However, each individual County will be the Fiscal Agent for projects within their county.

FY22 State Homeland Security Program Grant:

OEMA released the FY22 SHSP Guidance.

- This is a competitive application process.
- There will not be a separate Law Enforcement Grant (SHSP-LE). Law Enforcement has been rolled into the SHSP Grant.
- Applicants may submit more than 1 project.
- County EMAs are allowed to apply individually instead of one County being the Grant Administrative Agency.
- Project funding thresholds are a minimum of \$15,000 and a maximum of \$250,000.

The State Priorities are:

- Communications
- Warning/Notification
- Exercise
- Planning
- Sustainment of Specialty Teams (limited to teams identified in the Ohio Fire Chief's Emergency Response Plan, FBI Accredited Bomb Teams, and Mission Ready Packages in the EMAC Operating System)
- Mass Care and Fatality Management

Applications are due to the local EMAs by 9/23/22.

EMA has received two applications as of this meeting. One for a mobile operations trailer to be housed at Stonelick Township Fire Department, and one for drone equipment for Miami Township Police Department.

Department Reports

Ohio EPA:

The OEPA Spill Line is having some technical issues currently and sometimes calls are not going through. Until the situation is resolved, any agencies can contact Pam Haverkos to see which On-Scene Coordinator is on call for the week. Each of the Coordinators are on call for one week at a time.

Public Information:

The County continues to promote the emergency Rental and Utility Assistance program that is being offered through Community Services.

Health Collaborative:

- Hospitals continue to struggle with capacity issues primarily due to staffing. They are starting to see cases again for COVID and the flu.
- For this year's grant, radiation planning is the focus, including a regional radiation plan and joint public health and coalition Table Top Exercise, most likely in February 2023. The Exercise will be facilitated by the Ohio Dept. of Health. Invitation will be sent out in the near future.
- The regional caches of supplies have been re-organized and inventory updates are ongoing.
- The Regional Hazard Vulnerability Analysis is scheduled to be completed by 9/30/22.
- THC staff has moved to full remote work.

Public Health:

Within the next Grant Cycle, CCPH must complete a Demobilization Plan for their POD (Points of Distribution) Program and a Radiological Response Plan. In November there will be an Anthrax Tabletop exercise.

American Red Cross:

- ARC is having a smoke alarm installation event in St. Clair.
- The estimate of costs for the July 6th Tornado event is \$40,000.

EMA:

- The Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grant applications are due to Ohio EMA by September 30th. HMA includes Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants. An email was sent out to all partners on August 30th.
- EMA is waiting for approval from FEMA for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – DR-4507. EMA applied for a repetitive loss property acquisition in Pierce Township.
- EMA continues to update the Emergency Operations Plan. The Base Plan was approved, but we need to update the functional and hazard specific annexes.
 - The Fire and Rescue Annex has been finalized.
 - The Law Enforcement Annex is being reviewed by the Sheriff’s Office and the Prosecutor’s Office.
- Staff continues to work with the schools to update the school response plans.
- EMA along with some other county agencies will be participating in a Cyber Security Exercise on 10/20/22 from 8 am until Noon. Currently there are three Dispatch Centers, the County’s Information Systems Department, and the County Administration attending.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 01/26/2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the Clermont County Emergency Operations Center at 2279 Clermont Center Drive in Batavia. The meeting will also be available over Zoom.

Adjournment

Rob Wing made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Laurie Schlueter seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.