



# 2022 Annual Report

Cuyahoga County  
Public Safety & Justice Services (PSJS)  
Division of Emergency Management



---

## Vision

---

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) will be an accredited emergency management organization, widely recognized as the best emergency management agency in Ohio and one of the best in the Great Lakes Region.

CCOEM personnel will be leaders in the field of emergency management and will be recognized for their professional competence, dedication, and willingness to assist other emergency management partners throughout Ohio.

---

## Mission

---

The mission of CCOEM is to protect lives, property, and the economy of Cuyahoga County through preparedness, planning, and effective response to natural disasters, man-made catastrophes, and emergencies.

---

## Values

---

Collaboration

Integrity

Professionalism

Innovation

Equity

Leadership





# Table of Contents

Note from the Director of Public Safety & Justice Services.....	4
Note from County Emergency Manager.....	5
The Cuyahoga County Emergency Services Advisory Board (CCESAB).....	6
Who We Are.....	7
Risk Management.....	8
COVID-19 Operations.....	9
Emergency Notifications.....	10
ReadyCertify.....	11
Planning.....	12
Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP).....	13
Operations.....	14
Resources.....	15
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).....	16
Training & Exercise.....	17
Rescue Task Force (RTF) Training.....	18
ReadyEx Prep.....	19
Public Relations & Outreach.....	20

# Note from the Director of Public Safety & Justice Services

As the Director of Cuyahoga County Department of Public Safety & Justice Services (PSJS), I am pleased to present our Emergency Management Annual Report for 2022. The initiatives and accomplishments outlined here reflect the hard work and dedication of many PSJS employees, but specifically our Emergency Management team.

PSJS includes multiple divisions: Administration, Emergency Management, Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System (CECOMS), Fiscal and Grants Services, and Witness Victim Services. As PSJS Director, my responsibility also includes affiliations with the Cuyahoga County Diversion Center, the Opioid Settlement Fund, the Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center, the Family Justice Center and the Sheriff's Office Criminal Justice Information Systems.

Collectively, these entities ensure our 59 communities have access to the highest quality services. With the election of Chris Ronayne as County Executive, 2023 marks the first change in leadership in Cuyahoga County in 8 years and I am excited for what the future holds.

On a personal level, Emergency Management has a noteworthy place in my heart, as I started with the division over 17 years ago. At the time, the Emergency Operations Center was just a large room with scattered chairs and a single rotary telephone. We have come so far! Today, Emergency Management's list of programs and projects, extensive planning and commitment to training render it one of the premier emergency management agencies in the state and beyond. We regularly meet or exceed state and federal benchmarks, including the rigorous Emergency Management Accreditation Process (EMAP), which we achieved in 2016 and have maintained ever since. I can proudly say that our team is recognized widely as subject matter experts in a cadre of areas.

I also want to take this opportunity to introduce the Department's new Deputy Director, Jill Smialek. Prior to her appointment, Jill served as the manager of the Witness Victim Services for 10 years. Jill studied social work and earned a law degree from Cleveland State University. She brings a wealth of experience to her role.

In closing, I am reminded that the tenets of emergency management are Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery. While we take these very seriously, our work depends on strong relationships. We strive to build on those relationships every day, as individuals, as a division, and across the entire department. Together, we will work tirelessly to ensure Cuyahoga County is a safe, welcoming community to live, work, and visit.

Sincerely,



Brandy Carney, Director



# Note from County Emergency Manager

Public Safety Partners,

I am pleased to share with you the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management's (CCOEM) 2022 Annual Report.

Since beginning my position nearly 5 years ago, I have tried to continually emphasize my desire for our partners to consider CCOEM an extension of their organizations' emergency management efforts. I want you always to remember that we are here to assist you with an array of activities such as EOC support, planning assistance, facilitation of training and exercises, and public education and outreach.

In an era of evolving threats and challenges compounded by persistent budgetary constraints, the value of strategic thinking and collaboration cannot be understated. Being acquainted with one another and working together before emergencies happen continues to be the best insurance policy we have for coordinated response and recovery efforts.

To that end, the purpose of this report is twofold. First, I want to share the progress and successes that our office and the larger public safety community have enjoyed in 2022. Secondly, I want partners to use this report as a menu of the services and programs that our office has to offer. My hope is that you find our annual report informative and useful.

2023 is positioned to be a busy year for our Office as we embark on several large initiatives including, but not limited to: implementation of the next generation of the ReadyNotify system, migration to a new information-sharing platform– WebEOC, and comprehensive planning projects involving long-term recovery, continuity of operations, and our Emergency Support Function (ESF) Annexes. I am confident that all of these projects will be successful and meaningful endeavors due to the enduring dedication and contributions of our partners.

As always, since we are here to serve you, I welcome any input you have for our Office and its programs.

Thank you for your continued partnership.



Mark Christie, CEM  
County Emergency Manager



# Cuyahoga County Emergency Services Advisory Board (CCESAB)

The CCESAB was established by the government of Cuyahoga County to advise the County Executive on Homeland Security and Public Safety matters in relation to enhancing prevention, protection, response, mitigation, and recovery capabilities, and to make this improved capacity available to municipal corporations and townships.

As such, the CCESAB provides strategic guidance and input into Cuyahoga County's emergency management program.

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) supports the CCESAB's administrative and clerical functions.

The CCESAB membership aligns with the representation requirements established in Ohio Revised Code section 5502.26.

## Meet the Members

Chief Mike Carroll, CCESAB Chair	Lyndhurst Fire Dept. *Also Chair of the Fire Committee
Mark Christie, CCESAB Vice Chair	Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management *Also Chair of the Emergency Management Committee
Director Brandy Carney	Cuyahoga County Department of Public Safety & Justice Services
Mayor Richard Bain	Pepper Pike
Mayor Paul Koomar	Bay Village
Mayor Patrick Ward	Lyndhurst
Lisa Zver	Olmsted TWP
Interim Sheriff Joseph Greiner	Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department
Deputy Chief Harold Pretel	Cleveland Division of Police
Fred Szabo	Cleveland Office of Emergency Management
Robert Horwatt	City of Cleveland
Chief Patrick Sweeney	Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs' Association
Chief Kelly Stillman	Cuyahoga County Police Chiefs' Association
Chief Deidre Jones	Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
Sgt. Steven Greene	Chair - Communications Committee (Parma Hts. Police Dept.)
Chief Michael Cannon	Chair - Law Enforcement Committee (Hunting Valley Police Dept.)
Chief Bruce Elliott	Chair - EMS Committee (Mayfield Hts. Fire Dept.)

# Who We Are

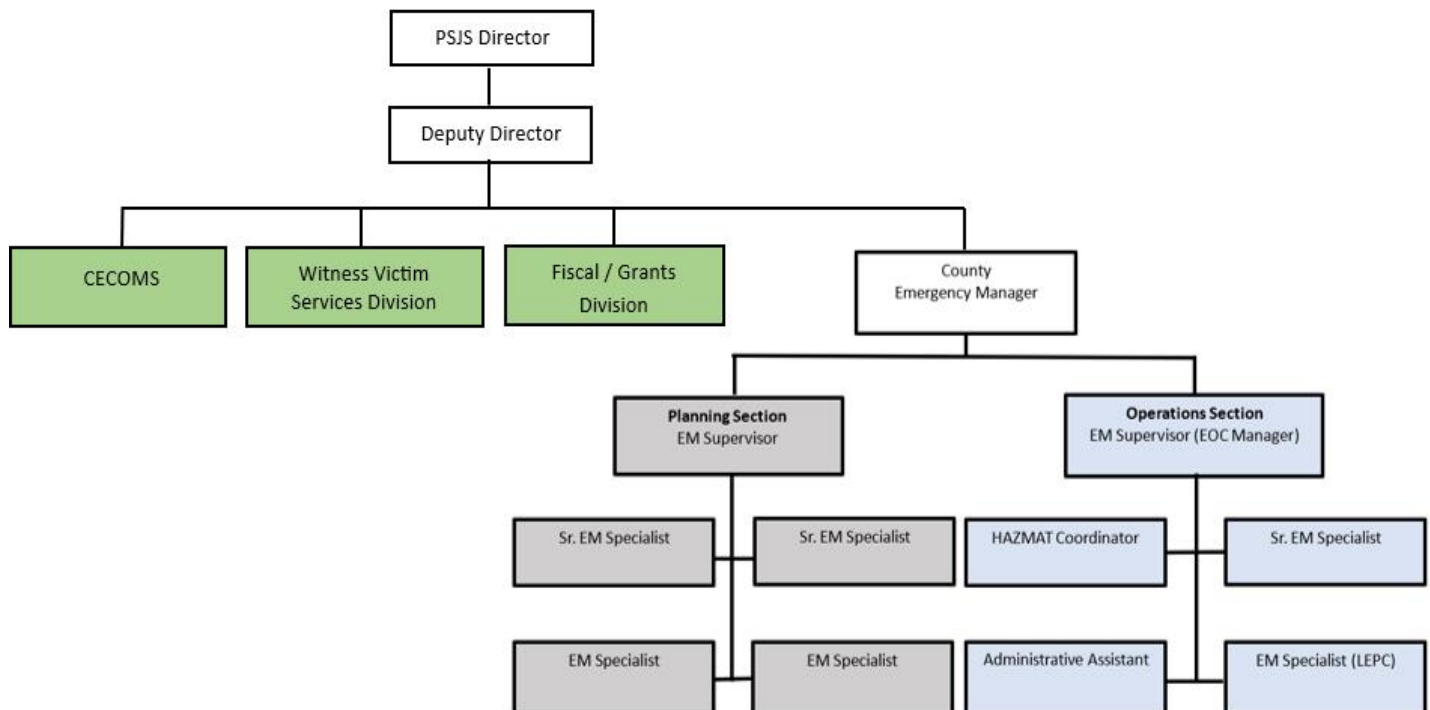


Emergency management functions of the Cuyahoga County government are established in ORC 5502.26 and conducted by the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM), a division of the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Safety and Justice Services.

Primary Functions of CCOEM include:

- Developing and Maintaining the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- Maintaining the Cuyahoga County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in a state of readiness.
- Coordinating resources to support municipal emergencies.
- Assisting local governments in the development of emergency management plans.
- Providing information and assistance to the public, safety forces, businesses, industries, schools, hospitals and other agencies to help them prepare to respond to emergencies and disasters.
- Preparing and executing training and exercises.
- Supporting the Cuyahoga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

## The Department of Public Safety & Justice Services (PSJS) Divisions





# Risk Management

## Understanding and Managing Risk

Hazard identification & risk assessment is the process of measuring the potential impact to life, property and the economy resulting from natural, technological, and human-caused hazards.

The intent of the risk assessment process is to identify the qualitative and quantitative vulnerabilities of a community. The results of this process provide a better understanding of hazards and establish a foundation on which to develop and prioritize mitigation actions.

The **Cuyahoga County Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)** and the **Countywide All Hazards Mitigation Plan** serve as the basis for risk assessment and management in Cuyahoga County.

Together these documents help inform decision-making for investments and planning activities as well as enable our County's eligibility for federal homeland security and mitigation grants.



**In 2022 both the Cuyahoga County THIRA and the Countywide All-Hazards Mitigation Plan were comprehensively updated.**

Collectively, the update processes for both documents involved gathering input from over **150** public safety stakeholders and community officials.



# COVID-19 Operations

## Pushing PPE to Response Partners

In addition to sustaining a long-term Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation, since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) has operated a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distribution operation to allocate scarce PPE to first responders and critical healthcare partners.

CCOEM continued its PPE request/ allocation process in 2022 and now permanently maintains a PPE cache for emergent requests from eligible organizations should future supply chain shortages occur.

### Distribution in 2022

PPE Items Distributed:  
**2,398,114**

Receiving Agencies:  
**255**



Above: Photos of CCOEM's ongoing PPE distribution efforts.

Total Amount of PPE Distributed since 2020:

**27,132,415**

Total Number of Receiving Organizations since 2020:

**4,221**

# Emergency Notifications

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) maintains Cuyahoga County's mass notification system, ReadyNotify.

This system is used to send countywide emergency notifications and other messaging via phone calls, texts, and emails.

Additionally, CCOEM makes the system available for use by communities and other public safety partner agencies at no cost. Doing so enables a true countywide, mass notification system.



## ReadyNotify By the Numbers in 2022



45 Communities using the System



24 Partner Agencies using the System



591,641 Phone Calls



674,393 Text Messages



2,293,177 Emails

# ReadyCertify

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM ) maintains an emergency management certification program, ReadyCertify, intended to help Cuyahoga County communities and organizations increase their ability to plan for and respond to disasters or emergencies.

The core of the ReadyCertify program is a set of 24 emergency management performance standards carefully selected by CCOEM. They cover the full spectrum of emergency management activities including, but not limited to: Administration, Organization, Planning, Training, Response, and Recovery.

The ReadyCertify Program encourages the use of nationally recognized best-practices and increases the awareness, understanding, and appreciation of cooperation and interoperability among Cuyahoga County's communities and organizations.

Recertification in the ReadyCertify Program occurs every 5 years.



Mayfield Village Recertification



Mayfield Heights Recertification



Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District  
Initial Certification



Pepper Pike Recertification



Cleveland MetroParks Recertification

## ReadyCertify by the Numbers in 2022

**1 Initial Certification:**  
The Northeast Ohio Regional  
Sewer District

**9 Recertifications:**  
Bay Village  
Brooklyn  
Cleveland MetroParks  
City of Cleveland  
Mayfield Hts.  
Mayfield Village  
Olmsted TWP.  
Pepper Pike  
South Euclid

Since 2015 **28** communities and  
organizations have completed the  
ReadyCertify Program



# Planning

Emergency Management planning consists of writing, disseminating, and maintaining plans related to emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

At the County-level, the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) maintains the Cuyahoga County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), incident-specific and functional annexes as well as the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) annexes. Additionally, CCOEM also provides technical assistance to community and partner agency planning efforts.

## Cuyahoga County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Base Plan

The Cuyahoga County EOP establishes the framework to ensure that the County is prepared to respond to all hazards that threaten the lives and property of its citizens.

The EOP outlines the general responsibilities of Cuyahoga County governmental departments, partnering agencies, and community organizations in responding to an emergency. This plan unifies the efforts of these groups to implement a comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of a disaster.

**The EOP Base Plan was updated in 2022 to ensure consistency and compliance with current local, state, and federal standards and guidelines. The EOP update integrated the new FEMA construct of “Community Lifelines”.**

Community Lifelines are considered the most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society. Integrating the Community Lifelines into our planning increases the effectiveness of response operations and accelerates the County’s recovery process following emergencies.

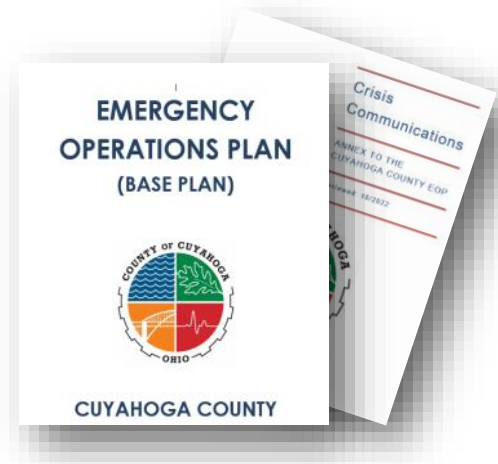


*FEMA Community Lifelines, source: fema.gov*

## Annexes Updated

In 2022 CCOEM worked with public safety partners and subject matter experts to update **9 functional annexes**, including :

- o Animals in Disaster Annex
- o Crisis Communications Annex
- o Damage Assessment Annex
- o Debris Management Annex
- o Mass Casualty Annex
- o Shelter Annex
- o Social Media Annex
- o Utility Disruption Annex
- o Volunteer & Donation Management Annex



# Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)

The purpose of a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) is to ensure that organizations are prepared to continue essential services during and after an emergency event.

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) maintains a COOP program for County departments and is available to assist municipalities and organizations in COOP planning efforts.

The CCOEM COOP Program consists of training, plan templates, exercise planning support, and supplemental resources. The program is designed to be applicable to government-agencies, private sector entities, and non-profit organizations.

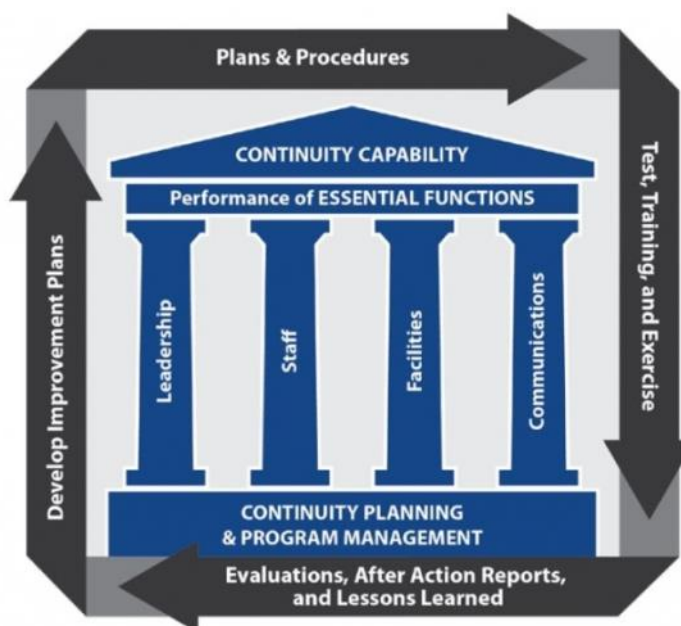


In 2022 CCOEM worked with 21 County Departments and Divisions to draft or update existing COOP Plans.

A focus of the planning process was to integrate lessons-learned and new virtual capabilities from experiences with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## County COOPs Completed in 2022

1. Clerk of Courts
2. Communications
3. Fiscal - Consumer Affairs
4. Fiscal – Admin/General
5. Fiscal - Purchasing, Equity and Inclusion
6. Fiscal - Auto Title
7. Health & Human Services – Admin
8. Health & Human Services – Children and Family Services
9. Health & Human Services – IT
10. Human Resources
11. Law Department
12. Medical Examiner
13. Public Works – Facilities
14. Public Works – Roads/Bridges
15. Public Works – Sanitary Engineer/Sewer Maintenance
16. Sheriff Office – Law Enforcement
17. Sheriff Office – Protective Services
18. Public Safety Administration
19. CECOMS
20. Public Safety— Witness Victim
21. Treasurer



# Operations

## EOC Activations & Operations Support in 2022

**3 County EOC Activations**

**3 Cleveland Special Event EOC  
Activations support**

**11 In-field Support Responses**

Emergency Management Operations include maintaining the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in a state of readiness, resource coordination, and providing in-field assistance during emergencies such as incident command assistance, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) support, and damage assessments.

Although County-level assistance is not typically needed for routine incidents, if requested, Emergency Management staff is able to provide assistance to communities regardless of the size or scope of an event.

## EOC

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is the central location from which all off-scene activities are coordinated. The key function of EOC personnel is to support the Incident Commander and ensure that those who are located at the scene have the resources (i.e., personnel, tools, and equipment) they need for the response. In large emergencies, the EOC also serves as a liaison between local responders and the state.



September 2022: EOC Training

## Cuyahoga County UAS

In 2017 the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) created a UAS team to serve as a resource for communities and partner agencies. Over the subsequent years the team has supported a variety of missions including search and rescue, fire operations, law enforcement activities, damage assessments, and large special events.

The team consists of trained, certified pilots and can be requested 24/7 by contacting CCOEM.



February 2022: CCOEM provides UAS support during a fire at a Hampton Inn in Brooklyn.



# Resources

## Resource Database

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) maintains a comprehensive resource database to expedite the request and deployment process of resources in the County.

The database inventories approximately **2,300** resources from over **160** local agencies and organizations.

The database was previously hosted within CCOEM's information-sharing platform, *Knowledge Center*. In 2022 CCOEM began migrating to a new platform called WebEOC. Over the course of 2023 CCOEM staff will begin credentialing and training stakeholders on use of the new system.

## Special Event Trailers

In 2022 CCOEM outfitted two Special Event Trailers that are available to communities, upon request.

The trailers are intended to be staged prior to community events (e.g. home days, festivals, etc.) and come equipped with supplies necessary to respond to medical emergencies and/or a mass casualty incident.

Some of the items in the trailers include:

- John Deer Gator with Victim Transport
- PPE/ Mass Casualty Supplies
- Backboards
- A 30x24.5 ft. Tent
- Light Towers

The trailers, along with other deployable resources, are staged at the Emergency Management warehouse located at the Public Works' yard in Newburgh Heights.



Photo Description: Exterior of CCOEM Special Event Trailer

In 2022, the Special Event Trailers were deployed **10** times.

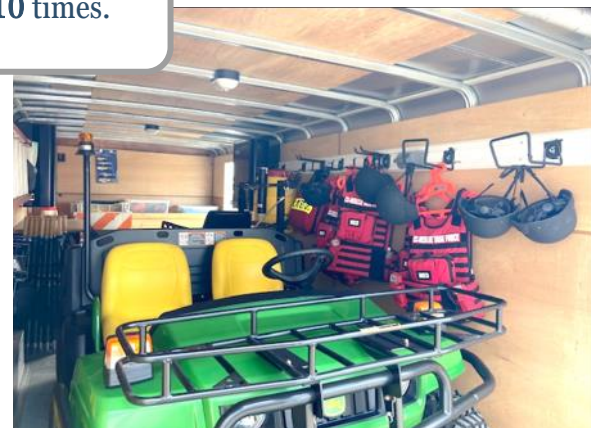


Photo Description: Interior of CCOEM Special Event Trailer

# LEPC

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is the coordinated planning group comprised of individuals who have a knowledge and awareness of hazardous materials incident planning and response. It is mandated by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 as well as section 3750.03 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

The Cuyahoga County LEPC is funded by the State of Ohio LEPC Grant Program and has 23 members that meet bi-monthly.

The LEPC's responsibilities include supporting first responders with hazardous materials information and training, overseeing annual chemical reporting for regulated facilities, and maintaining records for all spills and releases of hazardous chemicals in Cuyahoga County.

## LEPC By the Numbers in 2022

**959** Facility Chemical Inventory Reports Processed

**29** Spill Reports Processed

Annual HAZMAT Exercise conducted with **50** participants from **18** different agencies



Photo Description: LEPC Vice Chair Alan Finklestein with Emergency Management Specialist Sara Lippi at the 2022 National Association of SARA Title III Conference.





# Training & Exercise

## Training

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) coordinates training opportunities throughout the year for local officials and public safety agencies. Course schedules are developed to support National Incident Management System (NIMS) training requirements as well as to address responder capability gaps. When appropriate, refresher courses are built into the schedule to allow for the maintenance of certifications and expertise.

### Training By the Numbers in 2022

**16 CCOEM-hosted Trainings**

**308 Participants**



September 2022: CCOEM conducts ESF Agency EOC Training

### Exercises by the Numbers in 2022

**12 Exercises conducted by CCOEM**

**833 Participants**

## Exercise

CCOEM conducts a comprehensive program of exercises for first responders and emergency support agencies across Cuyahoga County. CCOEM uses the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning.



November 2022: CCOEM conducts a TTX in East Cleveland



August 2022: CCOEM facilitates a full-scale exercise in Strongsville



# Rescue Task Force (RTF) Training

Rescue Task Force (RTF) refers to a combination of law enforcement officers and medical personnel that can triage and treat victims in an unsecured working environment.

The concept is implemented for incidents involving active aggressors, in which immediate medical care is necessary to save lives.

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) worked with the Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs and Police Chiefs Associations to implement an RTF Train-the-Trainer program to train personnel from local law enforcement and fire agencies.

The program ensures that a standardized and interoperable approach to the RTF concept is implemented across all law enforcement and fire departments in Cuyahoga County.



## Cuyahoga County RTF Program By the Numbers in 2022



**4** Trainings Conducted



**43** Participating Fire Departments



**33** Participating Police Departments



**211** First Responders Trained

# ReadyEx Prep

In 2022 the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) officially launched a new tabletop exercise (TTX) program, *ReadyEx Prep*.

ReadyEx Prep is an expansion of our original ReadyEx TTX program that provides target audiences access to easy-to-use materials and guidance for conducting their own tabletop exercises.

ReadyEx Prep takes the original program a step further by providing in-person training on the process for designing and facilitating TTXs. Specifically, CCOEM staff host a half-day workshop where all essential exercise documentation is thoroughly reviewed and attendees are provided instruction on how to facilitate a TTX in the context of a plausible scenario.

The program was initially beta tested in 2021 when CCOEM provided the training to over 100 Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD) security officers.

This year CCOEM hosted two more ReadyEx Prep sessions in Beachwood and Middleburg Hts. The target audiences for each of these sessions was school and public safety personnel.

## READYEX PREP

### Objectives



Obtain the knowledge, tools, and confidence to conduct your own TTX.



Identify strengths and areas for improvement in emergency plans



Foster partnerships with response agencies



To the left: ReadyEx Prep Workshop conducted in Beachwood on December 9, 2022

To the right ReadyEx Prep Workshop conducted in Middleburg Heights on November 30, 2022





# Public Relations & Outreach

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) conducts public information and outreach activities throughout the year.

This is accomplished through speaking engagements, relationship-building with stakeholders, and disseminating emergency management information via news releases, social media and attendance at community events.



August 2022: EM Specialist Sara Lippi supporting Solon's National Night Out event.

## Highlights from 2022 Outreach Activities



September 2022: A State Department Delegation from Qatar meets with CCOEM staff to exchange ideas on volunteerism and civic engagement in emergency preparedness.



October 2022: Students from Euclid City schools visit the Cuyahoga County EOC to learn about the field of Emergency Management.



October 2022: Members of CCOEM and the Cleveland Emergency Management Office attend a Meet & Greet with NWS staff at their new Office.



# The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management

[ready.cuyahogacounty.us](http://ready.cuyahogacounty.us)

 @CuyahogaOEM

 CuyahogaOEM

