



2025 Annual Report

Public Safety & Justice Services
Office of Emergency Management



READY ✓
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Every Person. Every Emergency.

Our Mission

The mission of the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management is to protect lives, property, and the economy of Cuyahoga County through preparedness, planning, and effective response to natural disasters and human-caused emergencies.

Our Vision

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

The Office's 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.

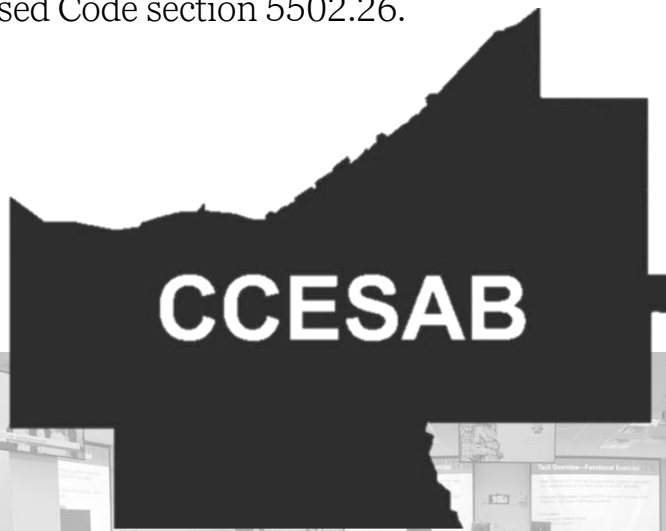


Cuyahoga County Emergency Services Advisory Board (CCESAB)

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



The Executive Board

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
Sheriff Harold Pretel	Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department
Deputy Chief Ali Pillow	Cleveland Division of Police
Fred Szabo	Cleveland Office of Emergency Management
Robert Horwatt	City of Cleveland
Chief Patrick Sweeney	Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs' Association (Shaker Hts. Fire Department)
Chief Kelly Stillman	Cuyahoga County Police Chiefs' Association (Metroparks Police Department)
Chief Deidre Jones	Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
Assistant Chief James Heath	Chair - Communications Committee (Shaker Hts. Fire Department)
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)
- Coordinating Resources
- Conducting Outreach and Public Information
- Preparing and executing trainings and exercises.
- Supporting the Cuyahoga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).



Photo Description: CCOEM staff with partners at the 2025 Family Fun Day in Cleveland

Staffing Updates



Greg Laurenson

Greg Laurenson began working for CCOEM in June of 2025. As a Hazmat Analyst, Greg serves as the Information Coordinator for the Cuyahoga County LEPC and is responsible for working directly with the LEPC and Hazmat Teams to assist with identifying training, equipment, and administrative needs. Prior to joining the office, Greg was an Analyst for the City of Independence. Greg is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in International Studies, specializing in Security and Intelligence. Greg lives in Cleveland and enjoys frequenting Guardians games, walking his dog in the Metroparks, and playing tennis in his free time.



Emily Smith-Sherlock

Emily Smith-Sherlock began working for the CCOEM in July of 2025. As an Emergency Management Specialist, Emily is responsible for outreach, social media, and ReadyNotify. Prior to joining the office, Emily was a Survey Team Chief for the 52nd Civil Support Team, Ohio Army National Guard. Emily is a graduate of University of Nebraska with a degree in Public Administration. Emily lives in Lakewood and enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, sewing, and hanging out with her cats in her free time.

Who We Are



Nearing EMAP Reaccreditation

Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)

EMAP, an independent non-profit organization, fosters excellence and accountability in emergency management programs by establishing credible standards that are applied in a peer-reviewed accreditation process. Participation in the EMAP program is voluntary and demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement.

EMAP requires a five-year reaccreditation. As such, CCOEM has been actively preparing for two years for their third reaccreditation, which will culminate in a week-long on-site assessment in March of 2026.

Did you know?...

In 2015, the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) became **the first locally-accredited agency in the State of Ohio.**

CCOEM is **1 of less than 100 agencies** that are accredited globally.



LEGEND

- ★ Local Program
- State/Territory Program
- 🎓 Academic Institution
- International Program

Tribal Nations, Private Sector & Federal Programs designated by own logo

- Government of the British Virgin Islands
- King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Mass Notification

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 partner agencies at no cost. Doing so enables a true countywide, mass notification system.

READY **CUYAHOGA COUNTY** **NOTIFY**

By the Numbers in 2025



45 Communities using ReadyNotify



24 Partner Agencies using ReadyNotify



652, 765 Phone Calls



769, 047 Text Messages



2, 024.452 Emails

Planning

ESF Annexes

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.

In 2025, CCOEM engaged over 50 agencies and organizations to update our 15 ESF Annexes.



Other Plans

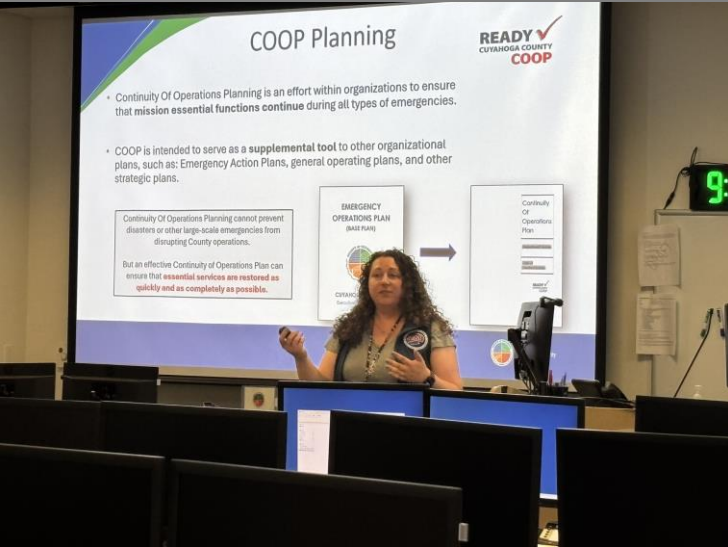
In addition to the ESF Annex updates, CCOEM produced (or updated) 10 other documents last year including:

- Administration and Finance SOP
- Damage Assessment Annex
- EOC SOG
- External Coordination SOG
- Social Media SOG
- JIS/ JIC Plan
- Outreach SOG
- ReadyNotify SOP
- Long-Term Recovery Plan
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Planning



Continuity of Operation 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.

Photo Description: Sr. Emergency Management Specialist, Sara Lippi, hosts a COOP planning workshop

In 2025, CCOEM assisted in the update of 18 COOP Plans.

ReadyCertify

CCOEM maintains an emergency management certification program, ReadyCertify, intended to help Cuyahoga County communities and organizations increase their capability to plan for and respond to disasters and emergencies.

The core of the ReadyCertify Program is a set of 24 emergency management performance standards. They cover the spectrum of emergency management activities including: administration, organization, planning, training, response, and recovery.

The program encourages the use of nationally recognized best-practices and increases cooperation and interoperability among Cuyahoga County's communities and organizations.

Recertification in the ReadyCertify Program occurs every five years.



In 2025, the City of Euclid completed their Recertification.

Long-Term Recovery Planning

With the completion of the Long-Term Recovery Plan, in 2025 the focus shifted to phase 2 of the project: testing the Plan.

Accordingly, on February 7, 2025, a tabletop exercise (TTX) was conducted with nearly **80 participants** from a range of organizations integral in the provision of recovery services and resources.

The TTX familiarized the plan to stakeholders, helped identify planning gaps, and enabled the collection of additional input.

One key finding of the event was the need to reestablish the Access & Functional Needs Committee.



Photo Description: Emergency Management staff Kevin Friis, Mark Christie, and Serena Steele participating in the 2025 Recovery TTX



Photo Description: Emergency Management partners participating in the 2025 Recovery TTX discussion

Access & Functional Needs Committee

As part of the ongoing effort to expand our Long-Term Recovery (LTR) Plan, in 2025 the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) re-established the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Committee.



The AFN Committee is an extension of Cuyahoga County's Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) and helps identify and address AFN gaps within planning.

The AFN Committee met twice last year, bringing together more than twenty agencies and organizations. The Committee will continue to provide, guidance, recommendations, and strategies to CCOEM to ensure people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs have full and equal access to emergency services and programs.



Training & Exercise



Trainings By the Numbers in 2025

30 Trainings hosted by CCOEM

1152 Participants

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.

Exercise

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

Exercises By the Numbers in 2025

24 Exercises hosted by CCOEM

1318 Participants



Photo Description: Larry Tafe, Sr. Grant Coordinator from the Dept. of Public Safety & Justice Services, assisting at a 2025 exercise



Photo Description: Sr. Emergency Management Specialist/ Training Officer, Serena Steele attending the 2025 Homeland Security Conference

Integrated Response to Mass Casualty Incidents (IRMC)

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 and Police Chiefs' Associations to implement and sustain a *train-the-trainer* RTF program to train personnel from local law enforcement and fire agencies.

Cuyahoga County's program is officially known as Integrated Response to Mass Casualty Incidents (IRMC) Training and ensures that a standardized and interoperable approach to the RTF concept is implemented across all law enforcement and fire departments in the County. The Cuyahoga County Department of Public Safety & Justice Services has allocated funding to support this program since 2022.

IRMC Program in 2025



**6 Trainings
Conducted**



**125 First
Responders
Trained**



**34 New
Instructors
Certified**



Progressive Field Exercise

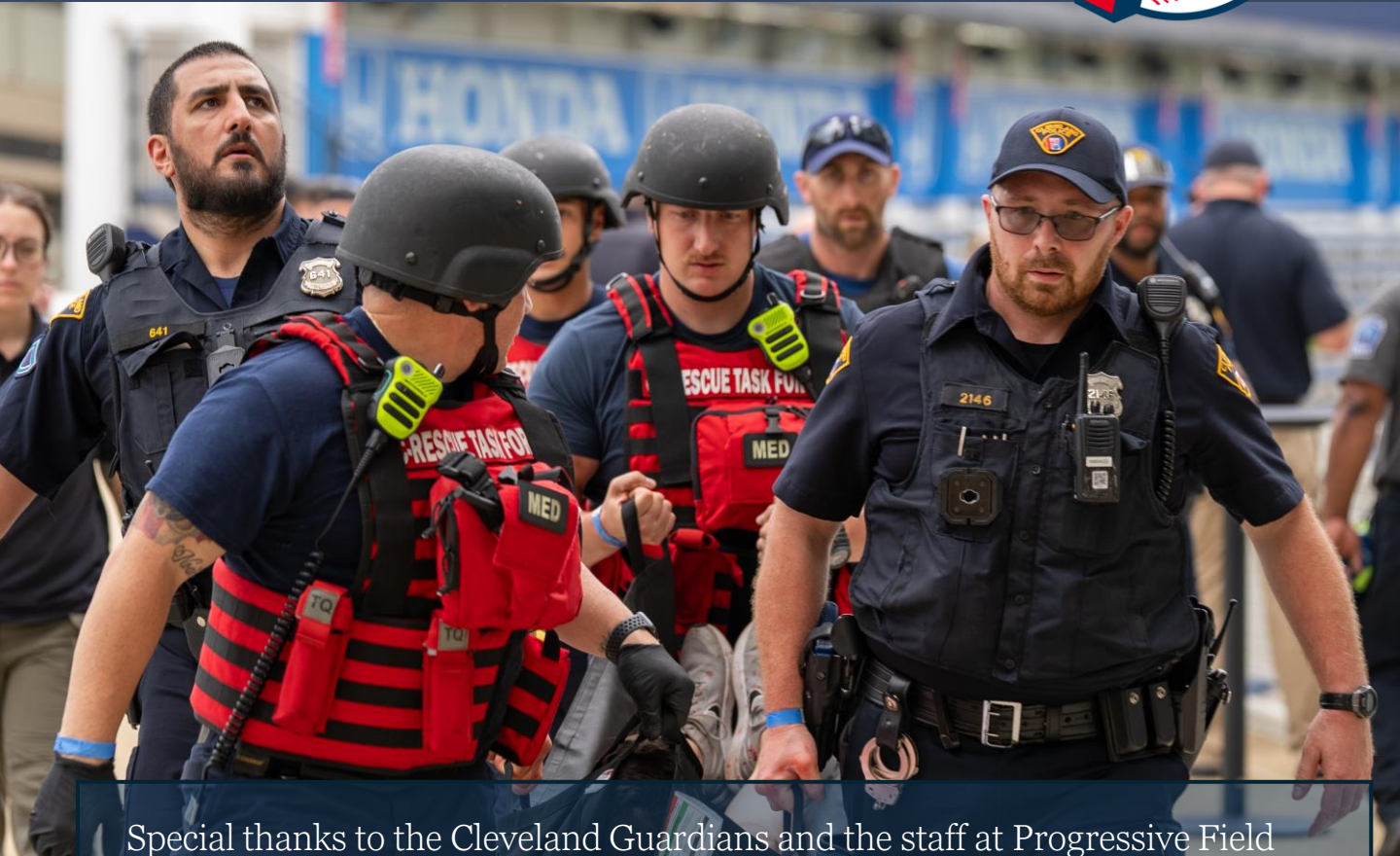


On June 18, 2025, the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) partnered with the Cleveland Divisions of Police, Fire, & EMS along with **15** other partner agencies from the region to simulate a response to a mass casualty incident occurring at Progressive Field.

4 different simulated scenarios were practiced during the exercise with over **400** first responders and victim actors.



Progressive Field Exercise



Special thanks to the Cleveland Guardians and the staff at Progressive Field for their partnership and role in making the exercise a success.



2025 Lake Erie Exercise



On September 8, 2025, the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management facilitated a full-scale exercise on Lake Erie.

The scenario exercised response capabilities related to an active aggressor/ mass casualty incident occurring on the water.

This marked the first time a scenario of this nature had been tested in Cuyahoga County.

In all, over **330** players and volunteers from **18** agencies and organizations participated in the exercise.



2025 Lake Erie Exercise



Special thanks to the Goodtime III and the victim actors who donated their time to enable a realistic exercise for the first responders.

Operations

EOC Activations & Operations Support in 2025

3 County EOC Activations

10 In-field Support Response

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 can provide assistance to communities regardless of the size or scope of an event.



Photo Descriptions (from left to right):

- A glimpse inside the EOC during the 2025 Emergency Support Function (ESF) workshop.
- First responders take a break during the 2025 Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network (SPAN) exercise.
- Emergency Management Specialist, Sam Hudik, providing a briefing to EOC partners.

Resources

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
READY



MAPS



- Home Page
- Information Dashboard
- Media Dashboard
- ODOT Cameras
- Resource Database
- Dispatch & Specialty Teams Maps
- Warning/Cooling Centers Map
- Useful Websites

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Current conditions at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (KCLE)
27°F
-3°C

National Weather Service
Map of Cleveland area showing weather conditions.

OHGO
Map of Ohio showing various locations and routes.

PulsePoint
Active (10)
Chagrin Valley 10:47 AM
Fire Alarm
15219 MAPLE PARK DR, MAPLE HEIGHTS, OH
MAE1 MAE2 MAS1
WestShore FDS 10:44 AM
Medical Emergency
WESTMINSTER AVE, N RIDGEVILLE, OH
NRM27
Chagrin Valley 10:39 AM
Medical Emergency
S GREEN RD, SOUTH EUCLID, OH
341 356
Chagrin Valley 10:36 AM
Fire Alarm
1 JOHN CARROLL BLVD, UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OH
215 216 1121 1153 LYS1
Chagrin Valley 10:27 AM
Medical Emergency
ADDRESS NOT AVAILABLE
BPE1 BPM1
WestShore FDS 10:12 AM
Medical Emergency

NWS Wx Radar
Weather radar map of the Cleveland area.

USGS
Map of the Grand River area showing various data points.

AirNow
Map of the Cleveland area showing air quality data points.

Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management
9300 Quincy Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106
(216) 443-5700 | ema@cuyahogacounty.gov

Feedback?

81,015 assets TRACKED!

CCOEM maintains a comprehensive resource database to expedite the request and deployment process of resources in the County.

The resource database tracks **3,200** separate types of assets covering **58** municipalities, and **10** non-municipal agencies.

LEPC



The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a 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 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.

2025 By the Numbers:



30
Members



167
Records
Requests



48 Spill
Reports
Received



920 Tier II
Facilities

ReadyEx/ ReadyEx Prep

ReadyEx Prep is an expansion of the original ReadyEx Tabletop Exercise (TTX) program that provides target audiences access to easy-to-use materials and guidance for conducting their own 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 hosts workshops 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.

In 2026:

ReadyEx TTX's Facilitated: 6
ReadyEx Materials Requested: 9
ReadyEx Prep Workshops Hosted: 3



2025 Emergency Management Summit



On October 29, 2025, the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management hosted its annual Emergency Management Summit.

The event featured speakers on an array of topics and serves as an educational and networking opportunity for attendees.

Over 170 public safety stakeholders attended the 2025 Summit.



Public Information & Outreach



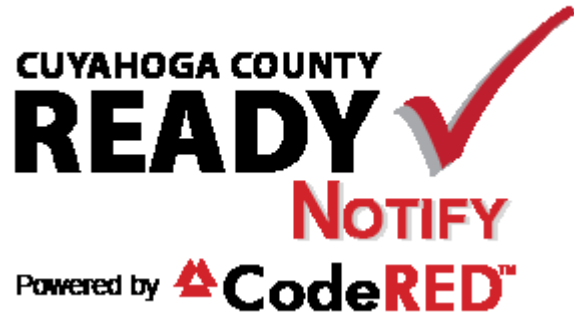
The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) conducts public information and outreach activities throughout the year by participating in speaking engagements, hosting community events, and disseminating preparedness information.

In 2025, CCOEM's outreach efforts resulted in more than **2,000** resident interactions.



Stay Connected

Receive free alerts concerning emergency events, inclement weather, and community news from Cuyahoga County's ReadyNotify Emergency Notification System.



Register at
Readynotify.us

Follow us on



@CuyahogaOEM



CuyahogaOEM



CCemergencymanagement

Visit us at
cuyahogacounty.gov/ready

Email us at
ema@cuyahogacounty.gov

