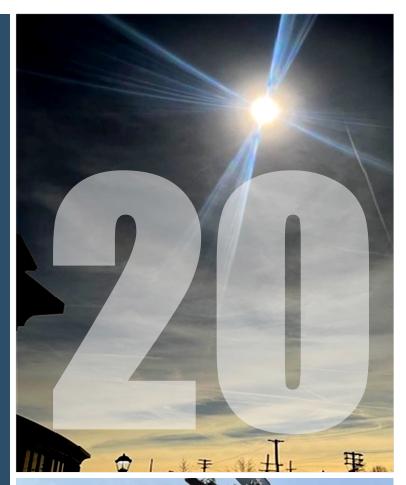


2024 Annual Report

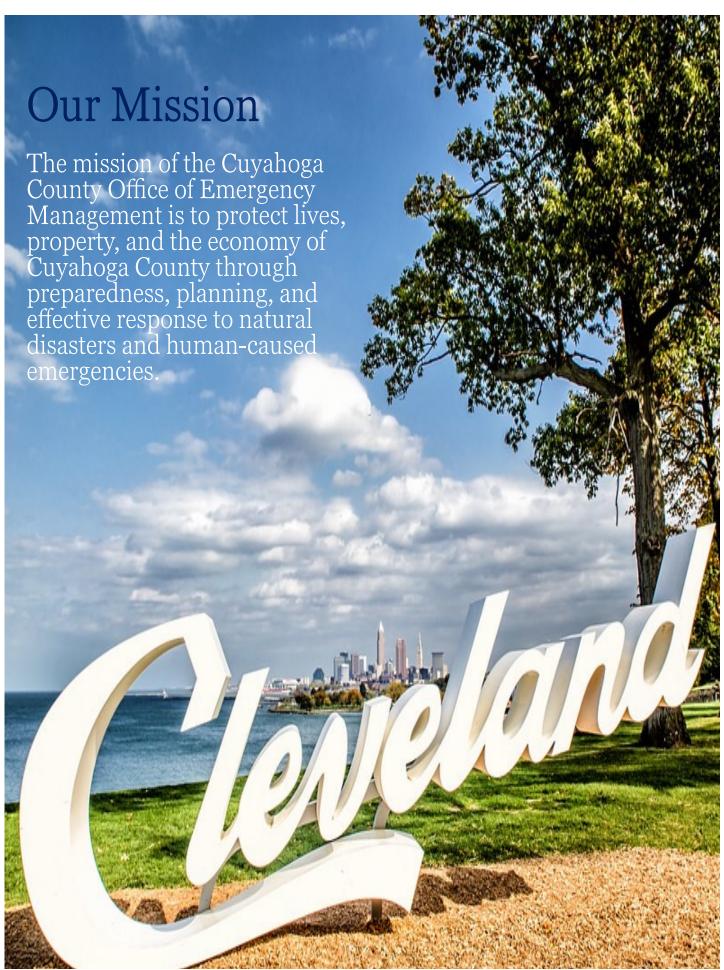
Public Safety & Justice Services

Office of Emergency Management









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Note from the Director of Public Safety & Justice Services

Dear Public Safety Partners,

We offer this 2024 report as a reminder of the tremendous accomplishments that come with working together. We started the year excitedly anticipating the eclipse that found us nearly in its path of totality and ended the summer coming together to recover from severe weather and extended power outages. We hosted trainings



ranging from exploratory conversations to full scale, complex exercises. We opened our Emergency Operations Center to staff elections and community wide events, helping to lead the collective effort to make Cuyahoga County a safe place to live, work and visit.

Our entire Department of Public Safety & Justice Services works hard every day to serve first responders, community organizations, victims of crime, people in crisis, and many more. From the initial 9-1-1 call all the way through the justice system, our team remains ready to assist Cuyahoga County residents when they need it most. In 2025, we continue to study best practices and commit to deploying new strategies that will allow us to respond to emergencies quickly and effectively. We look to polish our plans and train even more first responders so they are ready to work together when we need them. We are prepared to assist each Cuyahoga County municipality in furtherance of its safety goals.

I am enormously proud of the work led by our Office of Emergency Management. Their leadership, skills and dedication are unmatched across the state. On behalf of our entire department, we thank you for your continued partnership and look forward to a safe 2025.

Very Respectfully,

Brandy Carney,

Director

Note from County Emergency Manager

Public Safety Partners,

I am proud to share the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management's Annual Report.

While this report helps showcase our successes and progress; perhaps more importantly, it serves as a menu of the initiatives and programs that the office has to offer. As such, my hope is that you find it informative and useful.



2024 was an eventful year for Cuyahoga County. We found ourselves in the path of a rare, total solar eclipse and a storm that produced three tornadoes. For both events, and everything in between, comprehensive planning and strong partnerships helped ensure our county's readiness and resilience.

2025 is positioned to be another busy year for our Office as we work to fill two vacancies and prepare for our five-year reaccreditation in the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). Additionally, the office will conduct four full-scale exercises among all our ongoing planning and training initiatives.

As always, since we are here to serve you, please never hesitate to share any input you have for our office and its programs.

Wishing you a safe and productive 2025,

Mark Christie, MA, 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, Lyndhurst Fire Dept. **CCESAB Chair**

*Also Chair of the Fire Committee

Mark Christie,

Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency

Management

CCESAB Vice Chair *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

Chief Kelly Stillman Cuyahoga County Police Chiefs' Association

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 to support municipal emergencies.
- Providing preparedness information and assistance to the whole community.
- Preparing and executing training and exercises.
- Supporting the Cuyahoga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

Operations Section



Bryan Kloss **EOC Manager**



Sam Hudik
EM Specialist



Omari Mays **EM Specialist**



Nichole Curry

Administrative

Assistant



Mark Christie

County Emergency

Manager

Planning Section



Kevin Friis

Planning Manager



Serena Steele
Sr. EM Specialist



Sara Lippi
Sr. EM Specialist



Chris Minek **EM Specialist**

Staffing Updates

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) experienced several positive staffing changes in 2024, including the promotion of Sara Lippi to Sr. Emergency Management Specialist and welcoming a new staff member to the Operations Section, Omari Mays.

2025 is positioned to bring more staffing changes as CCOEM works to fill two vacancies: Emergency Management HAZMAT Analyst and Emergency Management Specialist.

Sara Lippi, Sr. Emergency Management Specialist (Planning)



In July of 2024, Sara Lippi was promoted to Sr. Emergency Management Specialist. Previously, Sara had served the office for 5 years as an Emergency Management Specialist. Her new position moves her into the Planning Section of CCOEM. As such, Sara will take a lead role in many of the office's planning initiatives, including: continuity planning and maintaining all of the support annexes to the Cuyahoga County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Further, in addition to retaining her role administering the ReadyEx Tabletop Exercise Program, Sara will now oversee the office's ReadyCertify Program.

Omari Mays, Emergency Management Specialist (OPS/LEPC)



Omari Mays was appointed to his position of Emergency Management Specialist in October of 2024. In that role, he is responsible for supporting the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and performing other functions and activities within the Operations Section of CCOEM. Earning a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, Omari is a native Clevelander with a passion for Public Safety. He also serves as a Military Police Officer in the Ohio Air National Guard.

EMAP Facts

The Cuyahoga Office of Emergency Management is 1 of less than 100 agencies that are accredited globally.

EMAP is a scalable, yet **rigorous**, **industry standard** for emergency management programs.

EMAP is endorsed by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI), International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), National Association of Counties (NACO), and National Emergency Management Association (NEMA).

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.

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

EMAP requires a five-year reaccreditation. As such, CCOEM achieved reaccreditation in 2021 and spent much of 2024 actively preparing for the 2025 reaccreditation process.



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

Did You Know?

In 2024 CCOEM implemented an upgraded ReadyNotify platform

To accomplish this, CCOEM retrained 262 users across 45 communities and 24 partner agencies



By the Numbers in 2024



45 Communities using the System



24 Partner Agencies using the System



504,298 Phone Calls



379,595 Text Messages



301,423 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.

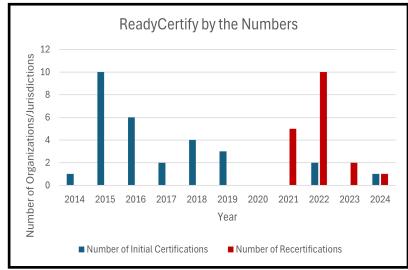
The ReadyCertify Program encourages the use of nationally recognized best-practices and increases the awareness, understanding, and appreciation of cooperation and interoperability among Cuyahoga County's communities and organizations.

Recertification in the ReadyCertify Program occurs every 5 years.

In 2024, CCOEM proudly awarded the **Cuyahoga Community College** with their initial ReadyCertify certification and the city of **Middleburg Hts.** with their 5-year recertification.

Since 2014, **29** communities and organizations have completed the ReadyCertify Program.





October 2024: Middleburg Heights is recognized for their 5-year ReadyCertify recertification



September 2024: Cuyahoga Community College is awarded their initial certification in 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 Function (ESF) annexes. Additionally, CCOEM also provides technical assistance to community and partner agency planning efforts. This year we updated our functional and incident-specific annexes. In 2025 we will be updating our 15 ESF annexes, and will engage 50+ agencies to provide their input.

Cuyahoga County Long Term Recovery (LTR) Plan



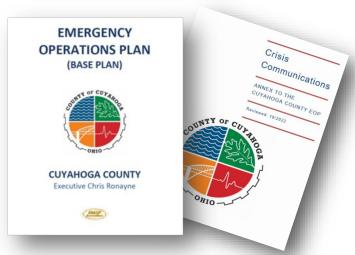
In 2024, CCOEM partnered with Ascenttra Inc., to prepare a comprehensive Long Term Recovery (LTR) Plan for Cuyahoga County. The planning process solicited input from nearly 200 individuals from a diverse range of agencies and organizations.

A final draft of the LTR Plan was completed at the close of 2024 and included separate annexes for access and functional needs populations, faith-based organization coordination, and recovery from incidents involving active aggressors.

Annexes Updated

In 2024 CCOEM worked with public safety partners and subject matter experts to update 9 functional annexes, and 3 incident specific annexes including:

- Animals in Disaster Annex
- Crisis Communications Annex
- Damage Assessment Annex o
- Debris Management Annex
- Mass Casualty Annex 0
- Shelter Annex 0
- Social Media Annex o
- Utility Disruption Annex 0
- Volunteer & Donation Management Annex
- Radiation-Nuclear Annex
- Severe Weather Annex
- Structure Collapse 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 2024 CCOEM worked with **16** County Departments and Divisions to draft or update existing COOP Plans.

Distribute, Maintain, and Update the Plan The COOP Planning Process Test, Train, and Exercise the Plan Conduct a Risk Analysis Conduct an Impact Analysis

Essential Functions

County COOPs Completed in 2024

- 1. Clerk of Courts
- 2. Communications
- 3. Fiscal Admin/General
- 4. Fiscal Auto Title
- 5. Health & Human Services Administration
- 6. Health & Human Services IT
- 7. Human Resources
- 8. Law Department
- 9. Public Ŵorks Facilities
- 10.Public Works Roads/Bridges
- 11. Public Safety Administration
- 12. Public Safety CECOMS
- 13. Public Safety Grants
- 14. Public Safety-

Emergency Management

- 15. Public Safety— Witness Victim
- 16.Treasurer

Operations

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.

EOC Activations & Operations Support in 2024

5 County EOC Activations

13 In-field Support Responses

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.

Emergency Operations Center

The 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 they need for the response.



Cuyahoga County UAS



CCOEM maintains 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.

Operations Cont.

Special Event Trailers



Cuyahoga County Fire Chief's Association Rehab Vehicle

The Cuyahoga County Fire Chief's Association coordinated the purchase of a Mobile Command/Rehab Vehicle that is available upon request for emergencies and special events.

CCOEM stores the vehicle in the Emergency Management Warehouse in Newburgh Hts. and assists with its maintenance and deployments.



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Notable 2024 Operations

Total Solar Eclipse

On April 8th, 2024, a total solar eclipse crossed North America. Portions of Ohio, including Cuyahoga County, were within the eclipse's path of totality, making the experience especially unique.

Due to the event's rarity, the eclipse was expected to draw big crowds and potentially create issues with traffic congestion, network disruptions, and cross-jurisdiction coordination.

Accordingly, CCOEM spent more than a year planning, hosting meetings, and sharing information with stakeholders. The Cuyahoga County EOC was fully activated the day of the event and fortunately, experienced no major issues.



Photo Description: A glimpse of the 2024 Eclipse from the Cuyahoga County EOC



Photo Description: Bryan Kloss, EOC Manger, provides an EOC briefing



Photo Description: EOC Staff at work during the Eclipse activation

Notable 2024 Operations

August Tornados

On August 6th, 2024, 3 EF-1 tornados, a macroburst, and widespread straight-line winds impacted Cuyahoga County. The severe weather caused extensive damage to trees and homes, as well as prolonged disruptions to power and cellular communications throughout the County.

Ultimately, 13 communities experienced significant damage and storm-related issues. Consequently, Cuyahoga County qualified for State Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) funding, which enabled communities, and other eligible applicants, to access cost recovery opportunities.

By the Numbers

3 Tornados
175k+ Power Outages
13 Community Damage Assessments
33 SDRP Applicants
\$2.7 M SDRP funds awarded in
Cuyahoga County

Emergency Management Significant Actions

- Performed Damage Assessment on 197 properties.
- Deployed a generator to a senior high rise apartment with critical power failure.
- Deployed and operated 2 oxygen trailers.
- Coordinated with ODOT to assist with debris/roadway clearing.
- Coordinated with Team Rubicon and the Southern Baptist volunteer chainsaw crews to assist residents with vegetative debris on their properties.
- Coordinated numerous briefings among response partners, elected officials, and the media.

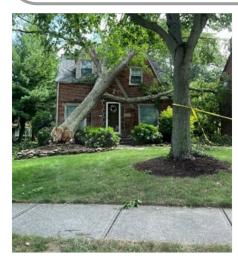


Photo Description: A fallen tree on a house in Rocky River, Ohio



Photo Description: A damaged vehicle in Parma Heights, Ohio



Photo Description: A damaged home in Lakewood, Ohio

ReadyMaps

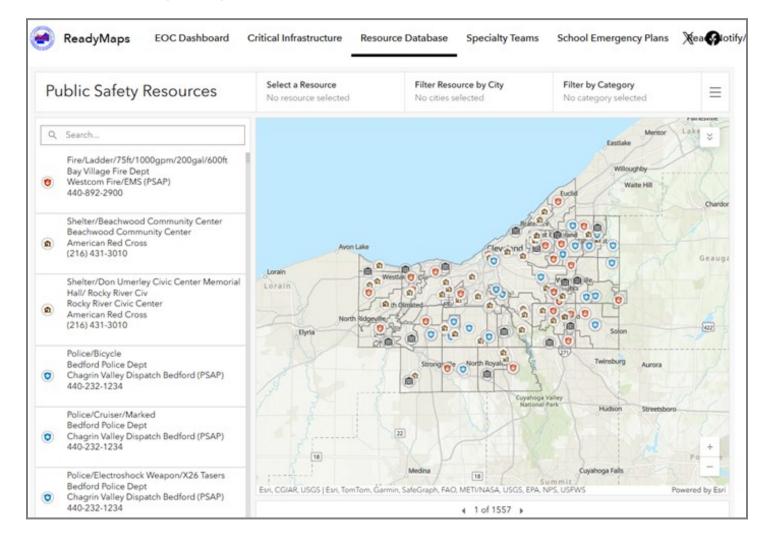
ReadyMaps Resource Management System

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 was previously hosted within CCOEM's information-sharing system, *Knowledge Center*. In 2024 CCOEM began migrating to a new GIS-based platform, branded as *ReadyMaps*.

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

ReadyMaps enables CCOEM and response agencies to quickly identify and allocate resources during emergencies.



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 Cuyahoga County LEPC is funded by the State of Ohio LEPC Grant Program and has 24 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 2024

965 Facility Chemical Inventory Reports Processed

42 Spill Reports Processed

Annual HAZMAT Exercise conducted with **50** participants



Photo Description: HazMat Coordinator (John O'Donnell) facilitates the LEPC TTX at MetroHealth in May 2024



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 2024

38 Trainings hosted by CCOEM

810 Participants



August 2024: CCOEM facilitates a full-scale exercise in Mayfield Village.

Exercises by the Numbers in 2024

19 Exercises conducted by CCOEM

675 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.



May 2024: CCOEM conducts a TTX with the ICA Art Conservation

Integrated Response to Mass Casualty Incidents (IRMC) 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 and Police Chiefs' Associations to implement and sustain an RTF Training program to train personnel from local law enforcement and fire agencies.

IRMC Program By the Numbers in 2024



7 Trainings Conducted



14 Participating Police Departments



17 Participating Fire Departments



102 First Responders Trained

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.

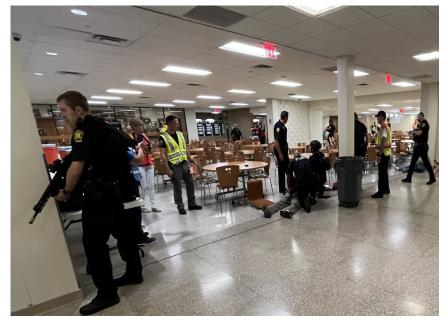




Photo Descriptions: First responder personnel participating the IRMC Trainings

ReadyEx Prep

Nearly four years ago the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM) officially launched their tabletop exercise (TTX) program, *ReadyEx Prep*.

ReadyEx Prep is an expansion of the 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.

In 2024, CCOEM hosted three more ReadyEx Prep sessions in Mayfield Hts, Fairview Park and Independence. The target audiences for each of these sessions were 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



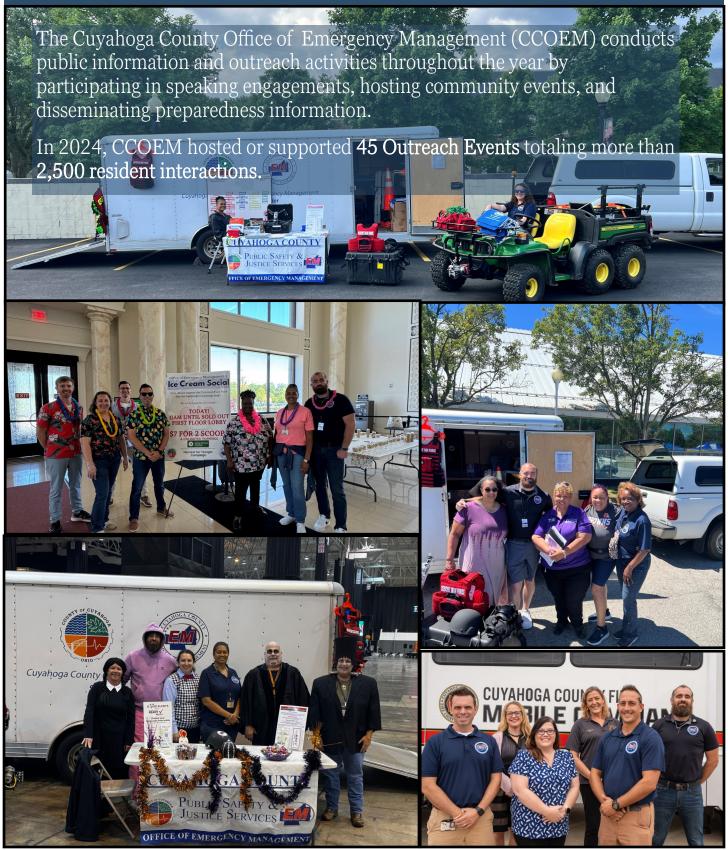
Foster partnerships with response agencies





Photo Description: Sr. EM Specialist, Sara Lippi, instructed the ReadyEx Prep Course in November of 2024 in Independence

Public Outreach in 2024



Stay Connected

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

Visit www.ReadyNotify.us to sign up!



Follow us on



@CuyahogaOEM



CuyahogaOEM

Visit us at cuyahogacounty.gov/ready

Email us at ema@cuyahogacounty.gov

The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management

9300 Quincy Ave. Cleveland, OH 44106

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