Cuyahoga County
Local Emergency Planning Committee
November 2, 2026, Meeting Minutes

1. **Roll Call** – Scott Broski conducted roll call and led the meeting.
    - **LEPC Members in Attendance**: Wade Balser, Johnny Brewington, Scott Broski, Mark Christie, Ellen Dempsey (Lauren Miller, proxy**),** Tim Draves, Alan Finkelstein, Piet Hagenaars, Rob Howerton, Jacqueline Jackson, Mike Kehl (Gary Bolton, proxy), Sheldon Lustig, Matt Schneider, Randy Solganik (Julie Mouse, proxy), Fred Szabo, Dave Telban, Allen Turner, Mark Vedder, Jason Wheeler
    - **Non-Voting Members in Attendance**: Greg Laurenson – CCOEM, John Rhoades – NEORSD
    - **Guests in Attendance**: Tim Forthofer – IMCD US, Carl Gedeon – ARES, William Gerber – ODOT, Grace Grosel – Howmet, Thomas Kramer **–** Dar-Tech Inc, Omari Mays – CCOEM, Brendan McNamara – Cleveland FD**,** Chuck Mehozonak – ARES, Mathew Nickoson - ARES, Ryan Rehmer – Cleveland Cliffs, Matt Reinke – Cleveland OEM, Michael Stewart – CCPO, Alex Valigosky – Arcadis
2. **LEPC Member Spotlight Series** – Chuck Mehozonek - ARES
    - Chuck Mehozonek provided an overview of Amateur Radio Emergency Services and the resources/support they can provide to public safety partners. Thank you to Chuck and his team for their time and partnership!
    - The LEPC is requesting members to volunteer to provide agency presentations for our 2027 meetings. If you are interested, please reach out to Greg or Scott to get on the schedule.

3. **September Meeting Minutes Approval** – Scott Broski asked for a motion to approve the September 14, 2026, minutes.
    - Dave Telban made a motion, Johnny Brewington seconded. Minutes approved.

4. **Financial Report**: Greg Laurenson provided the financial report for October 2026 on behalf of Nancy Veley.
    - Two changes since the September meeting.
        - The LEPC paid $800.00 to CAMEO Suite Training, LLC from the SERC fund to cover tuition for Greg Laurenson and Omari Mays to complete the CAMEO for Planning course.
        - The LEPC paid $44,822.67 from the HMEP fund and $11,205.67 from the SERC fund to pay SESCO Group for the Commodity Flow Study that was completed in September.

5. **Resolutions**:
    - Approved:
        - #11022026-1 Accept & File Financial Report Period ending October 31, 2026
            - Alan Finkelstein made a motion, Dave Telban seconded. Resolution approved.
        - #11022026-2 Approve Funding for 2026 Ohio Hazmat Teams Conference
            - Alan Finkelstein made a motion, Matt Schneider seconded. Resolution approved.
        - #11022026-3 RCRA DOT Training Course Amended Target Date
            - Matt Schneider made a motion, Johnny Brewington seconded. Resolution approved.

***7) EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE HELD PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE (ORC) 121.22(G)**
ORC 121.22(G)(5), a public body may hold an executive session to consider "matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statues."
ORC 121.22(G)(6) provides that consideration of "[d]etails relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body or a public office." Under this exception, both conditions must be met:
(1) the subject of the meeting must relate to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office; and,
(2) public disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of that public body or public office.

- #11022026-4 Thank you Nancy Veley
  - Dave Telban made a motion, Alan Finkelstein seconded. Resolution approved.

6. **Subcommittee Reports**:

- Management- Scott Broski
  - Met on October 19, 2026.
  - Discussed membership changes.
    - Mark Christie has been approved by the SERC and is now officially the LEPC member representing the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management.
    - Justin Bechtel has left his position with Lincoln Electric and has taken a new position with a hospital. With this change, his position on the LEPC representing a facility must be vacated. We will work to fill this spot with another member of our industry community.
  - Discussed the Spotlight Series presentations.
    - We have reached out to FirstEnergy to present in early 2027 and are awaiting response and confirmation.
    - We do not currently have any presentations scheduled for our 2027 meetings. If you are interested, please reach out to Scott or Greg.
  - Discussed bylaws revisions. A draft of the bylaws is now complete. It will be distributed to all members for review and discussion at the January 2027 LEPC meeting. After committee discussion, any amendments will be made, and the bylaws will be sent to the County Law Department for final review. Upon approval by the Law Department, we aim to have a final copy of the bylaws up for adoption by the committee at our March 2027 LEPC meeting.
  - There are a handful of ongoing spill incidents that have been referred to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office and are pending further legal action.
- Facilities- Greg Laurenson provided the Facilities Subcommittee update on behalf of Ellen Dempsey.
  - Greg explained that the DOT Hazmat class has been delayed due to a misunderstanding with the submitted specs sheet. Updated bids are pending and the class should be on schedule to be delivered in Q4 2026 or Q1 2027.
- Transportation- Sheldon Lustig
  - While observing the CSX yard in Greenwich, OH, it was noted that none of the trains observed were less than 2mi in length. Trains of this size can create public safety issues when they are stopped and are blocking multiple crossings, effectively cutting response in half.
  - Continued to discuss the ongoing right-of-way review and the challenges of response to elevated electric rails and tunnels without emergency walkways.

- Spills- John Rhoades & Dave Telban
    - Met on November 2, 2026, immediately preceding the main LEPC meeting.
    - Seven outstanding spills from 2023-2025 have been referred to the prosecutor.
    - Eight new spills from September/October 2026.
        - Seven reportable spills.
            - Three completed spill reports were received.
        - One non-reportable spill.
- Training and Exercises- Greg Laurenson provided the Training and Exercises update on behalf of Alan Finkelstein and Brendan McNamara.
    - Discussed upcoming conferences and encouraged first responder personnel to look into applicable conferences that would be valuable to attend. Grant funding can be made available in some situations to cover registration and expenses for approved personnel.
    - Westshore Hazmat will be involved in the next LEPC exercise. We are working at scheduling a date for our Initial Planning Meeting.
    - Mark Vedder discussed a recent joint training involving all four hazmat teams in Cuyahoga County. This was held in early October at the Tri-C West campus where the teams had the opportunity to practice four different stations with different scenarios.

7. **Office of Emergency Management Report**- Greg Laurenson provided the Office of Emergency Management report.
    - Records Requests- 9 since last meeting, 116 total for 2026.
    - Tier II Reports- 881 filed.
    - The EM Supervisor role previously held by Bryan Kloss has been filled. David Wood will start on November 16.
    - Technology is being updated in EOC.
    - Election on 11/3. The EOC will be activated and staffed.
    - The 2026 Emergency Management Summit was held on October 28. Initial feedback has been positive, and attendance was strong as usual.
    - As part of the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, we are asking for public participation in a Community Resilience Survey. The survey is open until 11/30 and will be shared via email to attendees of the meeting.
        - If you were not in attendance and would like to participate in this survey, please reach out to Sara Lippi, slippi@cuyahogacounty.gov.
    - On November 13, our office is partnering with FirstEnergy for a Safety Event and Demonstration at HAMY. FirstEnergy will provide a collaborative discussion focused on storm preparedness and coordinated emergency response, followed by a live wire safety demonstration.
    - Training
        - G557: Rapid Assessment Planning – 12/11 at Harvard Avenue Maintenance Yard
        - G270: Expedient Flood Training – 12/16 (Virtual)

8. **New Business**
    - The 2027 LEPC meeting schedule has been approved:
        - Monday, January 11, 2027
        - Monday, March 1, 2027
        - Monday, May 3, 2027
        - Monday, July 12, 2027
        - Monday, September 13, 2027
        - Monday, November 1, 2027

9. **Next Meeting**: January 11, 2027

Chair Scott Broski asked for a motion to adjourn. Fred Szabo motioned, Dave Telban seconded. Meeting adjourned.

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