



**Cuyahoga County
Local Emergency Planning Committee
July 13, 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, Robert Butler, Tim Draves, Jessica Fetter, Alan Finkelstein, Jacqueline Jackson (Laura Cerrito, proxy), Mike Kehl (Gary Bolton, proxy), Bryan Kloss (Mark Christie, proxy), Sheldon Lustig, Troy Onesti (Don Appelgate, proxy), Matt Schneider, Randy Solganik (Julie Lowry, proxy), Fred Szabo, Dave Telban, Mark Vedder, Jason Wheeler, Jay Womack
- **Non-Voting Members in Attendance:** Greg Laurenson – CCOEM, John Rhoades – NEORS, Michelle Sowers – Ohio EMA
- **Guests in Attendance:** Tommy Doot – Cleveland Clinic, Greg Fondran – USCG, Tim Forthofer – ICMD US, William Gerber – ODOT, Katie Lyden – Cleveland Clinic, Matt Reinke – Cleveland OEM, Jason Schraibman – ODOT, Emily Smith-Sherlock – CCOEM, Michael Stewart – CCPO, Holly Witchey – ICA-Art Conservation

2. LEPC Member Spotlight Series – Holly Witchey – ICA Art-Conservation

- Holly Witchey provided an overview of ICA-Art Conservation and their role in emergency response and handling of hazardous materials. The presentation included an overview of the staff at ICA-Art Conservation, the common misconceptions regarding their operation, their role in emergency response specific to conservation of significant items, and the common types of hazardous materials that they handle on a regular basis.
- The LEPC would like to thank Holly for this overview and for her time and willingness to present.

3. May Meeting Minutes Approval – Scott Broski asked for a motion to approve the May 4, 2026, minutes.

- Sheldon Lustig made a motion, Dave Telban seconded. Minutes approved.

4. Financial Report: Greg Laurenson provided the financial report for June 2026 on behalf of Nancy Veley.

- Three changes since the May meeting. The LEPC paid the City of Strongsville \$810.00 for food at the annual Hazmat Exercise in May 2026. The LEPC also paid for a RCRA training course provided by Bad Day Training for \$7,725.00 and a Hazmat Officer course provided by Safeware for \$5,950.00. All three payments referenced above came from the SERC fund.
- The SERC Fiscal Report is due on 7/31/2026. Greg and Nancy are working to compile all necessary forms and will submit this report prior to the deadline.

5. Resolutions:

- **Approved:**
 - ❑ #07132026-1 Accept & File Financial Report Period ending June 30, 2026
 - Dave Telban made a motion, Mark Vedder seconded. Resolution approved.
 - ❑ #07132026-2 Cuyahoga County OEM Requesting FY26 SERC Grant Reimbursement Transfer

***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 statutes." 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:

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- Mark Vedder made a motion, Alan Finkelstein seconded. Resolution approved.
- ❑ #07132026-3 Approving Payment of \$20,000 from FY27 SERC Grant to Pay for Hazmat Tech Course in Fall 2026
 - Alan Finkelstein made a motion, Tim Draves seconded. Resolution approved.
- ❑ #07132026-4 Thank You Exercise Evaluators
 - Sheldon Lustig made a motion, Matt Schneider seconded. Resolution approved.
- ❑ #07132026-5 Thank You Bryan Kloss
 - Dave Telban made a motion, Fred Szabo seconded. Resolution approved.

6. Subcommittee Reports:

- Management- Scott Broski
 - Met on June 22, 2026.
 - Discussed membership changes.
 - Bryan Kloss' seat is now vacant, and it is expected that Mark Christie will replace him as the CCOEM representative.
 - Discussed the Spotlight Series presentations.
 - Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) will provide the September presentation. FirstEnergy is scheduled to present in November pending confirmation with a new point of contact.
 - 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. We are waiting for SERC to finalize their LEPC Handbook so we can properly update our bylaws. The handbook was approved at the June SERC meeting, and we are awaiting finalization and distribution of the updated copy.
 - Commodity Flow Study – a vendor has been selected and is on the docket to be approved by County leadership today (7/13/2026). Once approved, the vendor can proceed with the study.
- Facilities- Greg Laurenson provided the Facilities Subcommittee update on behalf of Ellen Dempsey.
 - The Facilities Subcommittee hosted three sessions of RCRA Awareness Training for Cuyahoga County industry personnel on June 15, 16, and 17. It was held at NEORSD with great attendance and positive feedback.
 - Feedback given from attendees has helped identify other classes that we will look to host in the future.
- Transportation- Sheldon Lustig
 - The Union Pacific train came back through Northeast Ohio on 7/13/2026. Public turnout to see the train was impressive across the region.
 - Nationally, there have been multiple incidents in which a semi-truck gets stuck on a humped railroad crossing and the rail provider is not notified, resulting in crashes.
 - There was a derailed hydrochloric acid car in Bucyrus, but the tank did not rupture or leak.

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- Chief Schnieder asked if anyone had knowledge of a program called TRAINFO, which provides tracking information for trains coming through a specified area. There was no further information shared about this program.
- Matt Reinke asked if any of the current highway projects have impacted the hazmat routes, specifically within Cleveland's AOR. There was no immediate knowledge of any changes or impacts.
- Spills- John Rhoades & Dave Telban
 - Met on July 13, 2026, immediately preceding the main LEPC meeting.
 - Four outstanding spills from 2023/2024 and have been referred to the prosecutor. Two outstanding spills from 2025 have been referred to the prosecutor.
 - Three spills from March/April were provided with a 60-day letter. One spill is pending further update.
 - 20 new spills from May/June 2026.
 - Eight reportable spills
 - Five completed spill reports were received.
 - 12 non-reportable spills.
 - One completed spill report was received.
 - Four spills from early July
 - Two reportable and two non-reportable.
- Training and Exercises- Greg Laurenson provided the Training and Exercises update on behalf of Alan Finkelstein and Brendan McNamara.
 - The LEPC TTX was held on Thursday, May 21 at the Strongsville Rec Center. It was very well attended with about 60 participants, and we were able to complete five objectives during the exercise. The exercise simulated a train derailment in Olmsted Township and tested the SERT Hazmat team and Olmsted Township responders and administrators.
 - Westshore Hazmat will be involved in the next LEPC exercise.
 - The LEPC hosted a Hazmat Strategy and Tactics course on June 24 and 25. The course reached full capacity for registrants for both sessions and was very well received.
 - Chief Vedder stated that the Chagrin/SE Hazmat team recently had three members attend the Baltimore Hazmat Conference and the team has submitted a funding request for the 2026 Ohio Hazmat Conference in November. The pre-conference is scheduled for November 5, 2026, and the conference is scheduled for November 6-7, 2026.

7. Office of Emergency Management Report- Greg Laurenson provided the Office of Emergency Management report.

- Records Requests- 36 since last meeting, 81 total for 2026.
- Tier II Reports- 876 filed.
 - Omari sorted and sent out reports to the four hazmat team leads and each police and fire chief in the county. Please reach out to Greg if you have not received your city's reports.

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- Bryan Kloss has accepted a position in Port Clinton and will no longer work with CCOEM.
 - ❑ The LEPC would like to thank Bryan for his years of service to the LEPC and the County. It was discussed that his departure will be of great significance and multiple members of the committee and guests of the meeting expressed their gratitude toward his efforts and initiatives.
- Operations team has finalized and distributed updated flipbooks for water assets, drone assets, and specialty team maps.
- Our office is supporting a full-scale exercise on Wednesday, July 22 in Beachwood.
- Our office will also be supporting the NDMS exercise at Hopkins Airport and a Search and Recovery exercise at Burke Airport.
- Our All-Hazards Mitigation Plan is due for an update and anyone from the LEPC would like to serve on the committee for that plan is welcome to join. Please reach out to Mark Christie or Greg Laurenson.
- Training
 - ❑ Introduction to Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication – 7/14 and 7/15 from 8a-12p. Must attend both sessions for credit.
 - ❑ L-146: Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Training – 8/20 & 8/21 @ 8a-5p at Harvard Garage.
 - ❑ OH138: Master Scenario Events List Development Training – 9/15 @ 8a-5p at Harvard Garage
 - ❑ L1301: Continuity of Operations Planning Training – 9/22-9/23
 - ❑ OH139: Exercise Design and Evaluation Training – 10/20-10/22 @ 8a-5p at Harvard Garage
- Outreach – Emily Smith-Sherlock provided an outreach update.
 - ❑ September 19: National Preparedness Month event at Parma/Snow Library. Indoor space for tables and outdoor space for touch-a-truck. If you're interested in attending as a vendor/partner, please contact Emily.

8. New Business

- Greg Fondran (US Coast Guard) discussed the upcoming Port Security Grant Program. If you have any questions regarding the grant funding or eligible items, please reach out to Greg Fondran. Equipment, training, and exercises can all be covered under this grant. \$95 million is available nationwide with a 50/50 cost share for private entities and a 75/25 cost share for public/non-profit entities. Any award under \$25,000 does not require a cost share. The deadline for applications is Friday, July 24, 2026.

9. Next Meeting: September 14, 2026

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

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