



Stark County Board of Commissioners Local Emergency Planning Committee

4500 Atlantic Blvd. NE (LL) - Canton, OH 44705

Phone: 330-451-3907 Fax: 330-451-3934

24-Hour Release: 330-451-3911

MEETING MINUTES		
Meeting Type: Quarterly LEPC Meeting Date: 4/30/2025		Chairperson: Tom Burgasser Meeting Time: 8:15 AM
TOPIC/SPEAKER	DISCUSSIONS, PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED, CONCLUSIONS, & RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION TAKEN/FOLLOW-UP/MOTION
Call Meeting to Order - Tom Burgasser	Meeting called to order by Tom Burgasser at 8:15 AM. The May 30, 2025 meeting of the Stark County LEPC was hosted by Marathon Pipeline located at 8872 Maplehurst Drive; East Sparta, OH. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and introductions around the room.	None.
Approval of Minutes - Tom Burgasser	Tom Burgasser entertained a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion made by Robert Pattison. Seconded by Tim Berczik. All were in favor, no further discussion. Minutes approved.	Motion by: Robert Pattison Seconded by: Tim Berczik Motion Approved.
Financial Report – Robert Pattison	Robert Pattison reported out the financials for LEPC. The cash balance is \$164,017.27. Nothing significant to report and funding from the County should be received soon. Tom Burgasser entertained a motion to approve the financial report. Motion made by Derrick Loy. Seconded by Patty Mconnell. All were in favor, no further discussion. Financials approved. SCLEPC was awarded the HMEP grant to support HazMat 40-hour Tech Training. HMEP is a reimbursement grant that is contingent on the LEPC covering the total cost of the training up front and ultimately providing the 20% match requirement. Tim Warstler made a motion to approve the cost of the HazMat 40-hour Tech Training match up to \$2,000.00. Seconded by Steve Gronow. All were in favor, no further discussion. Motion approved.	Motion by: Derrick Loy Seconded by: Patty McConnell Motion Approved. Motion by: Tim Warstler Seconded by: Steve Gronow Motion Approved.

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New Business: - Tom Burgasser	<u>LEPC Bylaws</u> Tom Burgasser explained that the proposed changes to the bylaws were emailed to the group. No other changes or additions were received. The bylaws will be submitted to the Prosecutor and affirmed by the Committee at a later date. <u>LEPC Officers</u> The slate of LEPC Officers is due to expire and nominations will be held next meeting. Tim Warstler suggested retaining current officers, which are: Tom Burgasser, Chair; Derrick Loy, Vice Chair; and John Vergis, Secretary. In addition, July's reorganization meeting will be open for membership to make nominations from the floor. Tim Warstler moved to retain the current LEPC officers, bypassing the need to appoint a nominating committee. Seconded by Matt Heck. All were in favor, no further discussion. Motion approved. <u>LEPC Membership Terms</u> Committee Membership terms expire August 8, 2025. Members will receive correspondence via email regarding membership renewal. <u>LEPC Shirts</u> Derrick Loy suggested purchasing LEPC shirts for members. The discussion was tabled for the Executive Committee.	Bylaws will be sent to the Prosecutor. Motion by: Tim Warstler Seconded by: Matt Heck Motion Approved. Membership Biographical Outlines will be emailed to members.
Stark County Commissioners - Commissioner Regula	The jail project is undergoing an 75-million-dollar renovation and is the largest public works project in Stark County's history. The Stark County Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP) is working on extending U.S. Route 30 from Trump Avenue to State Route 44. Commissioner Regula discussed the possibilities of using pipes and conduits to house communication cables including fiber optic cables. This innovation would boost the local economy. Art Murdock asked about the solar project. Commissioner Regula confirmed that the Stark Solar project is not moving forward.	None.
Affiliated Agencies: American Red Cross	Tim Warstler explained that Mr. Reichel along with other local agencies have been assisting those displaced by the Canton apartment building fire.	None.
Education Service Center - Marty Bowe	Marty Bowe reported how well the schools are operating and expressed his gratitude to the group and safety personnel for their role in ensuring the safety of Stark County schools.	None.

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Environment - Wade Balser	Since the last LEPC meeting there have been 12 spills reported to Ohio EPA (OEPA). There were five petroleum, 1 anhydrous ammonia, four waste water, and 2 alleged dumping incidents.	None.
Fire - Chief Heck	The Mass Casualty Plan is in its final draft form.	None.
Hazmat - Deputy Chief Rieger	Call volume has decreased. Working on updating equipment and vehicle specs are finalized. HazMat team training and drills are ongoing. Upcoming training with the health department and BWC.	None.
Health - Patty McConnell	Influenza and COVID cases are down. Epi data is available on the dashboard. Masks are available, please reach out to Ms. McConnell if there are any PPE needs. Renovations are ongoing and scheduled to be completed sometime in September. Following renovations Nursing and HIV services will be back in the building.	None.
Hospital - Luke Hall	Luke Hall discussed HazMat DECON training- specifically for the emergency department workers. The training program is scheduled to roll out in 2026 with a cost of \$10-\$20 million. The group discussed family reunification plans and information sharing in depth. EMTrac and OHTrac are the programs used by the hospital that facilitate decision making and supports information sharing.	None.
Industry - John Vergis	Some discussion about the decline in rail transport and economy. John Vergis distributed information regarding a new battery product and gave the group an in-depth explanation about SunTrain's battery technology and its railcar transport (Handout attached as Exhibit A).	None.

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Law Enforcement - Sheriff Weisburn - Ryan Carver	The department is displaying flags at the Stark County Sheriff's Office not only to honor current dedicated service workers but also to pay tribute to the fallen officers. The Peace Officers Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on May 15th at 11:00 AM and everyone is welcome to attend. The Stark County Sheriff's Office collaborated with Canton Local Schools and other first responders to test emergency procedures and evacuation plans. The drill went well and was beneficial for everyone involved. The Sheriff's office is currently responsible for more dispatching and working to update training and technology regarding the 9-1-1 system.	None.
Search & Rescue - Al Plastow	The Ohio Special Response Team (OSRT) program has expanded to six counties. Members continue to receive extensive training and participate in exercises.	None.
Stark County EMA - Tim Warstler	Tim Warstler discussed the advances in the County 9-1-1 system as they are incorporating transcription and translation capabilities as well as leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) in coordination with cloud technology to assist dispatchers decipher key details from callers. The Planner position for the EMA Office has been reposted and interviews are ongoing. It appears Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) grant funding has been experiencing some slowdown. Pay close attention to the grants, as OEMA has incorporated new assurances into their grant agreements. Be sure to review updated requirements	None.
Transportation - Steve Gronow	Steve Gronow announced National Work Zone Awareness Week took place during the week of April 23rd. That week's observance included a Moment of Silence to honor those who have lost their lives in work zone incidents. The "Slow Down, Phone Down" campaign was prominently featured during National Work Zone Awareness Week to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted and speeding drivers in work zones. The group discussed cases where signs were posted, but no workers were present and how this causes issues. Most of these are contractors who don't remove signs following job completion. If you encounter road signs posted with no apparent workers present, you are welcome to contact the Engineer's Office. They do not have jurisdiction over all roads, but someone will try to assist. Mr. Gronow introduced his replacement, Richard Creston Shirey as he will be stepping down from the Committee. Mr. Burgasser thanked Mr. Gronow for his service and the meaningful impact on Stark County LEPC. There was applause around the room and well-deserved recognition for his years of volunteerism. The group welcomed Mr. Shirey.	None.
Public Comments	The group discussed Electric Vehicles (EVs), EV parking designations, and extinguishing lithium batteries at length.	None.

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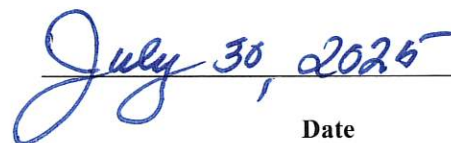
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Good of the Order	Free "Save a Life" training on the 3rd Saturday of every month May through September from 10A-12P at Cleveland Ave Fire Station #4. The jail renovation plans include housing over 145 with mental health needs. Tim Warstler announced that Level 3, or enhanced, risk for severe weather has been forecasted for the area. Mr. Warstler suggested downloading the Sheriff's Mobile App or contacting him to be added to the distribution list. Robert Leahy explained that there will be an influx of traffic as Marathon employees travel into Ohio to participate in the maintenance shutdowns at Marathon's refinery from July through September. Marathon pipelines are shutdown every 7years for a planned maintenance cycle.	None.
Next Meeting	The next quarterly LEPC meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 30, 2025 at 08:15 AM at the Stark County EMA in EOC 1. *Important: Our next meeting will focus on reorganization and membership renewal	None.
Adjournment	Tom Burgasser asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by John Vergis. Seconded by Tim Warstler. All were in favor, no further discussion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:37AM.	Motion by: John Vergis Seconded by: Tim Warstler Meeting Adjourned

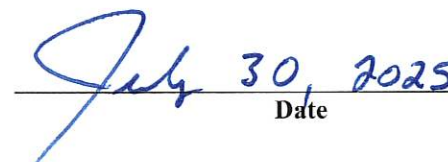


Minutes Recorded by: Patricia Crookston,
 LEPC Program Coordinator



John Vergis, LEPC Secretary


 Date


 Date

MEETING ATTENDANCE

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#	LEPC Members	Yes	No	Ex.	Representative	#	LEPC Members	Yes	No	Ex.	Representative
1.	Berczik, Timothy	X				17.	McConnell, Patty	X			
2.	Bowe, Marty	X				18.	Murdoch, Arthur R.	X			
3.	Burgasser, Tom	X				19.	Newsome, Gregory		X		
4.	Carver, Ryan	X				20.	Norris, Kirk			X	
5.	Clark, Gregory	X				21.	Pattison, Robert	X			
6.	Crookston, Patricia	X				22.	Plastow, Al	X			
7.	Dugan, Anthony	X				23.	Podlogar, Dan		X		
8.	Gronow, Steve	X				24.	Regula, Richard (Comm.)	X			
9.	Hall, Luke	X				25.	Reichel, Tim		X		
10.	Heck, Matt	X				26.	Rieger, Kai	X			
11.	Heck, Ted		X			27.	Schnabel, Kaley		X		
12.	Henderson, Steve	X				28.	Schneider, Anthony	X			
13.	Hunt, Jason	X				29.	Vergis, John	X			
14.	Jackson, Steve		X			30.	Warstler, Tim (CEM)	X			
15.	Lantz, Scott	X				31.	Weisburn, Eric (Sheriff)	X			
16.	Loy, Derrick	X				32.	Wilcox, Lance	X			

#	Guest Name	Agency/Company	#	Guest Name	Agency/Company
1.	Adams, Arnie	East Sparta Fire Department	11.	Wall, Matt	Marathon Pipeline Area Manager
2.	Balser, Wade	Ohio EPA	12.	Weisbrod, Benjamin	Ohio Homeland Security
3.	Clark, Aaron	Marathon Pipeline Operations Manager	13.	Wilkens, Kyle W	East Sparta Fire Department
4.	Eichorn, Brian	Marathon Pipeline Operations	14.		
5.	Kintner, Wyatt	Marathon Pipeline Ops EM Preparedness	15.		
6.	Leahy, Rob	Marathon Fire Chief	16.		
7.	Pendolino, Andrea	Marathon Pipeline Operations Admin	17.		
8.	Porter, Noah	Ohio EMA	18.		
9.	Sowers, Michelle	Ohio EMA	19.		
10.	Sweeny, Matt	Stark County EMA	20.		