



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: 7/30/2025		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	The July 30, 2025 meeting of the Stark County LEPC was called to order by Tom Burgasser at 8:15 AM. The meeting was held at the Stark County EMA, EOC 1 in Canton, OH. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by introductions around the room.	None.
Approval of Minutes - Tom Burgasser	Tom Burgasser entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was made by John Vergis and seconded by Arthur Murdoch. All were in favor; there was no further discussion. The minutes of the April 30, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.	Motion by: John Vergis Seconded by: Arthur Murdoch Motion Approved.
Financial Report – Robert Pattison	The financial report was presented by Robert Pattison, who reported on the current cash balance of \$159,158.23. He noted that \$7,880 of this total is grant funding from Year Two of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) program, which supported the 40-hour Ohio Hazardous Materials Technician Training. An additional \$10,000 represents the Commissioners' annual contribution toward LEPC operating expenses. He also noted that the equipment purchase recorded in February was for a LEPC-approved laptop computer. Tom Burgasser entertained a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was made by John Vergis and seconded by Tim Berczik. All were in favor; there was no further discussion. The financial report was unanimously approved.	Motion by: John Vergis Seconded by: Tim Berczik Motion Approved.

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New Business: - Tom Burgasser 1. ESF #10 Hazmat Plan	1. ESF #10 Hazmat Plan The committee moved on to the first item of business: consideration of Resolution 2025-01, approving the updated Emergency Support Function #10 (ESF #10) Hazardous Materials Annex of the Stark County Emergency Operations Plan. Secretary Mr. Vergis read the resolution aloud. The updated plan reflects recent changes in railroad operations within Stark County, updates on the status of the Neomodal Petroleum Transload Site in Navarre and includes updated emergency contact information. This plan is required to be submitted to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) in compliance with federal and state regulations. Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01 was made by Tim Warstler and seconded by Robert Pattison. The motion passed unanimously.	Program Coordinator to submit the updated Chemical Emergency Response Preparedness Plan (EOP-ESF 10) with revisions to SERC. Motion by: Tim Warstler Seconded by: Robert Pattison Motion Approved.
2. Bylaws Update	2. Bylaws Update The next item of business was the consideration of Resolution 2025-02, approving the updated Stark County LEPC bylaws. Secretary Mr. Vergis read the resolution aloud. The updated bylaws, reviewed and recommended by the Executive Board and approved by the Stark County Prosecutor's Office, outline the committee's structure, operations, and responsibilities. The bylaws were made available for a 90-day review period with all feedback considered before adoption. A motion to adopt Resolution 2025-02 was made by Kai Rieger and seconded by John Vergis. The motion passed unanimously.	Program Coordinator to publish updated bylaws on the website in accordance with Open Records and SERC regulations. Motion by: Kai Rieger Seconded by: John Vergis Motion Approved.

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Stark County Commissioners – Commissioner Regula	The groundbreaking ceremony for the new county jail is scheduled for August 15th, and all are welcome to attend. Granger Construction has officially guaranteed the construction costs for the renovation project, which includes the addition of new mental health beds to better support inmate care. We're also proud to share that 72% of the construction workforce for this project is made up of Stark County residents. The Regional Planning Commission will be relocating to the County Office Building.	None.
Affiliated Agencies: American Red Cross	No report.	None.
Education Service Center - Marty Bowe	No report.	None.
Environment - Wade Balser	Wade Balser submitted the latest spill report to the LEPC and highlighted three notable incidents. On July 27, 2025, a seal coat/tar spill from McIntosh Oil Co. in Canton Township reached a waterway; the quantity released is undetermined. On July 19, 2025, a release involving mine drainage and sedimentation from the Stark D&C Inc. Landfill in Canton also reached a waterway, with the volume similarly undetermined. The third incident occurred on June 2, 2025, in Massillon, where approximately 400 gallons of bacon grease from FreshMark process equipment entered a waterway. All incidents are under review and being addressed in accordance with response protocols. Chair Mr. Burgasser announced that on August 2nd, the Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District will celebrate its 75th anniversary. The event will feature activities, educational programs, environmental partners, and food trucks, running from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	None.
Fire - Chief Berczik	Fire Chief Berczik reported that MCI (Mass Casualty Incident) tags have been delivered to every department across the county. He also shared that Homeland Security conducted an evaluation of MCI procedures and all operational plans for the Balloon Fest, including SWAT team coordination. The evaluation was highly positive, with Homeland Security expressing that the planning and execution were so well-organized they could serve as a model for other departments across the state. Chief Berczik expressed his gratitude to the Commissioner for securing funding for the Hazmat 2 trailer and for the ongoing discussions regarding Hazmat 1.	None.

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Hazmat - Chief Rieger	Chief Kai Reiger reported that the team responded to 14 callouts to date, with no major incidents. They have a busy week ahead supporting Hall of Fame Week, including air monitoring duties. The team is also beta testing new air monitoring systems. The 52nd Ohio National Guard will be present at the Hall of Fame for two days only. Ohio National Guard offered high praise for Stark County, describing it as one of their favorite places to work. Additionally, the team provided detail during Vice President Vance's recent visit.	None.
Health - Patty McConnell	<u>Canton City Public Health (CCPH) Update:</u> As of July 15, the city has assumed management of the Recycle Center, which is no longer overseen by CCPH. The mosquito control program is in its third round of spraying, scheduled from July 28 to August 6 (weather permitting). Media releases are issued for each round and for all confirmed West Nile Virus (WNV) positives. 16 positive mosquito pools have been found at 11 locations throughout the city, with the Southeast quadrant being the only area without a positive. A mosquito map highlighting these locations is available on CCPH's website and social media. Notably, there are currently no reported human cases of WNV in Stark County. CCPH has added two new staff members to the Environmental Health Division, with two more expected in August. Renovations on the first floor of the building are set to be completed by the end of September. Vital Statistics will return to the first floor on September 26, with Nursing and WIC following on October 16–17. The HIV team will move back on October 14, while the Harm Reduction team will remain at their current McKinley Avenue location. The food safety team is also busy supporting Hall of Fame events.	None.
Health - Kirk Norris	<u>Stark County Combined General Health District Update:</u> The Stark County Health Department continues to lead several Fatality Review Teams, including the Child Fatality Review and Suicide Fatality Review Teams. As required by the Ohio Revised Code, the department submitted its 2024 reports to the Ohio Department of Health. In 2024, 38 children between the ages of one and under 18 passed away. Of these, 63% died of natural causes, 29% from accidental causes, 3% by homicide, 2% by suicide, and 3% of cases remain under review by the prosecutor and coroner. Additionally, 69 Stark County residents died by suicide in 2024, with the highest percentages occurring in older age groups: 29% were 65 and older, followed by 22% ages 54–64, and 20% ages 43–53. The Health Department is also continuing mosquito trapping and surveillance efforts. Several mosquito pools submitted to the Ohio Department of Health have tested positive for West	None.

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Health (cont.) - Kirk Norris	Nile Virus; however, no human cases have been reported in Stark County to date. In response, mosquito spray routes have been adjusted to target areas affected, and local township officials have been notified.	None.
Hospital - Luke Hall	No report.	None.
Industry - John Vergis	Secretary Mr. Vergis reported that railroad activity is rebounding, with carloads increasing steadily. He noted that Union Pacific has announced a merger agreement to acquire Norfolk Southern, though it's unclear how this will impact Canton's tracks. The entire process is expected to take 1.5 to 2 years to complete, including a period for public comments. He also hinted at some exciting news coming soon that he looks forward to sharing. Additionally, the Department of Energy (DOE) is conducting a nuclear shipment training exercise involving a test train moving from Norfolk to CSX. The exercise will include a 300-ton cask, providing a realistic scenario for emergency preparedness and coordination. These efforts are part of ongoing planning as the DOE is anticipated to begin operating regular shipments in the near future and are intended to demonstrate to the public that such shipments can be conducted safely and securely.	None.
Law Enforcement - Sheriff Weisburn	Sheriff Eric Weisburn and deputies from the Stark County Sheriff's Office will take part in the funeral procession for fallen Lorain Police Officer Phillip Wagner, who was tragically ambushed alongside his partners. The Sheriff's Office will recognize important milestones and achievements within the department. Promotions are taking place, with three deputies being promoted to lieutenants and two to sergeants. Additionally, Deputy Hesson will be honored with a Life Saving Award for outstanding service. The Stark County Sheriff's Office Dog Warden Division has been recognized by Best Friends Animal Society as a "no-kill" shelter, having saved more than 90% of the dogs in its care. This designation reflects the dedication of the shelter's all-volunteer team. The facility is currently at capacity and if you're considering adopting a dog, please think of the Dog Warden Division.	None.
- Law Enforcement -Ryan Carver	The team is actively coordinating with local, state, and federal partners to ensure safety and preparedness for the upcoming Hall of Fame and county fair events. Additional security measures are being implemented, including the use of the department's drone program. These resources were also recently utilized during a Secret Service-supported event, further demonstrating the team's ability to respond to high-level security needs.	None.

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- Law Enforcement Ryan Carver (cont.)	Separately, preparations are underway for the upcoming school year. The School Resource Officer (SRO) program remains strong, with 19 to 20 full-time SROs assigned across various districts. In addition to daily duties, the team is also conducting active shooter training to ensure a high level of readiness and safety in schools. Following the report, Secretary Mr. Vergis expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation for law enforcement and for their ongoing service and protection. He offered a heartfelt compliment, noting that Canton is full of good people and, compared to many other places, is a great place to live. He extended compliments to the Sheriff and his team for their continued leadership and dedication to the community.	None.
Search & Rescue - Al Plastow	No report.	None.
Stark County EMA - Tim Warstler	Tim Warstler shared that he is actively working with the County Commissioners and legal counsel to review and assess the future of the 1982 EMA agreement. Matt Sweeny and Makena Halsey have been focused on updating the Mass Fatality Plan, with particular emphasis on family reunification strategies. They also recently participated in emergency drills held in Alliance and at Belden Village, contributing to ongoing preparedness efforts. In addition, Mr. Warstler is processing equipment purchases to support and enhance the capabilities of the county's Hazmat team.	None.
Transportation - Cress Shirey	The committee welcomed Cress Shirey, who will be representing the County Engineer's Office, succeeding Mr. Gronow after his remarkable 31 years of volunteer service. Sincere thanks and appreciation were extended to Mr. Gronow for his decades of dedicated commitment to the committee.	None.
Special Order - Presentation to Mr. Gronow Commissioner Regula Chair Mr. Burgasser Secretary Mr. Vergis	Commissioner Regula presented Mr. Stephen Gronow with a proclamation of appreciation honoring his distinguished volunteer service to the Stark County LEPC. Chair Mr. Burgasser and Secretary Mr. Vergis also presented Mr. Gronow with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his 31 years of dedicated service. In addition, they announced that Mr. Gronow will be the first recipient of the LEPC Challenge Coin once they arrive, marking his lasting legacy and exemplary commitment to public safety and emergency preparedness.	Mr. Gronow will be the first to receive the LEPC Challenge Coin, recognizing his dedication to public safety.

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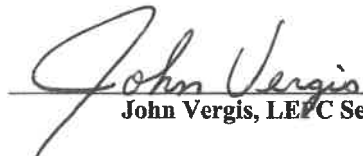
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Special Order (cont.) -Officer Elections	Election of Officers – 2025–2027 Term The Chair moved the meeting to the election of officers for the Stark County LEPC for the upcoming 2025–2027 term. - Acknowledgment of the April 30, 2025 Vote: The vote conducted during the April 30, 2025 meeting was acknowledged. - Formal Opening of Nominations: Nominations for LEPC officer positions were formally opened. The Chair called for additional nominations from the floor three times. No new nominations were submitted. - Reaffirmation of Current Officers: A motion to reaffirm the current officers was made by Tim Warstler and seconded by Arthur Murdoch. The motion carried unanimously. - Adoption of Resolution 2025-03 Resolution 2025-03, certifying the election of officers and appointment of coordinators, was read aloud by Secretary Mr. Vergis. - Chairperson: Tom Burgasser - Vice Chairperson: Derrick Loy - Secretary: John Vergis Affirming the following individuals to serve in designated coordinator roles: - Information Coordinator: Patricia Crookston - Emergency Coordinator: Tim Warstler The motion to adopt Resolution 2025-03 was made by Tim Warstler, seconded by Arthur Murdoch, and passed unanimously with no further discussion.	Program Coordinator to promptly notify County Commissioners and SERC of these appointments following resolution adoption. Motion by: Tim Warstler Seconded by: Arthur Murdoch Motion Approved. Motion by: Tim Warstler Seconded by: Arthur Murdoch Motion Approved.
Public Comments	None.	None.
Good of the Order	Chair Mr. Burgasser reminded everyone to stay after the meeting for cake and to congratulate Mr. Gronow on his 31 years of volunteer service. He also announced that the next LEPC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 8:15 AM at the Canton Northeast Water Treatment Plant, located at 2664 Harrisburg Rd NE, Canton, OH 44705. Mr. Arthur Murdoch expressed his appreciation to the LEPC officers for their continued efforts and leadership and extended special thanks to Chair Mr. Burgasser for his dedication and service to the committee.	None.

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Good of the Order	Patricia Crookston, Program Coordinator, announced that five anonymous responses were received from the LEPC meeting survey for the April 30, 2025 meeting hosted at Marathon Pipeline. One response included a request for updated information on the types and amounts of hazardous materials transported by rail and truck. If you would like access to that information, please see Tim Warstler or me directly.	Tim Warstler and Patricia Crookston will provide the commodity flow information if contact can be established.
Next Meeting	The next quarterly LEPC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 8:15 AM at the Canton Northeast Water Treatment Plant, located at 2664 Harrisburg Rd NE, Canton, OH 44705.	None.
Adjournment	Tom Burgasser asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Robert Pattison. Seconded by Tim Warstler. All were in favor, no further discussion Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 AM.	Motion by Robert Pattison Seconded by: Tim Warstler Meeting Adjourned


 Minutes Recorded by: Patricia Crookston,
 LEPC Program Coordinator

October 1, 2025
 Date


 John Vergis, LEPC Secretary

October 8, 2025
 Date

MEETING ATTENDANCE

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#	LEPC Members	Yes	No	Ex.	Representative	#	LEPC Members	Yes	No	Ex.	Representative
1.	Balser, Wade	X				17.	Plastow, Al		X		
2.	Berczik, Timothy	X				18.	Regula, Richard	X			
3.	Bowe, Marty		X			19.	Reichel, Tim		X		
4.	Burgasser, Tom	X				20.	Rieger, Kai	X			
5.	Carver, Ryan	X				21.	Shirey, Cress	X			
6.	Clark, Gregory	X				22.	Stone, Kyle			X	
7.	Crookston, Patricia	X				23.	Sweeny, Matthew	X			
8.	Dugan, Anthony	X				24.	Schneider, Anthony		X		
9.	Hall, Luke		X			25.	Vergis, John	X			
10.	Hunt, Jason	X				26.	Warstler, Tim	X			
11.	Lantz, Scott		X			27.	Weisburn, Eric	X			
12.	Loy, Derrick			X		28.	Wilcox, Lance		X		
13.	McConnell, Patty	X									
14.	Murdoch, Arthur R.	X									
15.	Norris, Kirk	X									
16.	Pattison, Robert	X									

#	Guest Name	Agency/Company	#	Guest Name	Agency/Company
1.	Steve Gronow	Stark County Engineers	11.		
2.	Makena Halsey	Stark County EMA	12.		
3.	Michelle Sowers	OH EMA	13.		
4.	Noah Porter	OH EMA	14.		
5.			15.		
6.			16.		
7.			17.		
8.			18.		
9.			19.		
10.			20.		