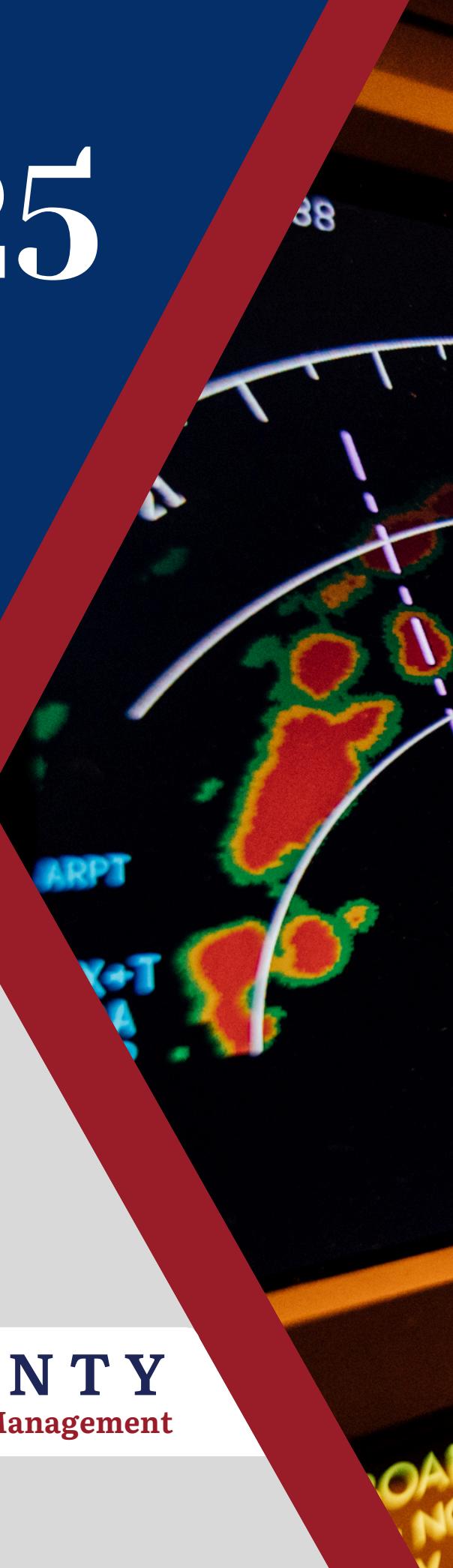




# 2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

**DELAWARE COUNTY**  
Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management





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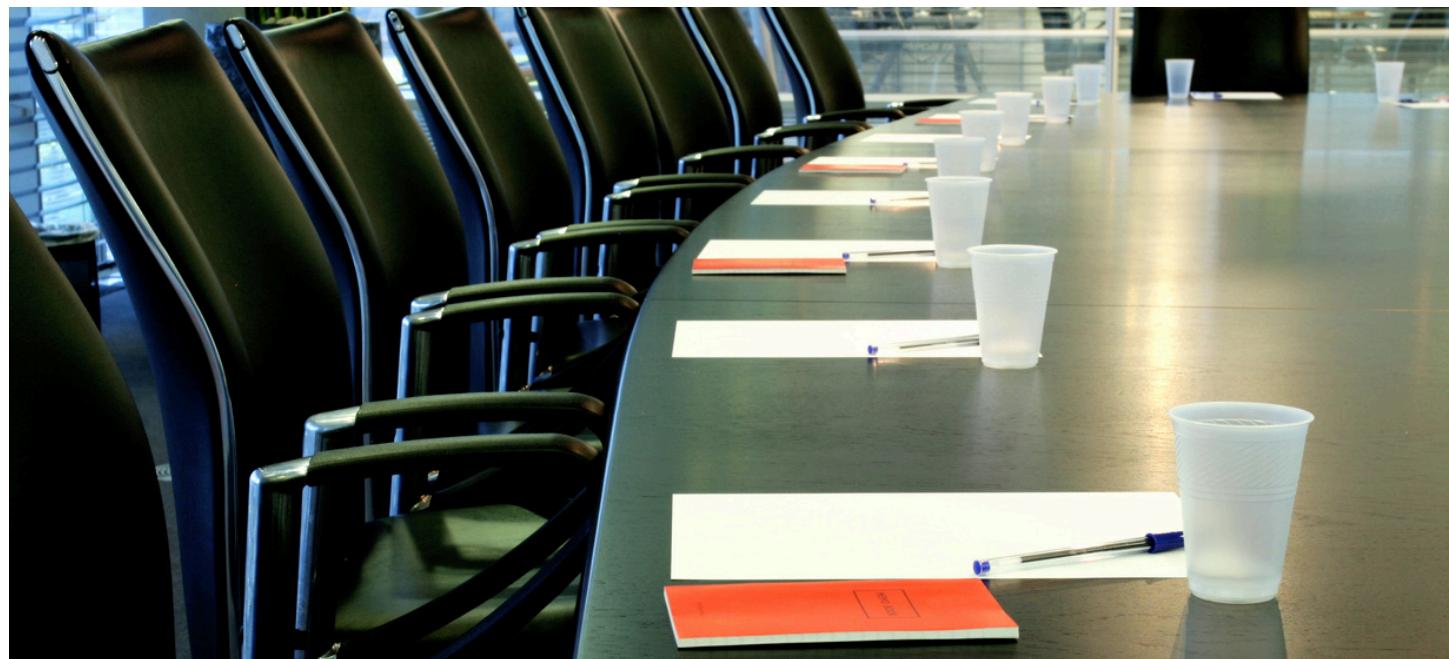
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## LEADERSHIP

The Delaware County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DCOHSEM) is governed by an Executive Committee through a countywide agreement as established under Ohio Revised Code 5502.26. Eleven members represent local fire departments, law enforcement, public health, and the 26 political subdivisions of Delaware County, except for the cities of Columbus, Dublin, and Westerville. These committee members provide oversight with respect to the budget, policy, operations, and personnel.



### The 2025 Executive Committee Members

<b>Chief Russ Baron - Chair</b>	Shawnee Hills PD	Represents Villages
<b>Chief Tim Pyle - Vice Chair</b>	Delaware FD	Represents City of Delaware
<b>Commissioner Barb Lewis</b>	Delaware County	Represents Commissioners
<b>Health Commissioner Garrett Guillozet</b>	Public Health District	Represents Public Health
<b>Chief Tim Carr</b>	Tri Township FD	Represents Fire Departments
<b>Chief Chris Kovach</b>	BST&G FD	Represents City of Sunbury
<b>Chief Ron Sallows</b>	Powell PD	Represents City of Powell
<b>Captain Scott Vance</b>	Sheriff's Office	Represents Law Enforcement
<b>Trustee Charles Miley</b>	Brown Township	Represents Townships
<b>Trustee Troy Morris</b>	Troy Township	Represents Townships
<b>Trustee Sandra Stults</b>	Scioto Township	Represents Townships

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## 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Chief Russ Baron  
CHAIR



Chief Tim Pyle  
VICE CHAIR



Commissioner  
Barb Lewis



Health Commissioner  
Garrett Guillozet



Chief Tim Carr



Chief Chris Kovach



Captain Scott Vance



Chief Ron Sallows



Trustee Charles Miley



Trustee Troy Morris



Trustee Sandra Stults

Welcome!

With the departure of Chief Joe Ponzi, the Delaware County Fire Chiefs Association selected Tri Township Fire Chief Tim Carr to be their next representative to the Executive Committee. Chief Carr brings 21 years of fire service and leadership experience to the team. We look forward to working with Chief Carr for many years to come. Welcome to the DCOHSEM family, Chief Carr!

*"The greatest leaders mobilize others by coalescing people around a shared vision"*  
- Ken Blanchard

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIR



**Chief Russ Baron**  
CHAIR

Over the past year, the Office of Delaware County Homeland Security and Emergency Management maintained a fiscally responsible budget while ensuring long-term sustainability across staffing, training, and operational demands. Through progressive planning and strong leadership by Director McCarthy and Deputy Director Stewart, the organization is well-positioned to meet current responsibilities and future challenges.

A key staffing enhancement was the creation of a Planning Coordinator position, which strengthened preparedness and planning capacity. Jecy Weber was promoted into this role, providing continuity, institutional knowledge, and increased organizational effectiveness.

The office continued to prioritize coordination and communication with stakeholders through a variety of outreach efforts, including regular social media updates, attendance at local events, and direct engagement to educate community members. These efforts also included conducting severe weather briefings for local leaders and public safety partners. Staff professional development remained a priority, with attendance at the International Emergency Management Conference and multiple local training opportunities. Additionally, the office hosted several training courses for community partners, further strengthening interagency collaboration and community preparedness.

The office facilitated two full-scale exercises for the Child Abduction Response Team (CART) and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), requiring extensive planning and coordination. These exercises tested operational readiness, strengthened interagency collaboration, and identified areas for improvement.

Comprehensive planning efforts resulted in the update and revision of numerous critical plans and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) annexes, including those addressing civil unrest and terrorism, shelter and mass care, dam inundation hazards, debris and donations management, severe weather and flooding, damage assessment, mass casualty and fatality response, and the Emergency Operations Center manual. These updates ensure that plans remain current, compliant, and aligned with best practices, making Delaware County one of the safest counties in Ohio.

Collectively, these efforts reflect a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility, professional development, operational readiness, and continuous improvement in serving the community's emergency management needs. The Emergency Management Executive Committee commends the work accomplished by the office and looks ahead to 2026 with confidence in continued success.

Sincerely,  
Russell C. Baron

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Partners,

2025 was a productive year for our office. While we did not have the severe weather that we experienced in 2024, we still dealt with floods, droughts, and supported local fire departments and Ohio EPA in responses to 20 spills across the county. We worked with community partners to assemble planning teams to build out several of our disaster response plans. This year, our board approved updated versions of our Debris Management, Volunteer Management, Donations Management, Hazmat, Shelter and Mass Care, and Mass Casualty / Mass Fatality plans. In order to ensure that these plans are meeting our needs, we have worked hard to coordinate multiple disaster

exercises to ensure that our plans are meeting the needs of Delaware County. One of these was a full-scale exercise involving a response to a tornado that led to a simulated hazardous materials release. This gave us a chance to staff our emergency operations center with representatives of different agencies across the county to practice how we coordinate interagency decision-making following a disaster. Grady Memorial Hospital and the American Red Cross joined this exercise to practice their respective roles that may need to be offered during disasters.

As we move into 2026, we have an ambitious slate of disaster response plan updates. This year, we will be prioritizing building capabilities related to evacuation, damage assessment, family reunification, and long term community recovery. If any emergency responders, community stakeholders, or local officials would like to join us in being active on one of our planning teams, please reach out to us. We will be partnering with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency to participate in a mass fatality incident response exercise in mid-April and will be looking to host a community long term recovery workshop around the same time. We are also looking to partner with local political subdivisions to help develop continuity of operations (COOP) plans to guide your jurisdiction in maintaining essential functions in the event that you need to move operations out of your main facilities, or if you are dealing with an incident that limits your staffing for a while. If you have any interest in developing an internal COOP plan, please reach out to us and we will help guide you through this process.

Sincerely,  
Alex McCarthy

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**Alex McCarthy**

Director



## MEET THE TEAM

NONSTANDARD REPORT



### Director Alex McCarthy

Alex joined the DCOHSEM team in April of 2023 after serving six years as the EMA Director for Tuscarawas County. He earned his Masters and Bachelors Degrees in Atmospheric Science from The Ohio State University. It was during his master's program that he served as an intern here with DCOHSEM. In his free time, Alex enjoys spending time with his wife, Keeron. His hobbies include astronomy, photography, and hiking.



### Deputy Director Scott Stewart

Scott started with DCOHSEM as a part-time Specialist in 2019, right before the pandemic, and credited that as his crash course in emergency management. Combining a Master of Public Administration degree with over 35 years of public safety experience, he assists the Director with managing administrative tasks, liaising with public safety agencies, coordinating training hosted by the office, and handling many of the LEPC roles and responsibilities. Outside of the office, Scott enjoys spending time with his family, camping, and watching Buckeye football.



### Planning Coordinator Jecy Weber

Jecy came to DCOHSEM in 2021 from Columbus Metro Parks where she served as a park ranger. She has been heavily engaged in planning activities for the office. She is the liaison to school safety committees and the initial point of contact for reviewing school emergency plans. She is also a member of the county's Child Abduction Response Team. Jecy has a Masters Degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security.



### Specialist Yvonne Strassmann

Yvonne started with the office one week prior to the March tornado, providing her with a rapid indoctrination into the world of emergency management. She was a great asset through our disaster response assisting in the EOC and in the field with damage assessments. While recently promoted to PT Specialist and new to the EM field, Yvonne brings extensive public service experience in the education, non-profit, and volunteer sectors. Her focus will be to assist with updating plans and data wrangling as well other projects as needed around the office.



## VOLUNTEER CORNER



**Gary Mackey**  
TECH VOLUNTEER



**Jarren Ringle**  
ADMIN VOLUNTEER



**Randy Wright**  
ADMIN VOLUNTEER

Our EMA Volunteers are a tremendous asset to the office. They give unselfishly of their time and talents to enhance our service delivery to the Delaware County community. Each brings a unique set of experience and talent that they share to help us accomplish our mission.

Our technical volunteer, Gary Mackey, provides specialized knowledge regarding our amateur radio station in the Emergency Operations Center, and the AM radio utilized by our staff to deliver messages to the public for events such as the Little Brown Jug.

We are happy to announce the addition of Randy Wright as an administrative volunteer with the team. Randy brings an extensive background as a school administrator and will work with Planning Coordinator Weber to expand our networking and partnerships with the school systems. Welcome to the team, Randy!

Our other administrative volunteer, Jarren Ringle, dedicates a majority of his time to emergency planning efforts and data collection/entry. With his background in project management, he has helped the team develop the foundation for a database to manage the office's large volume of data.

This past year, our volunteers donated nearly 100 hours of their time assisting our staff, and their contributions are greatly appreciated. DCOHSEM is excited to continue tapping into the knowledge, skills, and abilities of this group as we move into 2026.

*"The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others." - DeAnn Hollis*

ANNUAL REPORT



## WHAT IS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Delaware County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DCOHSEM) exists to support our local partner agencies in minimizing the effects of any manmade or natural disaster on our residents. We accomplish this through four phases of emergency management: preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

Our staff engages with the public and our partner agencies through education, training, exercises and drills, and community outreach to assist our residents and first responders with **PREPAREDNESS**. Additionally, DCOHSEM personnel collaborate with partners to review and revise our plans to prepare for the variety of hazards that could impact Delaware County.

Sometimes, actions can be taken to prevent or reduce the effects of future, unavoidable hazards. The **MITIGATION** process occurs before a disaster by identifying projects that could help accomplish this goal. The county's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is an example of a major mitigation undertaking.

During or in the immediate aftermath of an emergency or disaster, our personnel are often called upon to help our responders acquire the personnel and resources they need to complete their mission. A major part of our **RESPONSE** function is resource coordination and allocation, and assisting with the dissemination of information. DCOHSEM may also respond on-scene to assist with chemical spills occurring around the county to assessing damage from severe weather.

After a disaster, DCOHSEM actively engages in the **RECOVERY** process, where the focus shifts to assisting residents and businesses with returning to normal. Identifying damage to homes and structures, and impacts to critical infrastructure in the community, will help in developing a path to recovery. Sometimes, grant funding is available to assist the community during recovery; DCOHSEM can help local governments navigate this process.





# FINANCIAL REPORT

The Delaware County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management administered its operations through various funding sources in 2025 that included federal and state grants, as well as apportionments assessed on the jurisdictions served by the office.

DCOHSEM coordinated with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and regional partners on the following federal grants:

## Emergency Management Performance

**Grant (EMPG):** Provides federal funds to states to assist state and local governments in preparing for all hazards. DCOHSEM received \$114,490.24 in grant funding to assist in 2025 operational costs for the office.

## Hazardous Materials Emergency

**Preparedness (HMEP):** Provides funding to increase state and local effectiveness in handling hazardous materials accidents and incidents through emergency planning and training. \$13,223.50 was received in 2025 towards hazardous materials preparedness projects, including a full-scale exercise, a train derailment exercise in Orange Township, and a commodity flow study to assess materials transported on our highways and railroads.

2025 REVENUES	
<b>Apportionments</b>	\$183,936.86
<b>Federal Grants</b>	\$127,713.74
<b>State Grants**</b>	\$24,740.00
<b>Total</b>	\$336,390.60

*\*\* Includes grant from the state (SERC) for DCOHSEM to perform administrative duties for Delaware County LEPC*

2025 EXPENDITURES	
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	\$334,681.26
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	\$12,843.74
<b>Services &amp; Charges</b>	\$18,796.45
<b>Total</b>	\$366,321.45

ANNUAL REPORT





## LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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The Delaware County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is contracted to perform the administrative duties for the Delaware County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) as outlined in the Ohio Revised Code 3750. The LEPC works to keep our communities safe and prepared in the event of a hazardous materials incident by bringing together representatives from local government, emergency response agencies, industry, environmental organizations, and the public to plan for and coordinate responding to chemical emergencies.

Delaware County's mix of highways, rail lines, and growing industrial and agricultural areas means that hazardous materials move through our communities every day. Common risks include transportation accidents, chemicals stored or used at manufacturing facilities, and agricultural chemicals used for crop management. Under the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), each county is required to form an LEPC to develop, maintain, and annually exercise a hazardous materials emergency response plan that focuses on identifying and preparing for these potential hazards. This plan outlines how emergency services, local industries, and community partners will work together to protect people, property, and the environment should an incident occur.

The LEPC also supports training and exercises for first responders, promotes community awareness about chemical safety, and ensures that required reporting on hazardous materials is accurate and accessible. The committee's work helps ensure that our local agencies are well-prepared and that residents have the information they need to stay safe.

In 2025, DCOHSEM personnel maintained annual Tier II chemical inventory records for over 100 reporting facilities in the county and also managed public information requests (Right-To-Know Requests) regarding those chemicals. Additionally, DCOHSEM is frequently called upon by our public safety partners to coordinate or respond to incidents involving spills or releases of hazardous chemicals. Our personnel work with first responders and the Ohio EPA to ensure the public and the environment are safe.



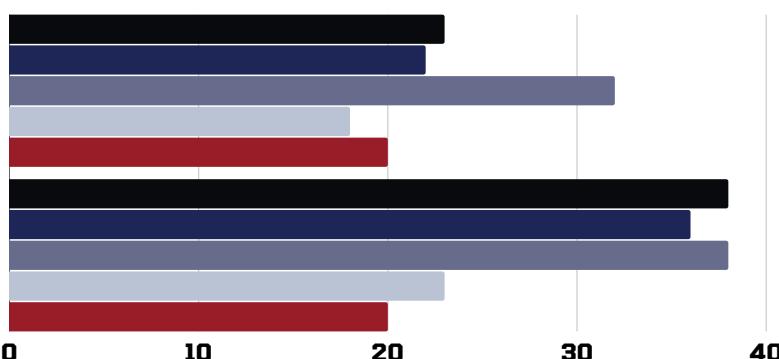


# LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

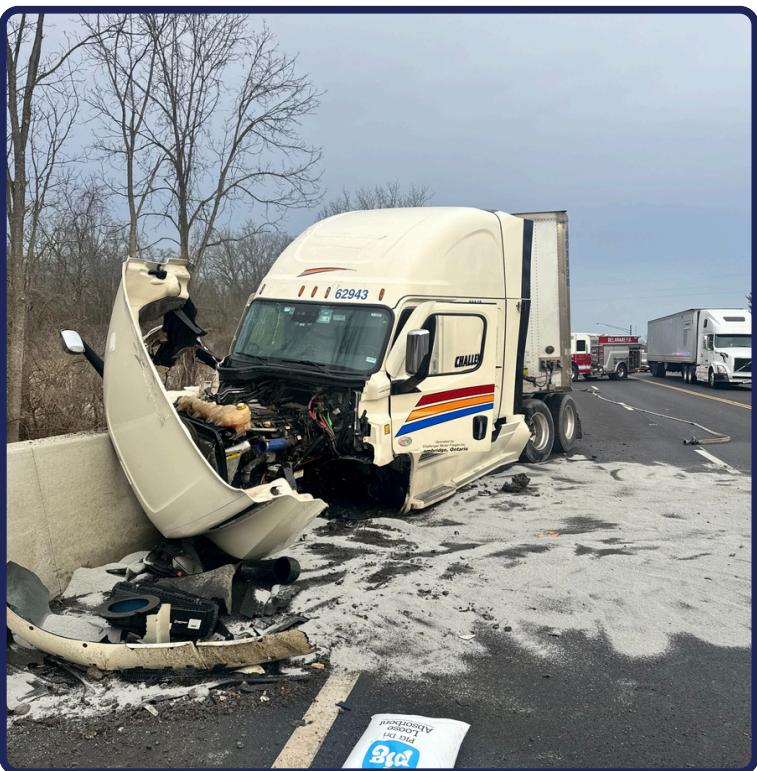
## 5-Year LEPC Activity Overview

● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025

### SPILLS/RESPONSES



### RTK REQUESTS



Semi crash with release of diesel fuel



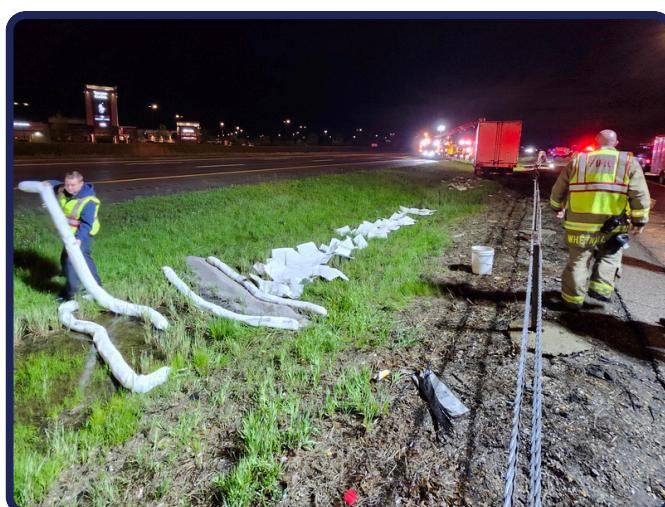
Overturned anhydrous ammonia tank



Barn fire with release of chemicals



Auto accident with engine fluids into stream



Accident on I-71 with fuel in ditch

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



## ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY



This year, Planning Coordinator Weber presented to a science class at Carlisle Elementary, discussing Delaware County's hazards, with a focus on weather events and hazard response. At the time, students were completing a science unit on protecting people during disasters. They worked in groups using national parks as part of their scenarios. The project culminated with a day of individual presentations. We enjoy partnering with our school districts to further student education on emergency preparedness and response.

### Carlisle Elementary

This year, Planning Coordinator Weber presented to a science class at Carlisle Elementary, discussing Delaware County's hazards, with a focus on weather events and hazard response. At the time, students were completing a science unit on protecting people during disasters. They worked in groups using national parks as part of



with two other members about this unique partnership. Jecy also worked with an exercise planning team to develop and conduct a full-scale exercise for CART in October, with Scott playing the role of logistics coordinator. This exercise was required to maintain the team's national accreditation. Our office is proud to be part of this talented group dedicated to such an important mission.

### CART

Dep. Director Stewart and Planning Coordinator Weber actively represent the office as part of the Delaware County Child Abduction Response Team. EMA's ability to acquire crucial resources serves an important logistical role for the team. This collaboration was highlighted at the 2025 EMAO Winter Conference, where Jecy presented



### Senior Health & Wellness Expo

DCOHSEM teamed up with many other organizations across Delaware County for the SourcePoint Senior Health & Wellness Expo. This event was held at the Delaware County Fairgrounds and provided our senior residents with a wealth of information on health and safety topics important to them. Director McCarthy and

Specialist Strassmann represented the office, sharing important emergency preparedness information and highlighting the importance of having multiple methods to receive warnings and notifications.

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## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

All members of the DCOHSEM team are active in our state association. EMAO exists to build effective emergency management leaders in Ohio by offering education and training, and leveraging the professional experience of its members. This year was especially noteworthy as Director McCarthy was sworn in as the new EMAO president during the annual 2025 Winter Conference in December. Deputy Director Stewart was elected to serve as president of the Central Sector, with Planning Coordinator Weber retaining her role as Central Sector secretary. 2025 also brought new opportunities with the creation of new committees and caucuses on specialized areas in emergency management. In addition to their roles on the Central Sector board, Scott will remain the co-chair of the Education Committee that is responsible for creation of all educational opportunities for the membership, such as the conferences and virtual training sessions. Jecy was selected to co-chair the newly formed School Safety Committee to examine how EMAs can better partner with our school systems to promote K-12 and higher education emergency preparedness. Specialist Strassmann joined the Amish Health & Safety Committee, as there is a small Amish population in Delaware County, and this committee aims to increase knowledge on the best methods of sharing emergency preparedness information. EMAO offers numerous opportunities for our team to be actively engaged with other EMs around the state, learning how to best serve all of our residents.



## STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

 Chapter 3750 of the Ohio Revised Code provides for the implementation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act in Ohio, with the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) designated as the administrative body for its implementation. The SERC appoints members of the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) throughout the state. The SERC uses committees comprised of participants from various state and local agencies around the state to help manage the workload. Director McCarthy serves on the Administration and Funding Committee, where they review LEPC grants and funding requests. Dep. Director Stewart participates on the Training and Education Committee, and he and Specialist Strassmann serve on the Operations & Issues Committee, where they review and update guidance materials and provide recommendations on issues referred by the SERC. This year, Scott was selected to chair a working group to revise the LEPC handbook, the manual that informs members how the LEPC should function. He, Alex, and Yvonne hosted many meetings at the EOC with other EMA and EPA personnel from around the state with the goal to create an easy-to-read and understand manual that still contained all of the pertinent information from the previous version. As the document editor, Scott placed all of the revisions into a new draft, and it is currently out for review by the working group. Eventually, it will be forwarded to the SERC for formal approval. Our participation in these SERC committees allows greater representation from the local level on issues that could affect Delaware County.

*“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.” – Martin Luther King Jr*

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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

DCOHSEM Board Member Commissioner Barb Lewis and DCOHSEM Director Alex McCarthy both attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Legislative Conference in Washington DC last February. With some of the recent discussions on the future of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, one of the major themes at this conference was disaster reform. At this conference, Director McCarthy had the chance to sit in on the NACo Intergovernmental Disaster Reform Task Force meeting and attend the House Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology for their hearing "Future of FEMA: Perspectives from the Emergency Management Community".



## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) represents over 6,000 emergency management professionals around the world dedicated to saving lives and protecting property and the environment during emergencies and disasters. IAEM develops its members by providing information, networking, and development opportunities through caucuses, committees, and conferences. All DCOHSEM staff are members, each serving on a variety of committees and caucuses. In November, the entire office was able to attend the 2025 IAEM Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, to learn about current trends and topics, the latest tools and technology in emergency management and homeland security, and to participate in IAEM committee work. DCOHSEM staff members networked with EMs from across the country, and even around the world, exchanging knowledge and ideas, and learning new ways to tackle challenges faced by all emergency management organizations. The team returned to Delaware County reenergized and armed with new goals and project ideas to tackle for 2026. In May of 2025, we learned that one of our very own, Director Alex McCarthy, was awarded the IAEM's Top 40-Under-40 Award, a prestigious recognition given to individuals under 40 years old who have demonstrated exceptional talent, leadership, and achievements in their respective fields, and who continue to make significant strides in their careers and positively impact their communities and emergency management as a whole. Congratulations, Alex - we could not agree more with their assessment!



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## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS IN 2025

### April Flooding

In April, a storm system moved through the area with enough rainfall to cause flooding in several portions of the county. The county was under a tornado watch during part of the storm, but no significant damage was reported. The heavy rains led to the closure of numerous roadways, as rising waters impacted susceptible areas. EMA staff monitored the system through webinars and reports from the National Weather Service, then inspected affected areas the next morning. Fortunately, the water receded without any major damage.



### Skywarn Spotter Course

DCOHSEM hosted meteorologist Nate McGinnis from the National Weather Service and Mike Behrens from 10TV for a Skywarn Spotter training course on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 100 students learned how to identify and report various weather phenomena to the National Weather Service to improve warning efforts. The National Weather Service usually rotates this class between Delaware, Franklin, and Union County EMAs. This session was a joint venture between those counties and OSU Emergency Management.

### Leadership Delaware 2.0

Upon completion of Leadership Delaware, Dep. Director Stewart inquired about highlighting other public safety agencies. This led to him assembling a committee of alumni to develop Public Safety Day as part of the newly created Leadership Delaware 2.0 program. On January 7, 2025, participants met at the EOC for an in-depth overview of emergency management and a tour of the EOC. They also learned what it takes to manage the county's two 9-1-1 dispatch centers, as well as a fire department. A panel discussion reviewed how all of our public safety agencies collaborated during the 3/14/2024 tornado. A separate "experience day" later in the month provided ride-along opportunities with various fire and police agencies to see things in action and gain a more comprehensive understanding of how they protect our residents. One group experienced a working structure fire! Students gained a new appreciation for these services.



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# PLANNING

## DCOHSEM PLANNING PROGRAM UPDATE

This year, DCOHSEM instituted a new planning program for its approach to plan updates. This process was based upon information Planning Coordinator Weber learned during the Planning Practitioner Program she attended last year. For each scheduled plan update, the primary stakeholders of that plan were asked to participate as part of the planning update team. These teams met, discussed the plan, worked through any updates needed from after-action reports, training, or exercises, and ensured updates followed best practices. This new process enabled more stakeholder input and allowed more voices to be heard and included in the countywide plans.

DCOHSEM also implemented the use of SharePoint this year for plan updates. This internet-based software allows all the stakeholders to review and comment on the draft version of the plan at the same time, allowing for more accurate plan updates in real-time.

### PLANS UPDATED IN 2025

#### **Delaware County Fair Plan**

#### **Delaware County Courts Continuity of Operations Plan**

#### **Delaware State Park Tornado Shelter Operations and Maintenance Plan**

#### **Delaware County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)**

### **HAZARD-SPECIFIC ANNEXES (HSA) TO EOP    FUNCTIONAL ANNEXES (FA) TO EOP**

#### **Dam Inundation HSA**

#### **Hazardous Materials HSA**

#### **Severe Weather & Flood HSA**

#### **Debris Management FA**

#### **Donations Management FA**

#### **Mass Fatality/Casualty FA**

#### **Shelter and Mass Care FA**

#### **Training & Exercise FA**

Along with 16 plans and plan-related documents updated in 2025, five standard operating guidelines were reviewed/revised, and ten recommended changes identified in after-action reports were implemented.

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## TRAINING

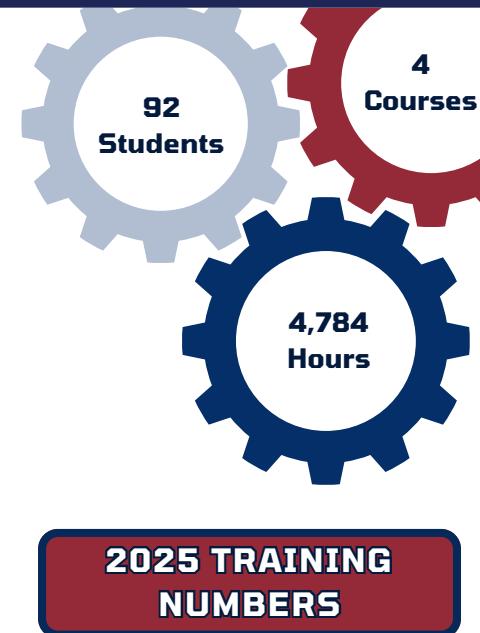
Training is a cornerstone of effective emergency management. Disasters and large-scale incidents are increasingly complex, requiring staff to remain proficient in evolving systems, technologies, and response frameworks. Continuous training ensures emergency management personnel are prepared to make informed decisions under pressure, adapt to emerging threats, and operate efficiently within multi-agency environments. A well-trained team enhances situational awareness, improves coordination, and ultimately strengthens the community's ability to withstand and recover from emergencies.

Last year, the DCOHSEM team tallied over 776 hours of training between all members. This was in addition to the routine daily operations, meetings, exercises, and committee work. The knowledge, skills, and abilities gained through these efforts ensure our staff are well prepared to respond effectively when emergencies arise.

Equally important is the role an emergency management agency plays in extending training opportunities beyond its own staff. By hosting free, accessible training for local and regional partner agencies, our office helps ensure that responders across disciplines share a common understanding of roles, procedures, and best practices. These shared learning environments reduce barriers to participation, promote consistency in response operations, and foster a unified approach during incidents that demand seamless coordination.

Providing no-cost training also serves as a force multiplier for preparedness. Grant-funded courses allow agencies of all sizes to build capacity without straining limited budgets, ensuring that preparedness is not dictated by available resources. Just as valuable, these training events create opportunities for relationship-building and collaboration among partner agencies. Establishing strong professional connections before an incident occurs enhances trust, communication, and operational effectiveness when it matters most. DCOHSEM hosted 4 classes through Ohio EMA that provided 92 students with a combined 4,784 hours of training and education.

*"It's all to do with the training: you can do a lot if you're properly trained."*  
- Queen Elizabeth II



**2025 TRAINING  
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# EXERCISES

## A YEAR OF FULL-SCALE EXERCISES

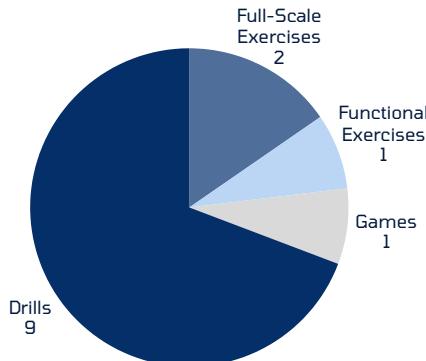
Exercises are crucial in emergency management. We use exercises to test, validate, and eventually update our plans in a safe, no-risk environment. We can also evaluate equipment and personnel readiness before a real disaster strikes. All of this allows for fostering better coordination, identifying gaps, building confidence, and ensuring a faster, more effective response for preventing, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from hazards.

DCOHSEM completed two full-scale exercises and a functional exercise in 2025. One full-scale exercise was conducted for the Local Emergency Planning Committee's annual evaluation of the county's hazardous materials plan. The exercise involved a truck transporting hazardous materials that was overturned by a tornado. The LEPC conducted a second, functional exercise in Orange Township that counted for the next exercise cycle and was heavily focused on emergency public information.

The other full-scale exercise was for the Delaware County Child Abduction Response Team (CART), involving a child abduction. DCOHSEM also completed a drill for a Volunteer Reception Center with CART earlier in the year that aided the team during the completion of the full-scale exercise. We also facilitated the CyberGame with the Delaware County Healthcare Coalition and then again with our EMAO Central Sector partners to increase awareness about cybersecurity and its impacts on a community.

In addition to our monthly outdoor warning siren tests, we participated in the Statewide Tornado Drill on March 14th. During these monthly tests, we hosted our partners from the Delaware County Emergency Communication Center (DELCOMM) and incorporated an Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) drill to practice our warning and notification capabilities.

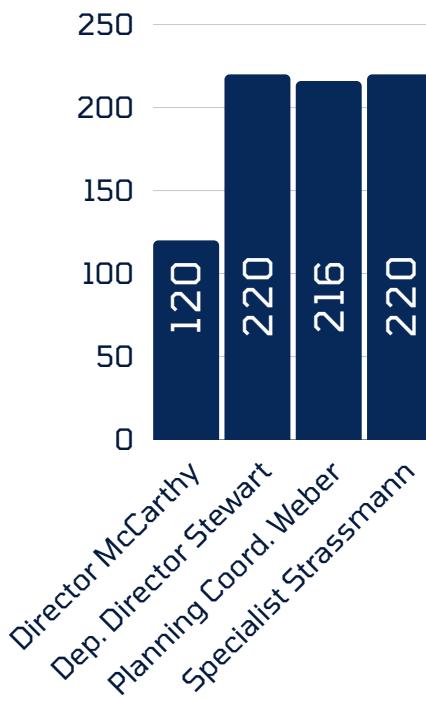
Each exercise produced an after-action report, leading to continuous improvement opportunities for our office and all of our involved partners, as we include these after-action items in plan updates following the exercise.





## BY THE NUMBERS

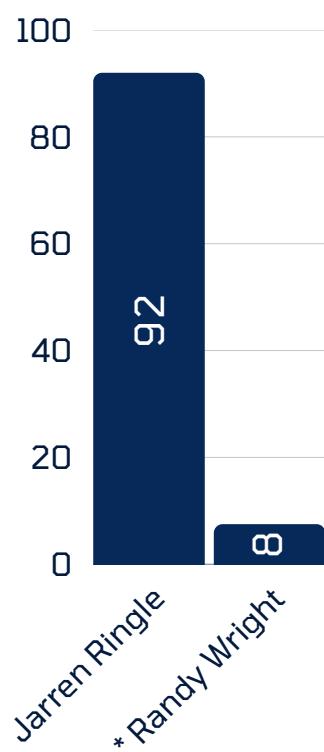
### TRAINING HOURS



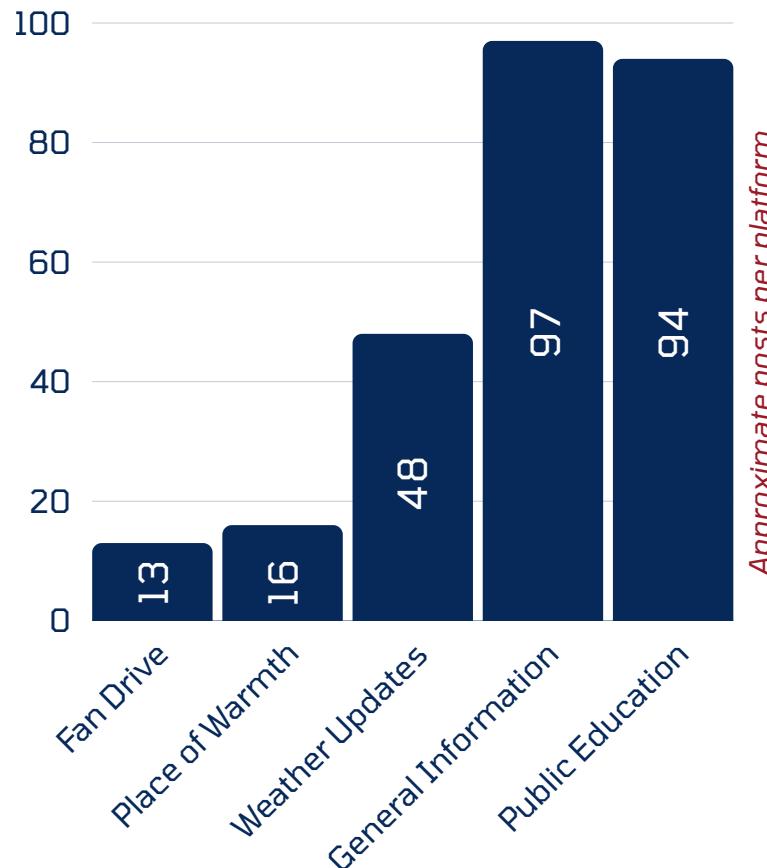
### TRAINING HOSTED IN THE EOC

Course	Title	# Students
G-300	Intermediate ICS	24
OH-387	Family Assistance Center Workshop	28
OH-202	Debris Management Workshop	29
G-400	Advanced ICS	11

### VOLUNTEER HOURS



### SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



\* Randy started with the office in NOV



Delaware County Emergency Management  
13,687 Followers



@DelCoEMA  
5,204 Followers



# THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Alex as part of a panel discussion at the 2025 Ohio VOAD Conference



Jecy facilitating the CyberReady Game for the DCOHSEM Team and our Central Sector EM partners



Scott at the controls of a locomotive for CSX Responder Incident Training



Yvonne as the Logistics Section Chief during the LEPC Full-Scale Exercise



Jecy attending Basic Inland Search & Rescue class at Cuyahoga Valley National Park



Members of the Healthcare Coalition strategize during the CyberReady Game



Scott reviewing sonar use for searching bodies of water at CART training



Community stakeholders assisting with the Mass Care Plan updates



Alex participating in a leadership meeting as part of MGT-346 class



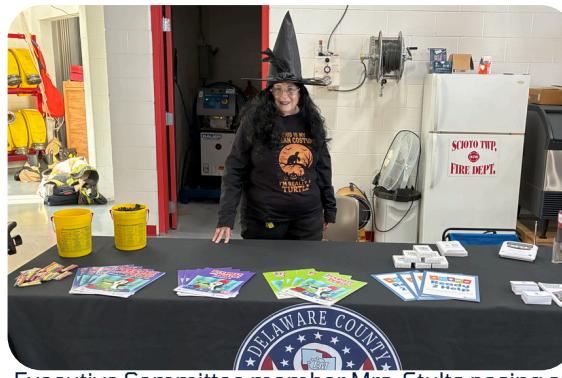
Flooding at Delaware State Park in April of 2025



We drafted some of our EMA family members to play exercise victims



Jecy facilitating the Dam Inundation Planning Meeting with stakeholders



Executive Committee member Mrs. Stults posing at our table for the Scioto Township FD Open House



Alex instructing the G-300 Intermediate ICS course in the EOC

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Scott gets a hand from Coco at the National Night Out event in Powell



Amateur radio members monitor the airwaves for the LEPC full-scale exercise



Fallen utility pole with release of Non-PCB transformer oil into nearby drain



Scott recognized for renewing his Ohio Certified Emergency Manager



Alex & Scott participating in SERC Ops & Issues subcommittee meeting



Yvonne & Jecy in G-400 Advanced ICS course hosted in the EOC



The Delaware County CART full-scale exercise participants pose for a quick pic after the debrief



The team joined by EMA friends for the Little Brown Jug Day EOC activation



The team at conference discussing AI use & impacts in emergency management



Alex sharing his vision to the membership as EMAO's new president



Delaware FD showing their appreciation during Emergency Management Awareness Week



Law, county, & township partners working the problem in an exercise

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



## FOND FAREWELLS

ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2025 brought about some changes to the DCOHSEM Executive Committee as we extended a fond farewell to two of our members, Chief Joe Ponzi and Trustee Charles Miley.

### GENOA TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF JOE PONZI



In February of 2025, DCOHSEM Executive Committee Chair Genoa Township Fire Chief Joe Ponzi announced his resignation from the committee. His position on the committee was to represent the interests of the county's fire departments. Chief Ponzi dedicated more than four years, serving as both the Vice Chair and Chair. His extensive background in public safety made him an invaluable leader and colleague, bringing a deep understanding of the organization's operations and the needs of its staff. We are sincerely grateful for his steadfast leadership, guidance, and support over the years, and we wish him continued success in his service to the community. Thank you, Chief Ponzi!

### BROWN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE CHARLES MILEY

Mr. Miley is the consummate public servant. As a long-time Brown Township Trustee, he dedicated over 14 years of that service to the residents of Delaware County as a member of the DCOHSEM Executive Committee. Mr. Charles Miley ended his tenure on the Committee at the end of December. As a Brown Township Trustee, Mr. Miley represented the interests of the county's townships while participating on the Executive Committee. Mr. Miley also served DCOHSEM as an active member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee. His dedication and commitment to our office and to the residents of Delaware County are greatly appreciated, and we wish him all the best. Thank you, Mr. Miley!



*"What you do has far greater impact than what you say." - Steven Covey.*



## MISSION STATEMENT

*We strive to reduce or eliminate the effects of day-to-day emergencies and large-scale disasters in Delaware County through preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.*

## CONTACT US

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