PROMULGATION STATEMENT

The primary role of government is to provide for the safety and welfare of its citizens. In order to facilitate these obligations, a compilation of government services and non-profit programs are organized into an Emergency Operations Plan. The Plan provides a foundation for support and resources, as well as program implementation and services that may be needed to save lives and protect property and the environment during a disaster in Summit County, Ohio. Mitigating the effects of a disaster includes many diverse but interrelated elements, which must be woven into an integrated emergency management system involving all departments of local government, private support agencies and individual citizens.

Disasters necessitate a sudden escalation in the material needs of impacted communities and the reorganization of resources and personnel in order to address emergency response. Lives and property can be lost in the confusion and disorganization that accompanies the lack of a full planning effort. A comprehensive plan with community stakeholders contributing in the planning process serves as a basis for improving coordination and strengthening relationships among all of our emergency management partners.

The Emergency Operations Plan continues to evolve and is a reflection of lessons learned from actual experiences in disasters and ongoing planning, training and exercise activities. Representatives from various Summit County agencies, in cooperation with the Summit County Emergency Management Agency continue to demonstrate their ability to work together to achieve the common goal of efficient, timely, and consistent disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The Plan continues to provide guidance to help save lives, facilitate the timely restoration of essential services and critical infrastructure and help victims and communities return to normal following a disaster.

Summit County conducts all response and recovery operations following the National Incident Management System and within the scope of the National Response Framework. Developed under these guidelines, the Emergency Operations Plan serves as a comprehensive framework providing roles and assigning tasks and responsibilities to officials, agencies and department heads. The Emergency Operations Plan is developed pursuant to Ohio Revised Code, Section 5502 and the Summit County Emergency Management Agreement.

Ilene Shapiro,
County Executive