

AUSTINTOWN TOWNSHIP

Mahoning County, Ohio

TRUSTEES

MONICA S. DEAVERS

ROBERT J. SANTOS

BRUCE N. SHEPAS



FISCAL OFFICER

LAURA L. WOLFE

ADMINISTRATOR

MARK P. D'APOLITO

Posted: November 23, 2025 14:53

On November 22, 2025, at approximately 12:49 p.m., a medical alert was received by our dispatch center for 850 North Meridian Road. Seconds later, a caller reported an explosion at the same address. At 12:50 p.m., all on-duty Police and Fire personnel were dispatched to the scene.

At 12:53 p.m., the first Austintown Police Department unit arrived and reported heavy damage to the building. Simultaneously, the Austintown Township Dispatch Center advised the Fire Department of the damage, immediately called in all available Austintown Police and Fire personnel, and requested mutual aid from neighboring departments.

As Police and Fire personnel arrived, they immediately began evacuating residents. Within one hour of the initial call, Austintown Police and Fire, along with mutual aid from Youngstown Fire, Canfield Fire, Boardman Fire, and the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office, had evacuated the structure and completed both primary and secondary searches of the building, including the evacuation of approximately 100 residents. During the initial evacuation efforts, multiple individuals were transported to local hospitals. At the time of this release, there is no update on their conditions.

After accounting for all residents, and with the assistance of WRTA and the Austintown Schools Transportation Department, residents were taken to safe shelter, where community members, local businesses, and assistance programs provided support and non-emergency medical aid.

At 9:15 p.m., the Austintown Township Trustees convened an emergency meeting of the Board and approved a Declaration of Emergency for the explosion at 850 North Meridian Road. Additionally, the Trustees committed up to \$10,000 in non-tax funds from the Westchester Fund to support emergency housing for affected residents.

By approximately 11:00 p.m., all displaced residents requiring shelter had been placed in area nursing homes and hotels.

While residents were receiving care and support, first responders and investigators continued working at the scene.

At the time of this release, investigators remain on scene, and efforts are underway to locate any remaining pets in the building. As pets are found, attempts will be made to contact their owners.

Going forward, Austintown Township and Mahoning County Emergency Management remain committed to working with social service agencies throughout the area to meet the ongoing needs of affected residents.

Residents in need of assistance should contact 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

A timeline of information will be made available as soon as possible, including details on when residents may retrieve personal belongings.

This remains an active investigation. All media inquiries should be directed to (330)-792-8584 and will be answered as time permits. Updates will be provided as they become available.

On behalf of Trustee Robert J. Santos, Trustee Monica S. Deavers, Trustee Bruce N. Shepas, Fiscal Officer Laura Wolfe, Township Administrator Mark D'Apolito, Assistant Fiscal Officer Amy O'Brien, Fire Chief Dave Schertzer, Police Chief Valorie Delmont, Senior Center Director Brittney Koch, and Zoning Directors Dominic Moltchan and Darren Crivelli, we extend our sincere gratitude to all first responders who answered the call. Additionally, we thank the many community members, agencies, and businesses that stepped up to help in countless ways.

Mark D'Apolito, Township Administrator, 330-792-8584

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Assisting Agencies as of November 23, 2025:

Austintown Police
Austintown Fire
Youngstown Fire
Mahoning County Sheriff
Canfield Fire
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Lane Life Trans
Boardman Fire
Weathersfield Fire
McDonald Fire
Girard Fire
Mahoning County EMA
Ellsworth Fire
Jackson Fire
Newton Falls Fire
Lordstown Fire
Liberty Fire
Mahoning County IMAT
Mahoning County HazMat

Mahoning County Dog Warden
Humane Society
Ohio Edison
Enbridge Gas Company
Youngstown Water Department
American Red Cross
United Way
Austintown Transportation Department
Western Reserve Transit Authority
Mercy Health
On Demand Occupational Medicine
Wedgewood Pharmacy
Catholic Charities
Direction Home
O.D.O.T.
Austintown Local Schools
Struthers R.O.A.R.

We apologize if we have omitted your organization. Accordingly, we would like to thank all our citizens, local businesses, and agencies for their assistance.