

The Brief

York County Office of Emergency Management

Special Points Of Interest

- > See what "Lou" the Bloodhound is up to
- > Flood damage from June 10th Storm
- > Swine Flu universal precautions
- > PODs

HAZMAT TRAINING A SUCCESS

A forklift ruptures a fuel line at a fixed facility and then backs into a transformer full of oil possibly laced with PCBs spilling that too. It is a big mess and somebody has to respond. Thankfully on this day, it's only an exercise. On Sunday, June 28th, York County HazMat hosted an EPA HazMat Technician Course. Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided instruction and on scene evaluation. In addition to members from York County HazMat, there were members from HazMat teams in Cumberland, Dauphin, and Lebanon Counties taking part



*Above: Technicians at a Decontamination Line
Below: Technicians test soil samples in the field*

in the class. There were also responders from private industry and the volunteer fire service in the class. In all, about 40 individuals volunteered their time to participate.



TASKS COMPLETED DURING THE EXERCISE

<u>Dispatch</u>	<u>Size-Up</u>	<u>Recon</u>	<u>Mitigation</u>	<u>Decon Line</u>
Chemical I.D.	PPE	Visual Inspection	Deploy Absorbents	Set-Up
SARA Plan	Isolation Distances	Evaluate Nearby Hazards	Patching and Plugging	Ensure Proper Techniques
Quantity	Pictometry	Plume Modeling	Ensure Containment	Washing
Location	ICS Forms	Soil Testing	Monitoring	Doffing
Type	National Weather Service	Down-Wind Testing	Re-evaluation	Water Collection

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The Brief

2nd Tri-County Expo



Above: York County HazMat 91-A parked at Mason-Dixon Fairgrounds for Tri-County Expo

The 2nd Annual Tri-County Expo was hosted by the Delta-Cardiff VFC at the Mason-Dixon Fairgrounds on Sunday, May 31st. Units from Harford, York, & Lancaster counties took part. There were more than 70 people in attendance and 32 units on display. York County HazMat 91-A found its way there. The event is a great way to shake a few hands and see what capabilities neighboring departments have. The Expos are sponsored by Whiteford & Rawlinsville VFCs.

Departments in Attendance:

Harford Co.– Darlington, Susquehanna Hose, Whiteford VFC, County Technical Rescue Team, County Emergency Operations Center

Lancaster Co.– Columbia, Millersville, Rawlinsville, Quarryville VFC, Rescue Task Force #36

York Co.– Airville, Delta-Cardiff, Fawn Grove VFC, County HazMat

York Co. HazMat Upcoming Events:

July 7th– Decon Show & Tell for Yoe Fire Co. and surrounding Fire Departments. Location TBD.

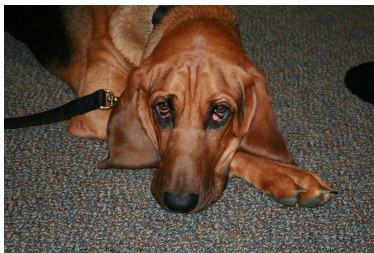
August 4th– Carroll Twp. "Night Out". Location TBD.

If you'd like York Co. HazMat to participate in your event, please call (717) 840-2990 and ask for Tom Graybill.

Right: Some of the units lined up displaying resources and demonstrating capabilities



York County C.A.R.E. Team



Above: "Lou" the Bloodhound wondering how long the meeting will last?

C.A.R.E. stands for Child Abduction Response Effort. The team is made up of folks from a number of agencies at the county and municipal levels. In the event there is a missing child and the team is requested, C.A.R.E. standardizes the response and also fosters a series of parallel in-

vestigations from the incident's onset. The team is continually growing its capabilities. Right now, data is being collected from team members so they can be entered into a web-based notification system. C.A.R.E. members indicate the various ways they want to be notified and once

entered into the system, the software will continue cycling through the selections until the team member acknowledges the message and indicates (s)he can or can't respond. The C.A.R.E. Team is also working on policies and procedures to activate and operate a "phone bank" as part of a response. C.A.R.E. Team leaders have met with members of York County Office of Emergency Management and have identified the EOC as a possible location. Long term, the C.A.R.E. Team is preparing to go for certification through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Right: (left) Chief of West Manchester Twp. P.D. Art Smith, (middle) Chief York County Detective Julio Mendez, (right) Lou's handler Sergeant Sam Shipley of the Sheriff's Dept. discuss agenda for next meeting in the York County EOC



June 10th Flash Flooding

Forget about "spring showers", the sky opened up on June 10th and dumped 5 or so inches of rain in a short period of time on the Codorus / North Codorus area. In addition to roads and bridges, there were some homes and businesses that received some damage in the flooding. In all, four municipalities issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency. The municipalities are Codorus Twp., Jefferson Borough, North Codorus Twp., and Seven Valleys Borough. YCOEM staff compiled data to forward to PEMA in an attempt to secure funding for clean-up and rebuilding efforts.



Left: Junction Rd. in North Codorus Twp. outside of Seven Valleys Borough. The water up to the road on the left. The road drops off just as much as on the right side of the picture. Notice the major erosion from the right side of the road.

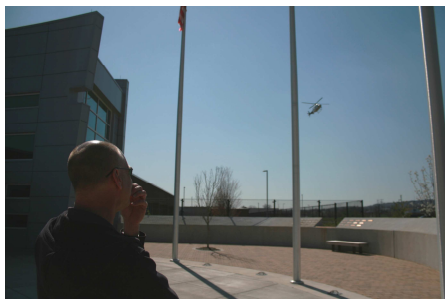


Left: Municipal officials and York County Office of Emergency Management staff conduct damage assessment on Rockville Rd.



Right: Road damage on a Bentz Rd. bridge. A pager reveals the depth of the erosion.

A Visitor Drops By The York County Department of Emergency Services Center



Corporal Jeffrey Braid of the Pennsylvania State Police travels in style. He recently stopped by YCOES. The mission: to ensure OEM Directors and 911 dispatchers have the most updated information on what the PSP Aviation Section has to offer during emergencies and routine events. After

the meeting, Cpl. Braid said, "I think the meeting went well and I think it will pay dividends in the future as we all try to work together to make the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a safer place to raise our families." YCOEM agrees and thanks the Aviation Section for its outreach efforts.

*Top Left: Deputy Dir. Michael Fetrow spots the chopper.
Top Right: The bird has landed.
Bottom Left: OEM Dir. Kay Carman, Deputy Dir. Fetrow and Cpl. Jeffrey Braid*



(A) H1N1 (Swine Flu): Pandemic or Practice?

Flu Symptoms

- **Fever Above 100**
- **Cough**
- **Sore Throat**
- **Runny/Stuffy Nose**
- **Body Aches**
- **Headaches**
- **Chills**
- **Fatigue**
- **Diarrhea/Vomiting (not normal)**

Nobody knows for sure what the future holds when it comes to the novel H1N1 influenza virus. Some experts are sounding the alarm. Dire predictions are typically based on mortality rates during the Pandemic of 1918-1919. At a glance, there are some eyebrow raising similarities. The virus that killed 50-million people worldwide (based on conservative estimates) back in 1918-1919 was an influenza (A) H1N1 virus. It is also considered a

Swine Flu virus. The first wave of the virus in 1918 occurred in the springtime and caused mild illness much like this time around. In 1918, the second wave of illness that struck in the fall is what killed so many people. That is the ominous unknown. Right now, the new novel H1N1 virus is making its way around the world all the while mutating and swapping genetic material (called genetic reassortment) with other influenza (A) viruses. We

know for sure the virus is doing what viruses do, changing. What we don't know is if it will change for the better or worse. The virus could change and cause illness that's even milder than what we're seeing today. The converse, the virus could change and cause illness that is much more severe than what we're seeing right now. It could rival or even surpass what the virus of 1918-1919 did. The only thing we can do is to be prepared.



1918 Pandemic Mass Care Facility
Credit: Office of the Public Health Service Historian

Influenza virus is spread by direct contact with respiratory droplets from an infected person. Viruses in droplets from a cough or sneeze can live on hard surfaces up to 8 hours. Here are some examples of "Hard Surfaces" that require vigilance to keep clean.

Light Switches	Keyboards	Fridge Handles
Door Knobs	Mouse	Cupboards
Remote Controls	Copiers / Printers	Coffee Table
Faucets	Fax Machines	End Tables
Toilet Handles	Vending Machines	Night Stands
Telephones	Desk Tops	Counter Tops
Pens	Water Fountains	Toys

URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION:

In addition to the Flu Symptoms listed above, urgent medical attention is needed if any of the following symptoms are present.

CHILDREN	ADULTS
Fast of Labored Breathing	Shortness of Breath
Bluish Gray Skin Color	Chest Pain / Pressure
Persistent High Fever	Abdominal Pain / Pressure
Not Waking Up or Not Interacting	Confusion
Severe Diarrhea / Vomiting (not normal)	Severe Diarrhea / Vomiting (not normal)

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION: If everyone exercises the tips below, it could go a long way towards slowing the spread of (A) H1N1 virus.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash hands frequently and for 20 seconds • Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers (60%-95% alcohol concentration) when soap and water are not available • Cough and sneeze into the bend in your arm • Call you family doctor if you come down with the flu | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use disposable tissues and discard immediately after use • Avoid crowds • Avoid contact with sick individuals • If you have the flu, stay home for 7 days after your symptoms begin or 24 hours after your symptoms end, whichever is longer |
|---|---|

The SNS & PODs



OEM Deputy Dir. Fetrow discusses the PODs with municipal Emergency Management Coordinators.

Following the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, the Federal Government put a greater emphasis on the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). The goal of the SNS is to be able to deliver medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to the public in a short period of time. The plan was first developed to counter a large scale chemical or biological attack. The SNS is

now considered a resource for any large scale chemical or biological incident. The SNS is also how vaccine would be delivered to the public during a Pandemic. OEM is currently working with key stakeholders and going over plans that establish POD (Point of Dispensing) sites across York County and identifies personnel to staff the sites.

Municipal EMC Quarterly Training

Wednesday, July 8th from 7 p.m. –10 p.m. will be the next municipal Emergency Management Coordinators Quarterly Training. The training will take place at the York County Department of Emergency Services Center at 120 Davies Dr. in York. Municipal EMCs should keep in mind there will be no Saturday morning session for those who miss the evening training so everyone is encouraged to attend the Wednesday night session.

Quarterly Training July 8th

- Carlene Stough, the EMC for North Codorus Twp., Seven Valleys Borough, and Jefferson Borough, will provide an After Action Report on the June 10th flooding.
- OEM staff member Jim Welty will provide an overview of the “everbridge aware” web-based notification system.



OEM Dir. Kay Carman presents OEM SARA Planner Tom Graybill with a plaque for achieving Basic Certification in Emergency Management at the last Quarterly Training



Nate Kirschman is on the Shrewsbury Borough EMA staff, but makes a living designing radio systems. So who better to provide radio training to our municipal EMCs?



OEM Municipal Planner Jeff Joy is encouraging EMCs to bring their radios to the July 8th Quarterly Training. He would like to do another EMA radio test after the meeting. It went well back in April when EMCs conducted an impromptu radio test. It's time for round 2.



York County Office of Emergency Management Mission Statement: "The judicious planning, assignment, and coordination of all available resources in an integrated program of prevention, planning, response, and recovery for emergencies of any kind."

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Municipal Planner / Trainer: Jeffrey Joy

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Future Issues

Here at YCOEM, our goal is to make this newsletter as much about the community as it is about us. We would like to give folks in emergency management at all levels the chance to reach out and share information with others. For this newsletter to be a success, we need participation. Please take a few moments and consider the topics listed to the right.

Influenza Pandemic

While the Pandemic of 2009 is no longer in the headlines, it is not over. As discussed on page 4 in this issue of the Brief, it could re-emerge in the fall. In the next edition of the Brief, we will have an article focusing on Planning. We will take a look at planning at home and at work.

Best Practices

We would like to invite emergency services personnel to share their "Best Practices" as it relates to emergency management. If you're interested in sharing, please submit your article by e-mail to bjmorrin@ycdes.org. The article should be limited to 200 words or less.

Commentary

There is much to celebrate when it comes to emergency management, but probably a few things that you'd like to see changed. We want your opinions on what those items are. After identifying the issue, please provide a solution. Submit articles by e-mail to bjmorrin@ycdes.org. Articles should be limited to 200 words or less.