



Cumberland County
Department of Public Safety

The Communiqué

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**Cumberland County
Department of
Public Safety**

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Wide Vigilance II

By: Bob Shively

The 8-county South Central Task Force recently conducted a 3-day multi-discipline, all hazards, full scale exercise. The exercise consisted of several cascading events to help prepare for large scale regional disasters. The exercise primarily centered around earthquake activity that started in Ohio and progressed East throughout PA creating damage and emergency management issues. While the field activities portion of exercise occurred on October 16, 17, & 18, 2008, the Cumberland County Emergency Operations Center started in-house exercising in concert with the overall script on October 1, 2008. The EOC conducted smaller activation exercises with daily updates, injects, and changes in scope from October 1st through October 18th. The exercise included involvement from EOC staff, the regional hospitals, and many of the regional special response teams. From Cumberland County, in addition to the EOC activation, we deployed the Law Enforce-

ment Strike Team, Special Response Tactical Police Team, Hazardous Materials Team, Decontamination Strike Teams, Foam Task Force, EMS Task Force, County Animal Response Team and the Technical Rescue Operations Team. Also participating were Carlisle Regional Medical Center and Holy Spirit Hospital along with support from the Cumberland County Geospatial Information Systems Office (electronic mapping), South Mountain Amateur Repeater Association (closed circuit TV and communications from the scene of the incidents to the EOC), Cumberland County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Carlisle Barracks, and Carlisle School District. Participation was not limited to these agencies though; with the 6+ major response scenarios occurring there were over 3885 different participants from over 143 agencies across the 8 Counties.



Deputy Director Achieves 3rd Professional Certification

Bob Shively, Deputy Director of Public Safety/Emergency Management for Cumberland County, has successfully completed all of the requirements for County Coordinator Professional Certification from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). PEMA provides three levels of certification to all qualified staff positions within the Emergency Management Office – basic, advanced, and professional. The certifications require completion of various classroom sessions and online training. Classes include a wide variety of emergency

management topics and training exercises allowing students to demonstrate their abilities first hand. Class locations vary from local locations such as PEMA or County Emergency Operation Centers to distant locations like State College, Wilkes-Barre, and the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Bob was awarded all three certifications at the County Coordinator level simultaneously. He had also completed the requirements and received all three certifications for both the Emergency Management Staff curriculum and the

Local Emergency Management Coordinator curriculum in the past to become one of the first in the State with all 9 certifications. Bob has held the Deputy Director position for the past 2 years. Prior to moving to the front office, he spent 16 years working in the Communications Center as a dispatcher and Shift Supervisor. Bob also serves as Local Emergency Management Coordinator for Upper Mifflin Township and is President of the Western Emergency Management Association.

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Dispatchers Making a Difference

By Megan Silverstrim and Gary Dressler

Each dispatcher at DPS completes Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Training when they are hired and must be recertified every 2 years. This training allows them to offer pre-arrival instructions to callers until the emergency services arrive. Three DPS dispatchers recently put their EMD skills to the test by saving three lives and bringing new life into the world.

In late September, Dispatcher Kris Kaminski took a 9-1-1 call shortly after 2300 hours for a female in her 30's that was not breathing. Kaminski remained on the line with the caller giving him instructions to clear the victims airway until EMS arrived and took over. The female was transported to an area Emergency Room and was placed in a regular

room a few hours later. This was only the beginning of what would prove to be an exciting night for Kaminski. About an hour later Kaminski took another 9-1-1 call, this time for a female about to give birth. He followed EMD protocol and gave child birthing instructions. Due to his diligence, a healthy baby boy was welcomed into the world.

In Early October, Dispatcher Scott Disbrow took a 9-1-1 call for a female that was not breathing. Disbrow followed EMD protocols and gave CPR instructions to the caller. The female was transported to the hospital and underwent a heart catheter procedure. About two weeks later the victim and her husband called the 9-1-1 center to thank Disbrow for saving her life. This phone call is a rewarding thing as

often dispatchers do not learn the outcome of the calls they receive, nor do they get the thanks they deserve.

In late October, Dispatcher Duane Ruth took a 9-1-1 call for a female in cardiac arrest. Ruth stayed on the line providing CPR instructions. The female was transported to a local ER where she survived.

DPS understands the importance of recognizing and honoring these invaluable dispatchers and recently started the "Life Savers Program". Similar to the Stork Club (dispatchers who have assisted in delivering a baby), dispatchers who save a life by providing pre-arrival medical instructions will be recognized by receiving a Life Saver Pin to be worn on their uniform.

EOC Mondays

By: Megan Silverstrim

If you stop by DPS on a Monday morning and look in the EOC don't be alarmed by all the commotion. There's no emergency, it's just EOC Monday! EOC Monday has become a regular occurrence at DPS. Every Monday the DPS staff meets in the EOC from 9 to noon in hopes of making the EOC and it's staff more efficient and productive when an activation occurs. EOC Mondays started

in late August of this year and have allowed the EOC staffers to discuss areas of possible improvement, become more comfortable with their role in the EOC, and cross train in other positions..

EOC Mondays include a variety of topics. So far DPS staffers have covered topics such as SMART board training, Press Conference and Media Staging Set Up, 3n Instacom Alerting and Notification Software, Red

Cross resource and response training, Wide Vigilance II Preparation, Incident Action Plan training, and a Wide Vigilance II After Action Review. If any EOC volunteers are interested in attending an EOC Monday contact Bob Shively by phone (240-6400) or email (rshively@ccpa.net).

NFPA 1584

January 2, 2009, 0118 hours:
"123 Bizarre Street, Hallehujah Township, 3rd alarm structure fire, Engine A1, Engine Z9....."

August 10, 2009, 1826 hours:
"123 Bizarre Street, Hallehujah Township, 3rd alarm structure fire, Engine A1, Engine Z9...."

If the temperature is 30° F or 98° F, are you prepared to take care of the physical needs of the first responders on a long-term incident or event? NFPA 1584 is no longer just a suggestion, it is a standard that applies to organiza-

tions providing rescue, fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials mitigation, special operations and other emergency services, including public, military, private and industrial fire departments.

NFPA 1584 states that every fire department is to develop and/or continue to utilize standard operating guidelines that outline a systematic approach for the rehabilitation of members operating at incidents and/or training exercises. These guidelines shall include but not be limited to the

following: (1) relief from climatic conditions; (2) rest and recovery; (3) active and/or passive cooling or warming as needed for incident type and climate conditions; (4) rehydration [fluid replacement]; (5) calorie and electrolyte replacement; (6) medical monitoring; (7) emergency medical services [EMS] treatment in accordance with local protocol; (8) member accountability; (9) release. In an effort to better assist the emergency service organizations and providers within Cumberland County, the Department of Public

Safety is actively participating with the South Central Task Force, Medical Working Group. This Working Group is reviewing NFPA 1584, identifying 'rehab' units and other 'medical specialty' units within the 8 county region and, is developing a regional template that can be utilized by the local emergency service organizations to be compliant with this standard. To schedule a 'rehab' training session and/or to obtain a copy of NFPA 1584, you can contact Michele Parsons by phone (240-6400) or by email (mparsons@ccpa.net).

DPS Assists With President Bush Visit

By: Megan Silverstrim

The EOC was a buzz with activity and 9 EOC staffers were on hand on December 17th, as President Bush was coming to Carlisle to speak to students at the US Army War College. With the inclement weather making the President's route of travel uncertain the EOC and several other emergency services resources were on stand by to help ensure the safe arrival of the Commander in Chief.

Around 1030 hours the EOC received confirmation that The President would be traveling to Harrisburg International Airport onboard Air Force One and a motorcade would be escorting him to the War College. Carlisle Fire Police, PA State Police, Middlesex PD, North Middleton PD, and the Cumberland County Sheriffs Office assisted in shutting down the Harrisburg Pike as the motorcade proceeded through. While President Bush was visiting on Post, the EOC was informed that the President would be leaving Carlisle onboard Marine One. Crews from Com-

pany 41, 35, and 36 were on hand at the Carlisle Airport to assist in the landing of the support helicopter that flew in with Marine One to pick up the President. Marine One along with two UH-60 "Blackhawks" helicopters landed on Post in preparation for the Presidents departure. While the President was on Post, several DPS staff members and members from Company 41, 35, and 36 were treated to a tour of a VH-53E helicopter, nicknamed "Hurricane Maker". The 4 man crew from the Marine Corps allowed the DPS staffers to view the inside of the aircraft. Around 1530 hours DPS staffers watch as the VH-53E departed and met up with the UH-60's and Marine One. At this time the EOC and the Carlisle Fire Police assisted again in traffic control as all roads surrounding the War College were shut down. The President safely departed the Carlisle Area and the EOC returned to "Ready" status. DPS would like to thank all of the local emergency services that assisted with this event.



EMS Task Force Deployment

By: Michele Parsons

Katrina... Gustav... two hurricanes making landfall in the gulf coast causing catastrophic damage. Although the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania did not experience the devastating impact from these storms that Mississippi and Louisiana did, Cumberland County was very much involved.



Labor Day weekend in 2005 had our EMS community active in the 'recovery' efforts in the gulf coast, while Labor Day weekend in 2008 had our EMS community active in the 'response' efforts in the gulf coast. How does this happen? In both cases an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) was sent from the Louisiana State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to the Pennsylvania

EOC requesting a specific number of EMS units along with a specific number of EMS providers to fulfill a mission. In 2005, the mission was, considered a 'recovery' effort even though it appeared to be a 'response' effort. In 2008, the mission was a pre-event response request. EMS units from Pennsylvania were requested prior to the hurricane making landfall in an effort to be prepared for the predicted devastation and EMS needs based on Lessons Learned from the 2005 incident.

Who decides which organizations respond? Numerous emergency services organizations actively participate in the South Central Task Force (SCTF). These services have signed a memorandum of understanding/agreement that allows them to receive train-



ing and equipment to effectively respond to hazards of all types and ranges. The Department of Health recognizes the organizations that have chosen to participate and receive the additional training and equipment through the SCTF. The training and equipment that these organizations have received allows them to be considered 'response ready' to fulfill the missions across the nation.

How do you and/or your organization become part of this opportunity? The EMS organizations currently participating are always eager to support additional organizations and/or personnel to become involved. The training and equipment are free to the participants. To learn more about this wonderful opportunity, contact Michele Parsons by phone (240-6400) or by email (mparsons@ccpa.net).



Cumberland County Department of Public Safety

Proud Sponsor



CUMBERLAND COUNTY
THANKS
PROGRAM
Honoring Emergency Service Volunteers

Thank You!



Cumberland County wants to remind you how much we appreciate our volunteers in the emergency services! The THANKS Program continues to allow the community to give back to you for all that you give through a county wide incentive program that offers discounts at several local businesses and municipalities.

Who's Eligible?

Volunteer Fire Company Personnel

Volunteer EMS Personnel

Cumberland County Special Teams Volunteers

Red Cross Volunteers

EOC Volunteers

*If you are already enrolled in the program, be sure to check for new offers at www.ccpa.net!

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Public Safety~ Your Expectation~ Our Commitment

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DPS Participates in Change Your Clock Change Your Battery

By: Megan Silverstrim

DPS participated once again in the Change Your Clock Change your battery program sponsored by Energizer Battery and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. This national program reminds citizens to change their smoke detector batteries when they change their clocks in November. Communities nationwide witness tragic home fire deaths each year. An average of two children

per day die in home fires and 80 percent of those occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Non-working smoke alarms rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide. The most commonly cited cause of non-working smoke alarms: dead or missing batteries.

Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year is one of the simplest, most effective

ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries. In fact, working smoke alarms nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a home fire. This year DPS handed out over 100 batteries to Cumberland County employees as well as helpful smoke detector literature. DPS is a proud participant of this important program and would like to thank Energizer Battery for donating batteries to assist in our efforts.



PUBLIC SAFETY SPECIAL FEATURE

Technical Rescue Operation Team (TROT)

By: Michele Parsons

The Cumberland County Technical Rescue Operations Team (TROT) is a county-based technical rescue team comprised of the following participating agencies: Citizens Fire Company, Enola (Company 18); Citizens Fire Company, Mechanicsburg (Company 27); Cumberland-Goodwill Fire Rescue Company, Carlisle (Company 40); Hampden Township Volunteer Fire Company (Company 30); Washington Fire Company, Mechanicsburg (Company 28); West End Fire and Rescue, Shippensburg (Company 54); and West Shore Emergency Medical Services (Company 80).

The team is capable of regional response within South-Central PA and is trained, equipped and capable of conducting “operations” and “technician” level rescue ac-

tivities (as outlined in NFPA 1670) in the following disciplines:

- Trench / Excavation Collapse and Emergencies
- Building Collapse or Instability
- Rope / High Angle Incidents
- Confined Space Emergencies

When requested, the team functions under the authority of the local Incident Commander or the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to provide information, guidance and support of specialized rescue operations.

TROT is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and can be requested directly through the Cumberland County 9-1-1 Center by any local Incident Commander responding to, or operating

on the scene of an incident where it is believed that the capabilities of the team may be of benefit. The team can also be placed on automatic response for technical rescue incidents by indicating “Company 500” on box card assignments for rescue incidents involving any of the incident types listed above. For more information on the team contact Michele Parsons by phone (240-6400) or email (mparsons@ccpa.net).

