



Cumberland County Department of Public Safety

The Communiqué

Three Mile Island Exercise

By Bob Shively

Cumberland County

Department of Public Safety

1101 Claremont Road Carlisle, PA 17015 Phone: 1-888-697-0371 x 6400

Non-Emergency Communications Number Shippensburg 532-8878 Carlisle 243-4121 West Shore 238-9676 Fax: 717-245-8710 E-mail: ema@ccpa.net

Director

J.Theodore Wise

Deputy Director

Emergency Management

Robert Shively

Deputy Director

Public Safety Communications

Douglas Glass

The Cumberland County Department of Public Safety completed its biennial federally evaluated Three Mile Island Exercise April 14th and 15th.



The Exercise is required for all Counties and Municipalities within the TMI Emergency Planning Zone which includes a 10 mile radius around the plant. The County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) along with EOC's for New Cumberland Borough and Lower Allen Township were evaluated on many aspects including public notification, coordination for the evacuation of residents if



needed, and establishment of Mass Care/ Reception/Monitoring & Decontamination Centers. The reception center at Shippensburg University was evalu-

ated as well as the Emergency Worker Monitoring and Decontamination station located at the West Shore Bureau of Fire station in Lemoyne. Refresher training was conducted at all locations prior to the exercise. The federal evaluators did not note any issues requiring corrective action and provided several positive comments. They were impressed by the command and coordination of the EOC, the new regional personnel alerting software system, Public Information (press releases & media briefing), NIMS compliancy and the use of ICS Forms, and the number of personnel especially the high number of volunteers at the EOC's and the monitoring/decontamination locations. For the training and exercise portions, we had a total of 352 attendees when totaling up all of the sessions.



9-1-1 Third Grade Program

By Megan Silverstrim

After a one year hiatus the DPS 9-1-1 program for third grade students has returned! So far this year DPS dispatchers have gone out to 7 schools and spoken to over 500 students. This years program is quite different to the programs you may have seen in the past. The new program, called "9-1-1 for Kids" starts with a short video called the "9-1-1 Adventures". This video introduces the children to Red E. Fox, the 9-1-1 super hero! Red, teaches children when it's ok to call 9-1-1, how to dial 9-1-1 and what information you need to give to the 9-1-1 dispatchers when you

call. At the end of the video, dispatchers review important topics from the video and answer any questions the students may have about 9-1-1. Once the program is completed, students are given an "I'm a Ready Kid" sticker, a certificate that states they are "9-1-1 Ready Kids" and several other helpful handouts to help remind them of the important lessons they learned from Red E. Fox and the DPS dispatchers. For more information on this program please contact Gary Dressler at 240-6400.



RED E. FOX

Inside this issue:

- Mobile Unit Rally 2
2009 Weather Exercise 2
Reality Check 2009 2
*NEW -Remember When 3
State of Task Force 4
SPOT LIGHT-John Sheaffer 5

9-1-1 Mobile Unit Attends Rally

By Gary Dressler

On Thursday, May 7, 2009 9-1-1 Manager Gary Dressler, Supervisor Curt Hall, and Dispatcher III Kris Kaminski attended the Mobile Communications and Command Vehicle Rally at the Fairfax County, VA Police Driving Track in Chantilly, VA. Communications One was displayed with 60 other communications vehicles from Virginia, Maryland, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania. This event focuses on the

importance of interoperability and how to further achieve it. Participants toured the 60 vehicles on hand to see how others operate, and to test the ability of the vehicles to link up to each other and effectively communicate. This was the fifth year for this event, and the first year for Cumberland County to be a participant. DPS looks forward to participating in this educational event next year.



DPS Participates in annual PEMA Weather Exercise

By Megan Silverstrim

DPS participated in PEMA's annual Weather Exercise on March 5th. Along with the EOC's activation, a total of 41 organizations and facilities in Cumberland County participated. These 41 groups were comprised of but not limited to school districts, day cares, assisted living facilities, and prisons.

The exercise commenced on March 4th

with a PEMA weather conference call that warned Cumberland County officials of a low pressure system that would be moving into the area with the potential to produce damaging winds, large hail, and flash flooding.

On the morning of March 5th the EOC officially activated as the "storm" moved into Cumberland County and began to cause damage and

chaos in the county. The EOC staff skills were put to the test as they received several injects including a water main break, a school building collapse, and the crash of a helicopter carrying a top federal government official that had been in the area. The exercise was a great learning experience for the EOC staff as well as the 41 participating organizations.

DPS Participates in "Reality Check 2009"

By Megan Silverstrim

Every day, approximately 36 people die and 700 are injured in vehicle accidents involving an alcohol impaired driver. DPS understands the magnitude of this alarming statistic and is always willing to lend a hand in the fight against drinking and driving. On April 24th, DPS participated in a mock accident that was held at the Shippensburg Area Senior High School in conjunction with Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) annual pre-prom assembly titled "Reality Check 2009"

Nearly 500 juniors and seniors from Shippensburg were led out to the front lawn of the high school where they walked passed a gruesome accident scene with moulaged victims trapped in the car and several ejected from the car. Over a loud speaker students listened as units from the West End Fire and Rescue, Shippensburg Area EMS, Vigilant Hose Company, and Cumberland Valley Hose Company were dispatched by the Cumberland County Mobile Communications Unit, to the scene.

Students watched as victims were extricated from the vehicle while others were removed from the vehicle by the Franklin County Corner's Office and placed into body bags. Students also witnessed the "intoxicated" driver attempt to run from the vehicle and later he was arrested by the Shippensburg Police Department. Next students watched as one of the accident victims was taken to a landing zone in an adjacent field, where Stat MedEvac landed to transport the patient to a trauma center. The goal and hopes of the organizers of this drill (Katie McCorriston, SADD and Shippensburg Area EMS and Dana Stimers, Shippensburg Area EMS) were to show students the life altering and often life ending consequences that result from the poor decision to drink and drive. Students were asked to think not only of the impact on themselves and their friends, but also the impact such a scene could have on their family, the emergency responders and the community. **Article Continued on Page 5.**



Remember When...?

By: John E. Sheaffer and Megan Silverstrim

Communication centers and 9-1-1 have not always been a common and expected service in the community as they are today. Before the advent of these centers, emergency services were not just a simple phone call away. Often times if people had a fire or EMS emergency they had to go to the phone book, look up the number for one of the local companies, call and hope someone answered. This would then result in the siren being sounded as an alert to local responders that there was an emergency. Once a crew arrived at the station, they responded to your emergency. Once the unit was on the road, they were on their own with no communications. If they arrived at an incident and needed assistance, the whole process started over with the responders looking for a phone to call for help. Some communities had an alarm system, which operated similar to a telegraph. Pull boxes were located at intersections or other areas that could be activated by someone and would send a signal to the firehouses as to where the box was pulled from. These boxes were also used in some communities by the responders as a method for calling for additional help. Responders may have responded to a telephone report of a fire and upon arriving on the scene found that they needed assistance. The crew would send off one of the firefighters looking for a pull box to summon more help. If you needed police assistance The State Police had a barracks in most counties and would have someone there to answer the phone. In larger communities such as Carlisle, they too had a officer on station to answer the telephone calls. Prior to radio, Carlisle Police would patrol the streets and would periodically stop in the police

station or stop at a telephone call box which was directly connected to the station and “check in”.

When a communications center finally came to Cumberland County it was still much different than what we depend on today. Cumberland County has had numerous communications centers. At one point six centers were functioning. The first center in the county was the West Shore Center located in Lemoyne and handled the Borough of Lemoyne and Lower Allen Township. The Mechanicsburg center handled the Borough of Mechanicsburg. Carlisle Police Department also had its own dispatch center. The Shippensburg Center covered the western part of the County near Shippensburg. These localized centers were funded by the local municipalities that they served and dispatched police, fire and EMS services. The State Police barracks in Carlisle received police calls from those municipalities that didn't have local police protection. The current Cumberland County Center was located in Carlisle and handled what was left. In 1972, the West Shore dispatch center closed and transferred its responsibilities to the County Center. The center remained in the basement of the old prison until 1969 when it was moved to the basement of the new Court House. It remained there as a small one room two radio operation until 1975. In 1975, the room was expanded into two rooms. One room was utilized for a call taker and fire dispatcher. The other room handled the police radio traffic. This configuration was short-lived when in April of 1977 the advent of 9-1-1 in Pennsylvania occurred. On April 1, 1977, 9-1-1 was “turned on” in most of Cumberland County.

With the start of 9-1-1, the old local communication centers (Mechanicsburg / Shippensburg) were finally all closed. Only Carlisle Police and the State Police maintained their own services as they still do today. Cumberland County was one of the first counties in the State to have 9-1-1 service. With the phone companies inability to selectively route 9-1-1 calls within certain exchanges, Cumberland County was now receiving calls from all of Cumberland County and portions of York and Franklin Counties. By May of 1993, 9-1-1 calls were finally selectively routed so that only calls from residents within Cumberland County were received.

By 1985 the 9-1-1 center had long outgrown its courthouse site. With the construction of the new prison facility on the Claremont Road, a new center was planned for the basement area. On March 13, 1990, the center was moved to the new location. In 2000, Cumberland County was contracted to provide dispatch services to Fulton County. Fulton County 9-1-1 calls and radio dispatching is handled in the center at the prison site. Finally, after eleven years of hard use, the communications center was uprooted and moved “down the hall” on March 13, 2001 to a more spacious room. With the transition to 800 MHz radio on the horizon and the need for Computer Aided Dispatch, it was decided that the current consoles, furniture, and surroundings were inadequate to function with the new equipment. The center now provides 8 radio console positions and 4 call taker positions. State of the art radio consoles, furniture, and phone equipment is utilized in the new center. We certainly have come a long way!

DPS Staffer Receives Certifications

By: Megan Silverstrim

Connie Heckard, the DPS Administrative Coordinator, has successfully completed all of the requirements for Emergency Management Staff Professional Certification from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). PEMA provides three levels of certification to all qualified staff positions within the Emergency Management Of-

fice – 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. Connie was recognized for her achievement by the Cumberland County Commissioners during The Commissioners meeting on Monday June 1, 2009. Congratulations Connie!



STATE OF THE TASK FORCE
An Introduction to the Regional Task Force
By Ted Wise



A Weapons of Mass Destruction, WMD event will be sufficiently large and it is anticipated that it will completely overwhelm any Pennsylvania county's capability to respond and may involve an attempt to target first responders. This response will be "on their own" and have to be capable of sustaining operations for the initial 24 hours before state resources and up to 96 hours before federal resources will arrive.

The Regional Task Force (RTF) was conceived and the concept is designed to provide assistance along those lines. It attempts to bring maximum immediate resources to bear on the problem prior to the arrival of limited state and considerable federal forces to the scene. Again, it will take time for the most responsive of these state and federal forces to arrive on the scene. As we have learned from other events, life saving is done by resources that arrive quickly – the only life saving success at Oklahoma City was done by Oklahoma City rescue efforts, none by the 12 Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces that were dispatched from around the country. The Regional Task Force challenge is to get neighboring forces in to help and save those lives; to develop a "box-alarm" type system for an effective multi-county response; to develop a Unified Command System concept within the RTF area that will enable follow-on resources to efficiently arrive on the scene and commence operations with a minimum of confusion.

The Regional Task Forces need to constantly attempt to broaden the participation of State and Federal agencies active in the process of homeland security. The RTF, through their committees and working groups, must fully integrate participation of those pertinent state and federal agencies that will bring assets and requirements to the process. Some agencies have responded well; others, poorly. Department of Environmental Protection emergency response teams are an integral response element of Hazmat in most areas and need to be totally familiar with the RTF Hazmat operations. The Department of Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness has the responsibility for interagency collaboration and preparedness for public health and medical consequence of all disasters and emergencies. This integration is obviously very complex and involves numerous regional agencies and hospital systems. As such, it will require several committees and working groups to insure full integration and representation. The State Police have a significant Crisis Management and intelligence fusion role in the state and need to be full time players. Regional National Guard elements and units of the U.S. Military Reserves need to be more effectively integrated into the planning process so that they will understand in advance the nature of civilians response operations.

Functional committees in fire, Hazmat, law enforcement, EMS, hospitals, public information, public health and public works have proven to be very successful in addressing the problems of multi-county response. These are unique opportunities and should not be squandered by a lack of coordination and knowledge in development of the database. RTF is fundamentally a response organization but the spin-offs in other areas are great. It applies whether the event is truly terrorism or just a large emergency management event, natural or technological. The concept is dual based.

RTFs are new and different in Pennsylvania. Much of it is contrary to the way we have normally done business in the Commonwealth. But the regionalism concept is the wave of the future to accomplish economies of scale throughout government. Its dual nature is beneficial to our business. There will be many fits and starts and one overlay cannot fit all. Tremendous accomplishments in this difficult program to date attest to what can be done with dedication and imagination.

Emergency Management's chore is to respond as the Consequence Manager. It is different than our normal mission only in the scope of the response and the added concern that the terrorist may intentionally target first responders.

Department Directory
1-888-697-0371 x 6400

Director—

J. Theodore Wise Email: twise@ccpa.net

Deputy Director/Emergency Management—

Robert Shively Email: rshively@ccpa.net

Deputy Director/911 Communications—

Douglas Glass Email: dglass@ccpa.net

Fiscal Coordinator—

Claudia Garner Email: cgarner@ccpa.net

Administrative Coordinator—

Connie Heckard Email: checkard@ccpa.net

Department Clerk—

Megan Silverstrim Email: mmoriarty@ccpa.net

Emergency Operations Chief—

Eric Hoerner Email: ehoerner@ccpa.net

Hazardous Materials Planner—

Linda Hamilton Email: lhamilton@ccpa.net

Emergency Resources Coordinator—

John Quirk Email: jquirk@ccpa.net

Emergency Management Trainer—

Michele Parsons Email: mparsons@ccpa.net

Information Management Supervisor—

Greg Pickel Email: gpickel@ccpa.net

Technical Systems Coordinator—

Brian Hamilton Email: bhamilton@ccpa.net

911 Operations Manager—

John Sheaffer Email: jsheaffer@ccpa.net

911 Administrative Manager—

Melvin Monismith

Email: mmonismith@ccpa.net

**911 Quality Assurance/ Staff Development
Manager—**

Gary Dressler Email: gdressler@ccpa.net

CART Training

By Eric Hoerner

On March 7, 2009 The Cumberland County Animal Response Team (CCART, Team 600) conducted a full scale sheltering exercise. “The first attempt of CCART to establish a small animal shelter went well” according to Vicky Hudson, CCART coordinator. Members responded to Barn Stable Road and set up a shelter from start to finish. A quarantine area, veterinary practice area, animal tracking system, registration area and security were established. The team

also addressed trailer safety, bio-hazard considerations, mutual aid resources, and communication equipment use during the exercise. Joel Hersh of the State Animal Rescue Team, the Western Emergency Management Association and Mary Kutulakis of the Fieldwood Dog Training Center were on hand to watch and assist with the drill. On Sunday April 5, 2009 Cumberland County CART participated in a high occupancy building fire exercise at Susquehanna View Apartments in East Pennsboro

Township along with several departments from the East Pennsboro and West Shore Area. A temporary shelter was set up at the residence for the pets of evacuating. This was a great opportunity for the fire department to learn what services the CART team has to offer and how they can be utilized. Anyone interested in joining the CART team can contact Vicky Hudson at 776-7464 or ccart2009@hotmail.com.

DPS Participates in “Reality Check 2009”, Continued

Through the help of all the participating personnel and organizations, this message was certainly delivered to the stu-

dents! DPS later issued certificates of recognition to Katie McCorrison, Dana Stimers, SADD, and Shippensburg Area

EMS for the commendable efforts to organize “Reality Check 2009”.

PUBLIC SAFETY SPECIAL FEATURE



John E. Sheaffer Celebrates 35 Years with Cumberland County

By: Megan Silverstrim

The Cumberland County Department of Public Safety and it’s staff would like to recognize and thank John E. Sheaffer for his 35 years of service to the County. John graduated from Carlisle High School in 1971 and from Harrisburg Area Community College in 1973 with an Associate Degree in Police Science. In May of 1974, he started his career as a dispatcher working the swing shifts at the Communications center which was located in the basement of the Court House under the direction of Chief Dispatcher, Creedon Shatto. John was promoted to Shift Supervisor in 1978. As Supervisor “B”, John handled Fire and EMS operations. John was involved since day one with the Phantom Box System and has managed this since. John continued to work within the Communications

Center work force until 1998 when he was assigned to office duty. He continued to handle his supervisory assignments along with overseeing the Mobile Communications Unit and the assumption of Fulton County 9-1-1 services by Cumberland County. In 2006, John was appointed to the newly created Operations Manager position for the 9-1-1 Center. His duties today include overall Communications Center operations and Mobile Unit functions.

John has had a long history of involvement with the Emergency Services of Cumberland County. He is a 4th generation member of the fire service. John joined the Cumberland Fire Company of Carlisle in 1970. He was Chief of the Cumberland from 1974 – 1975. He joined the Union Fire Co. of Carlisle in 1976 and remains an

active member. He was Chief of the Union from 1978-1980 and has been a driver in Carlisle since 1974. John has seen many changes to the emergency services in Cumberland County during his 35 years of service and has a passion for preserving this history and passing it on to future generations. John has been a fan of 410 Sprint Car racing since he was a young boy and is also a Harley Davidson enthusiast and enjoys riding with his wife Brenda. John and Brenda have been married 17 years. John has one son, Christopher, who currently lives in Mechanicsburg. John on behalf of DPS we thank you for your 35 years of commitment, your hard work, and the expertise you have brought to this department.