



Spring 2011

Cumberland County Department of Public Safety

The Communiqué

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Cumberland County Department of Public Safety

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TMI Biennial Exercise a Success By Bob Shively

It was Thursday afternoon April 14th at 3 p.m. when we finally heard the words we had been anxiously waiting for from the FEMA Evaluator; "Cumberland County has no old issues, no new issues, and no re-demonstrations required." After a short sigh of relief, it was good to know that we had successfully completed all requirements for the biennial federal evaluation of readiness for events involving the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Generating Station. Cumberland County DPS in conjunction with PEMA and Exelon Nuclear hosted various trainings in anticipation of the exercises which were held on April 12 & 13, 2011. Trainings had been

conducted at the New Cumberland Borough EOC, the Lower Allen Township EOC, the Cumberland County EOC, West Shore Bureau of Fire – Lemoyne Station and the Big Spring High School in Newville. All in all, 134 personnel attended the training sessions leading up to the actual exercises.

April 12th consisted of exercising and evaluation of the Emergency Operations Centers at New Cumberland, Lower Allen Township, and Cumberland County. The following evening, April 13th, exercising and evaluation continued at the West Shore Bureau of Fire –



Lemoyne Station for Emergency Worker monitoring and decontamination while simultaneously the Monitoring and Decontamination Reception/Mass Care Shelter at Big Spring High School was also being demonstrated for evaluation. New this year was the addition of a co-located pet shelter that was staffed by the County Animal Response Team. We ended up with 158 personnel signed in for the 2-day evaluation for a grand total of 292 attendees to support TMI activities this year. Cumberland County DPS would like to thank all its partner agencies who continue to protect and serve the residents and visitors of Cumberland County each day.

Spring Flooding By Bob Shively

Spring 2011 will certainly go down in history as a memorable time for many as multiple storms and severe weather challenged emergency services, public works, and residents across the County. The April 16th storm created severe flood damage in Lower Allen Township and the Camp Hill area. Many residents unfortunately experienced damage to living areas within their homes. Initial damage assessment information did not meet the criteria for a Presidential Declaration but through a great deal of hard work and extra effort, Lower



Allen Township damage assessments were able to secure a Small Business Administration (SBA) Declaration for Cumberland County residents as well as residents from the contiguous 5 counties surrounding Cumberland County. The declaration allows the SBA to provide low interest loans for those who suffered uninsured losses and wish to participate in the loan application process. The SBA sent representatives to open an Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) at the Lower Allen Township Emergency Services Building to gather application requests as well as provide answers to questions and general information on the SBA loan process.

To date 92 people visited the DLOC. A total of 25 loans, totaling \$481,600 were approved. I would like to thank the Lower Allen Township Commissioners and Staff, the SBA staff, PEMA, and the Cumberland County Commissioners and DPS Staff for their support with this process. I would also like to give special recognition to Frank Williamson, Connie Heckard, and Eric Hoerner for their extra efforts in collection of the data and support material enabling the SBA declaration. This multi-agency collaborative effort continues to pay dividends to the residents of Cumberland County.

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NEW BUILDING UPDATE



The new home of DPS is nearing completion! DPS staff will begin the moving process this summer!

New Building Fast Facts...

- Home of the Public Safety Communications Center, County Emergency Management Agency
- Dedicated training and meeting space for Emergency Services and DPS partner agencies
- Cost– Approximately \$12 million
- Approximately 22,000 square feet

Communication Center Status Overview

DPS would like to remind responders of the Communications Status Levels, which are listed in the Fire/EMS Communications Manual. Please make yourself and your company/organization's members familiar with this information as it is not uncommon for the statuses to change.

Status 1– Communications Center is operating under normal conditions.

Status 2- Communications Operations has moved to the back up center. Normal operations can be assumed with exception to the following:

1. Communications with Headquarters on the Ops talk groups is not to be assumed. All fire traffic to the communications center must be done on the Fire 1 talk group unless advised otherwise.
2. All dispatching will be accomplished with the manual response systems (No CAD). Incident numbers will be unavailable until the back loading of CAD occurs

Status 3- Communications Center is operating under extreme load. Radio traffic will be limited to responding and available status. Any non-priority traffic will not be acknowledged. Non-priority phone calls (times, etc.) to the Communications Center will not be accepted. Fire and EMS Stations are to be manned to receive low priority calls by telephone.

Status 4– Radio system has failed, but the phone system remains operable. Fire and EMS stations are to be manned to receive calls by telephone.

Status 5- The Communications Center is inoperable from both the primary site and the back up facility. All systems are out of service. Fire and EMS stations are to be manned to receive calls from the public.

Wills for Heroes Spring 2011

Cumberland County DPS, along with Dickinson School of Law hosted another successful Wills for Heroes event in March! During the Spring DPS event 58 wills were created for first responders and their spouses/significant others. The Wills for Heroes Program is a nationwide program, providing essential legal documents free of charge to our nation's first

responders, including wills, living wills, and powers of attorney.

The six hour event was made possible by 13 attorneys, 14 law students, 4 notaries and 4 community members volunteering their time! DPS hopes to host another event in the fall and continue to offer this valuable service to area emergency services responders.



May 26th Storm

A storm system rapidly developed south west of Cumberland County on May 26th, causing widespread wind damage and flash flooding. While most of the county felt the effects of wind gusts up to 40-60 mph, the National Weather Service did confirm that an F1 tornado actually swept through the Hogestown Area. Thankfully no one was injured as the tornado made its way 2.5 miles, occasionally lifting off the ground and even crossing over I-81.

The storm caused 45,000 PPL customers to lose power, including the Department of Public Safety. The Communications Center ran on generator power for nearly 12 hours. During the outage the Communications Center dispatched 2090 calls throughout the county. PPL worked diligently throughout the area to restore power. PPL brought utility crews in from other states to address the is-

sue. As is Public Utility Commission protocol, PPL restored power to public safety facilities first and then restored the lines and substations that serve the largest populations. Then power was restored to smaller neighborhoods, individual homes and businesses. PPL remained in contact with Cumberland County and kept the staff well informed of its efforts with frequent progress reports.

As a result of the power outages, Cumberland County was plagued with several other issues. A generator fire at the Carlisle Waster Water Treatment Plant, left the plant incapacitated for several hours. Carlisle residents were advised to avoid flushing toilets and running water down drains until the issue was resolved and the plant was back to full capacity. Power outages also meant traffic signals were not operating in areas of the county. This led to the deployment of fire police from throughout Cumberland County to

establish traffic control points and manage many areas left without traffic signals.

The Saturday after the storm, a small pocket of Cumberland County residents in East Pennsboro were still without power and running water. A water fill site was set up by East Pennsboro Township Fire Department so that residents could get water to flush toilets in their homes. By Monday, power and water were restored to all residents in the county.

Cumberland County DPS would like to thank all of those who worked tirelessly in the hours and days after the storm. Cumberland County DPS would also like to remind its residents and business owners the importance of storm and disaster preparedness in light of the recent storms and flooding in the area. Plans for alternate power, water and heating/cooling should be a priority. Remember— get a kit, make a plan and stay informed!

800 MHz Touch Two

Cumberland County DPS has completed the final phase of FCC rebanding also known as "Touch Two". Teams hit the streets starting the first week of April and rapidly moved through the County. Each portable and mobile operating in Cumberland County was "touched" resulting in a software upgrade and the removal of the old frequencies. Discrepancy equipment was also being delivered to the agencies during this time.

Each portable and mobile took approximately 15 minutes to update. Quality

assurance teams were also on hand to make sure that the radios were functioning properly after the update. With the completion of "Touch Two", 25 control stations, 672 mobiles and 1,772 portables were updated.

So far in 2011 the Cumberland County radio system has seen 1,875,115 PTT's (push to talks), with an average of 13,192 PTT's per day. We currently utilize 458 talkgroups countywide.



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PUBLIC SAFETY
SPECIAL FEATURE



TECHNICAL RESPONSE OPERATIONS TEAM

The Cumberland County Technical Rescue Operations Team (TROT) has started off the first half of 2011 with a lot of activity! During the winter months the team members accepted invitations from Land-O-Lakes and Nestle Purina to tour their facilities and talk with internal emergency response personnel. These invitations progressed into on-site training, exercise scenario development and a working relationship between members of the TROT and on-site employees. Additional activity included several emergency responses for partial structural collapses, vehicles into structures and several additional ‘stand by’ requests. These responses were not just in Cumberland County, but also throughout the region. The men and wom-

en that ‘make up’ TROT have proven to be an invaluable resource to the community and Cumberland County Department of Public Safety is proud to have them as part of their first responder community.

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); Carlisle Fire Rescue Services, Carlisle (Company 45); 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 activities (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

TROT is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year! For additional information, you may contact Michele Parsons at 717-245-8712 or mparsons@ccpa.net.