



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE:

July 26, 2024

TO:

The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

FROM:

Randy Padfield
Director, PA Emergency Management Agency

TIME PERIOD:

This report covers the period from 0600 hours, July 25, 2024, through 0600 hours, July 26, 2024.

STATUS REPORT: (as of 0600 hours)

THREAT STATUS:

National Terrorism Advisory System: There are no current advisories.

Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) Status: Normal Operations

County EOC Activations: None

Municipal EOC Activations: None

CAPABILITIES STATUS:

PA All-Hazards Type-3 Incident Management / Team – Mission Capable
PA-Task Force 1 (PA-TF1) - Mission Capable

INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS:

Major Road Closures:	None
Power Outage Reports:	As of 0600 hours, 1,618 customers
Telephone Outage Reports:	None

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

OPEN:

POWER OUTAGE AT ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY - Montgomery County, 7/25/24 - A power outage occurred at the Artis Senior Living of Huntingdon Valley at 2085 Lieberman Drive in Lower Moreland Township when a high-tension wire went down in front of the building. PECO repaired the line and restored commercial power going to the building; however, the outage damaged the facility's electrical system causing the building to remain without power. A total of 56 residents were evacuated to other accommodations while repairs are being performed.

FOUR ALARM APARTMENT BUILDING FIRE - Philadelphia County, 7/11/24 - At around 2130 hours, emergency crews responded to a four-story, approximately 200-unit apartment building fire at Roosevelt Apartments, located at 7400 Roosevelt Boulevard in the City of Philadelphia. When the first crews arrived, a second alarm was requested. Within 30 minutes, a third alarm, then a fourth alarm, was requested. An unknown number of occupants were evacuated. No injuries were reported. Approximately 150 firefighters and 57 vehicles responded to the fire. The Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management (OEM) deployed a liaison to the scene. The fire was reported to be under control after nearly three hours. The American Red Cross (ARC) and OEM opened a shelter for displaced residents at Samuel Fels High School, located at 5500 Langdon Street. As of midday on 7/12/24, ARC reported they housed 42 individuals overnight, and the shelter will remain open today. 7/14/24, shelter operations were relocated to OEM Luzerne Shelter, 600 East Luzerne Street at 1426 hours today. The shelter census is currently at 24 people. ARC and the Salvation Army are continuing to support the operation. Property management at the apartment building is waiting on PECO for electricity support response to aid in restoration efforts. Philadelphia OEM convened another Mass Care conference call on 7/15/24 at 1100 hours. The American Red Cross reported the updated shelter occupancy count was twelve. The Luzerne Shelter closed on 7/19 at 1800 hours. 7/22/24, the Mayor of Philadelphia issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

WATER LEAK - Lancaster County, 6/1/24 - A 3/4" cap on a water line broke on the 3rd floor of the Lancaster County Government Building, 150 North Queen Street in the City of Lancaster. The leak caused water damage to the 3rd floor as well as the floors below. A damage assessment was conducted by the Emergency Management staff, the County Facilities Director, and Complete Restoration. On 6/2/24, the County Commissioners decided to close the government center on Monday, 6/3/24, while evaluation of water damage in the building continues. The center reopened to the public on 6/10/24, but many of the offices are out of their normal locations and the facility is still in recovery mode.

ROAD CLOSURE DUE TO SUBSIDENCE - Cambria County, 4/25/24 - An engineer for West Taylor Township contacted the county EMA about subsidence of the roadway in the 100 block of Batzel Road. Emergency management staff responded and noted considerable subsidence of the roadway. This is reportedly an ongoing issue where the township lays down new asphalt as a temporary measure. Electrical service and a cable line are pulled tight between the nearby residence and a utility pole, which seems to have shifted. There is also considerable twisting of the guardrail. Cement barriers will be requested to close the roadway. There are no residents that are currently affected by this closure. There will be a minor detour for emergency vehicles. Engineers are working with the township to develop a long-term repair plan.

TRAIN DERAILMENT - Columbiana County, Ohio, 2/3/23 - On 2/3/23 at 2130 hours, mutual aid crews from Beaver County responded to a train derailment near Taggart Street, East Palestine, Ohio. Approximately 53 railcars derailed and some of them caught fire. There were five cars of vinyl chloride within the wreckage. Around 2330 hours a call was received from an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 representative, and they advised

there was no current impact to PA. EPA Region 5 and Ohio EPA set up air monitoring equipment and they also used handheld monitors, and nothing was detected. Members of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Southwest Regional Office were also onsite monitoring through daylight and maintained a presence until there was no threat to PA. An IMAAC model showed a potential impact to residences in PA if harmful chemicals were released from any of the derailed cars. Beaver County EMA Coordinator reported that they followed Columbiana County, Ohio's lead and a message was sent out to 16 registered users in the one-mile zone to shelter in place. Ohio later changed their message to an evacuation, but Beaver County remained as a shelter-in-place due to no residences being impacted. Shell Monaca was provided green foam to help extinguish the fires. Clean-up contractors from SPSI and Hepaco responded to the scene. The shelter-in-place order remained in effect for Beaver County. Beaver County sent tankers from nine departments and an engine to assist in drafting from a lake in town once the railroad deemed it was safe. As of 2/5/23, Columbiana County, Ohio EMA recommended a one-mile evacuation around the incident due to one of the vinyl chloride rail cars showing a temperature increase. This included the 10 homes that were sheltering in place within Beaver County. On 2/6/23, all 20 homes in the PA evacuation zone were evacuated. Beaver County Animal Response Team (CART) requested assistance for trailers from Washington and Westmoreland counties to assist with the evacuation of farm animals from Kindred Spirits Rescue Farm. The recommended evacuation zone remained at one mile. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) ordered a partial activation of the Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) at 1100 hours and Beaver County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) partially activated. A planned controlled detonation was performed to empty five rail cars into a trench to burn off the vinyl chloride. Norfolk Southern established a Family Assistance Center for affected residents in New Waterford, Ohio; Beaver Valley Intermediate School remained open. On 2/7/23, the plume from the controlled detonation on 2/6/23 dissipated with no significant air detection identified by EPA Region 3 or PA DEP. Norfolk Southern conducted wrecking operations of damaged cars at the sight. Normal readings were reported by the Ohio Civil Support Team after monitoring the inside of three residences. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources reported approximately 1,800 fish killed within the streams and creeks that were affected. Air monitoring continued and there were no contaminants or concerns. The PEMA CRCC demobilized on 2/8/23 at 1600 hours. All roads that were closed in PA, including PA-51, were reopened. The Beaver County EOC deactivated at 1200 hours on 2/10/23. A public inquiry line remains operational. On 2/14/23, the EPA identified three other chemicals that were part of the train. They continued to monitor the air and waterways for contamination. On 2/23/23, PEMA, in conjunction with the Departments of Health (DOH) and Environmental Protection, launched a website to provide information to Commonwealth residents about the derailment. On 2/28/23, the Pennsylvania Department of Health opened a Health Resource Center in Darlington Township, Beaver County for residents of Beaver and Lawrence counties who have health concerns following the Norfolk Southern train derailment. On 3/1/23, door-to-door surveys were conducted for 22 households within the 1-mile evacuation zone. Additional discussion led to a decision to do CDC outreach (door knocking) within the 2-mile radius in Pennsylvania, which began on 3/2/23. Approximately 450 healthcare providers participated in three webinars conducted on 2/28/23 and 3/1/23 for major medical providers in the Southwestern Region. Sample testing and review on Norfolk Southern soil sampling continued by Commonwealth agencies. The EPA Region 3 Director accompanied by staff, Pennsylvania Senator Casey, and Representative Deluzio toured the site on 3/2/23. On Monday, 3/6/23, Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro announced that Norfolk Southern has agreed to pay Pennsylvania millions of dollars for the impacts of the train derailment. Norfolk Southern agreed to reimburse local fire departments to replace contaminated or damaged equipment used during the response to the derailment, to provide funds for a Community Relief Fund to be run by officials in Beaver and Lawrence counties, and to reimburse state agencies (DEP, DOH, and PEMA) for associated costs. Norfolk Southern collected soil samples with

representatives from the EPA present. Removal of the train tracks closest of Pennsylvania began over the weekend and was completed 3/5/23. Excavation of the contaminated soil began, and odors were expected to be released into the air. Air monitoring was increased during the process which is expected to take at least three to four days depending on the depth of the contaminants in the soil. The EPA requested Norfolk Southern to provide additional financial assistance to residents within one mile of the derailment site if they are impacted by the odors released during the excavation of the soil which the company has agreed too. Pennsylvania state agencies supported another East Palestine Community Resource Fair this Thursday at the East Palestine High School. Beaver County coordinated a separate Community Resource Fair for Pennsylvania residents for the following week which the state agencies supported. U.S. Senator Bob Casey completed a quick tour and talk at the Health Resource Center Monday morning. A Norfolk Southern contracted company sampled 16 private wells in Pennsylvania. DEP sampled 27 private wells in the area as of Monday with more sampling expected 3/7/23. On 3/8/23 DHS coordinated a call with Beaver and Lawrence counties about the possibility of applying for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Emergency Response Grant (SERG) to provide funding for additional behavioral health services that may be required following this incident. DOH and PEMA also participated in the call. Excavation work at the site was temporarily stopped due to elevated readings and release of odor. The excavation of the soil at the south tracks of the derailment site was mostly complete. As of 3/13/23, Norfolk Southern was waiting on soil samples to come back from the elevated spots that were detected. Due to contaminants being detected during the initial excavation at two to four inches, additional sampling was done at 12 to 15 inches to make sure all contaminated soil is removed. Soil excavation for the north track was still in the planning process. As of 3/16/23, the excavation of the soil at the south tracks of the derailment site was completed. The Health Resource Center (HRC) completed its final daily operational period at 1400, 3/16/23. The HRC moved to operations on Thursdays beginning 3/23/23. Excavation of the north track and removal of contaminated soil and water continued. OSHA joined the on-site operations to provide support to the safety officer and ensure that the community and personnel are safe during operations. EPA Region 5 conducted an information session focused on air quality and air monitoring on 4/27/23. EPA Region 5 conducted an information session focused on surface water on Thursday, May 11, at the Way Station and First United Presbyterian Church in East Palestine. As of 6/27/23, excavation underneath Pleasant Drive was complete, and the roadway was opened for traffic on 6/28/23. Contamination underneath the north and south tracks was removed, and both tracks are fully operational. As of 7/11/23, surface and ground water sampling plans for the remainder of the cleanup have been approved by EPA. In addition, gravel was laid on the turnaround on East Martin Street in preparation for asphalt to help control erosion and dust. A site storm water inspection was conducted, and additional storm water controls were put into place to improve the existing storm water management plan. EPA hosted a site progress information session on 7/20/23 at the First United Presbyterian Church in East Palestine. Activities are ongoing. As of 7/31/23, Norfolk Southern offered help with indoor cleaning for homes and business for those within the one-to-two-mile Ohio-Pennsylvania evacuation zone. As of 3/22/24, the EPA and PA DEP continue to monitor wells in the area.

CLOSED:

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT - Luzerne County, 7/26/24 - Emergency crews responded to an industrial accident at Hazleton Shaft Corporation, 414 Stockton Mountain Road in Hazle Township. A male was stuck in a large coal mixer, was buried under tons of coal, and is deceased. It is unknown how the male got into the mixer. Crews have extricated the victim. The county coroner was notified.

MISSING ENDANGERED PERSON ADVISORY (MEPA) - Cambria County, 7/25/24 – A MEPA was issued for a 77-year-old white female operating a 2001 Kia Rio, silver in color with red pin stripes, bearing PA registration. She was last seen in the 500 block of Goucher Street in Johnstown City at 0915 on 07/24/24. She was located safe last evening.

STATEWIDE IT ISSUE – Statewide, 7/19/24 - An update to the Microsoft computer operating system caused computers to lose connectivity to the internet or show a blank screen. Several counties reported issues with computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems in the beginning; most were restored to full operation by mid-morning. Allegheny and Philadelphia Counties activated their EOC to monitor the situation, and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's (PEMA) Commonwealth Watch and Warning Center (CWWC) went to an enhanced level. Many of the hospitals in the Commonwealth reported having computer issues, with little to no degradation of health services. Power plants and the PJM grid maintainers reported no issues. York County reported issues with their power plant siren controls, but a workaround was quickly identified. All levels of government reported system outages. The CWWC returned to Normal Operations in the afternoon as systems began to come online. Allegheny deactivated their EOC, and Philadelphia has returned to normal operations.

ADVERSE WEATHER – Statewide, 7/16/24 - Severe storms crossed the Commonwealth Monday evening, which closed roadways, and caused power outages. Bradford County EOC activated for a tornado warning that was issued for Lycoming County but has since expired. Bradford County 911 Center and EOC were operating on generator power but have returned to commercial power. Power outages in Troy Borough, Bradford County, affected the water supply pump. A boil water advisory was issued for customers affected by the Troy Borough water plant failure. The Guthrie Troy Memorial Hospital is unaffected by the outage, as they have their own water supply. Bradford, Jefferson, Lebanon, Northampton, Susquehanna, and Tioga Counties have opened cooling shelters. Tankers are hauling water into the Troy water system to maintain tank levels. There were multiple reports of extensive damage to crops, power lines, and trees in Lancaster County. Trees blocked a Norfolk Southern railroad track in Lancaster County. This is a single-track freight only line. Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehabilitation, a senior care facility with 670 licensed beds in Lehigh County, is currently on backup generator power. Several residents were transported to Lehigh Valley Hospital. Wyoming County 911 Center briefly lost power and was operating on a generator. Power has since been restored. In addition, two of their UPS systems went down. Crews have fixed one and are working to get the second system operational. The York County Department of Emergency Services is operating on generator power. As of 7/17/24, Newport Meadows Nursing Home in Christiana Borough, Lancaster County, report they were without power since last night (7/16/24) and were operating on emergency generator until Wednesday evening. York County 911 has returned to commercial power. Power was also restored to Cedarbrook Senior Care & Rehab Center in Lehigh County. Chester County EOC was partially activated due to a loss of phone and internet services though the 911 center was not impacted. Phone and Internet service was restored Wednesday evening and the EOC was closed. Flash Flood Warnings were issued for Bucks and Philadelphia counties which were cancelled. Jefferson County 911 center and Jefferson County Jail lost commercial power and temporarily operated on generator power. Power was quickly restored to both facilities. The Commonwealth Watch and Warning Center continues to be vigilant in monitoring storm impacts as they are reported. 7/20/24, all cooling shelters closed.

SHOTS FIRED DURING FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP'S RALLY – Butler County, 7/13/24 - A suspected shooter fired multiple shots toward the stage during former President Trump's campaign rally at the Butler County Farm Show, 625 Evans City Road, Connoquenessing Township. The US Secret Service responded with protective measures and

took the injured former president to the hospital for evaluation and treatment. He has since been released. The actor is deceased. At least one member of the audience was killed, and two others were critically injured and taken to a local hospital. Westmoreland County provided two light towers to the scene at the request of the Butler County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). In addition, the Allegheny County Police Bomb Squad canine team was requested to respond. PA-68 was closed in both directions, from the intersection of Eagle Mill and Kriess Roads to the intersection of Whitestown Road, in Connoquenessing Township, due to the incident. A press conference was held at 2345 hours on 7/13/24 by the PA State Police and FBI officials. The incident remains under investigation. On 7/16/24, the Buffalo Township Volunteer Fire Company announced funeral arrangements for a firefighter and past chief of the fire company who was killed during the former Presidents rally. There were public viewings on 7/18/24 at Luabe Hall in Freeport Park, Freeport Borough, Armstrong County, from 1400 to 1600 hours and from 1800 to 2000 hours. Interment was at the family's convenience. 7/19/24, the public viewings have been completed and all US and Commonwealth flags have returned to full staff.

DISASTER DECLARATIONS:

7/22/24 – City of Philadelphia issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency as a result of the large-scale fire which took place on 7/11/24 at the Roosevelt Apartments located at 7400 Roosevelt Boulevard.

6/7/24 – City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a multi-residential structure fire at the 2nd Avenue Commons Shelter on 6/4/24.

4/11/24 - Oakdale Borough, Allegheny County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/10/24 - Jefferson Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/10/24 - Jackson Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/10/24 - Perry Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/10/24 - Wayne Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/10/24 - Center Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/9/24 - Aleppo Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/8/24 - Washington Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/8/24 - Richhill Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/5/24 – Gilmore Township, Greene County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/4/24 - Nippenose Township, Lycoming County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

4/4/24 - Deemston Borough, Washington County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

9/25/23 – Blawnox Borough, Allegheny County has issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a water main break and damages to Freeport Road.

9/19/23 – Fairchance Borough, Fayette County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a dam issue that has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property of Fairchance Borough on or about 9/19/23.

8/14/23 – Plum Borough, Allegheny County, issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a house explosion on 8/13/23.

9/10/21 - The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requested a major disaster declaration from the President through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide additional support for state, county and municipal governments, and individuals affected by the remnants of Hurricane IDA between 8/31/21 and 9/5/21. The declaration includes Individual Assistance to individuals and households in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia, and York counties, and assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in all areas of the Commonwealth. Public Assistance is under review. The President approved the declaration on 9/10/21 under Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-4618-DR. 9/24/21 – Amendment No. 1 designates Bedford and Northampton counties for Individual Assistance. 10/8/21 – Amendment No. 2 designates Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery counties for Public Assistance (already designated for Individual Assistance). 10/14/21 – Amendment No. 3 designates Bedford, Philadelphia, and York counties for Public Assistance (already designated for Individual Assistance). In addition, Fulton, Huntingdon, Luzerne, and Schuylkill counties for Public Assistance. 10/20/21 – Amendment No. 4 designates Delaware County for Public Assistance (already designated for Individual Assistance), and Dauphin County for Public Assistance.

8/31/21 - The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, signed a statewide Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on 8/31/21 in response to severe weather event Hurricane Ida that affected the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania causing widespread threats of serious flash and riverine flooding and other adverse impacts throughout the Commonwealth.

3/30/20 - Governor Tom Wolf requested a major disaster declaration from the President through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide additional support for state, county and municipal governments and certain nonprofits, as well as individuals who are struggling during the COVID-19 outbreak. The request for a major disaster declaration will provide the same emergency protective measures available under the nationwide emergency proclamation; the following Individual Assistance programs: Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Community Disaster Loans, and the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Program; and Statewide Hazard Mitigation. The President approved the declaration on 3/30/20 under Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-4506-DR.

11/27/18 – A Major Disaster Declaration was declared on 11/27/18 for severe storms and flooding that occurred 8/10/18 – 8/15/18. Public Assistance (Cat A-G) was approved for Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Lycoming, Montour, Northampton, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming counties. In addition, all areas in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The designation is FEMA-4408-DR.

CONTIGUOUS STATE EVENTS OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO PENNSYLVANIA:

Delaware:	Normal Operations
Maryland:	Normal Operations
New Jersey:	Normal Operations
New York:	Normal Operations
Ohio:	Normal Operations
West Virginia:	Normal Operations

24-Hour Projected Weather Statewide:

National Weather Service, 0408 hours, 7/26/24

Building high pressure will provide the state with a dry and sunny weekend.

High temperatures this afternoon will range from the mid to upper 70s across the northern mountains and the Laurel Highlands, to the lower to mid-80s across the southeast portion of Pennsylvania.

With clear skies and light winds expected tonight, most locations will cool back down into the 50s by Saturday morning. Most of the area will warm into the lower to mid-80s on Saturday.

Lows Saturday night will range from the mid to upper 50s across the north, to the lower 60s across the southeast and southwestern portions of Pennsylvania. High temperatures on Sunday will be a few degrees warmer, with some locations in the lower 90s.

Sunsets and sunrises this weekend could be quite nice, as some elevated smoke from the wildfires in Canada moves over Pennsylvania through the weekend.

WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

None



Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories



Graphic Created
July 26th, 2024
2:40 AM EDT

TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK:

