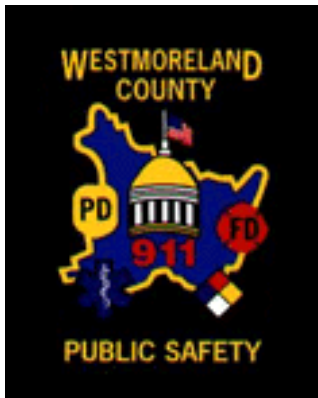


WCDPS NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Issue 1

15 April 2009



Campus Shield Exercise Series In Progress

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The Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety and a number of Westmoreland County School Districts are participating this year in a series of exercises designed to improve preparedness for and response to potential school-related emergencies and disasters.

The exercise series, titled **Campus Shield**, consists of a number of tabletop exercises, functional exercises, and full-scale exercises. Each exercise evaluates exercise participant actions against their current school response plans and capabilities for a terrorist incident in their school district.

Several **Campus Shield** Exercises have been completed. In November 2008, Norwin School District conducted two tabletop exercises that involved their Emergency Response Teams response to hazardous materials incidents near their campuses. In February 2009, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg conducted a tabletop exercise for their Emergency Operations Personnel that involved responding to an armed intruder holding hostages in a building on campus.

Several more tabletop exercises and full-scale exercises are in the process of being scheduled. Campus Shield will conclude in October 2009 with a series of full-scale exercises built upon realistic school terrorist event scenarios.

All **Campus Shield** Exercises follow the methodology outlined in the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and focus on specific capabilities that each school district or higher education institution has identified for pre-exercise training, exercise evaluation, and post-exercise improvement.

Campus Shield is a key component of the County's Safe Schools Program.

The Department of Public Safety will host an Initial Planning Conference in June to assist interested School Districts and institutions of higher learning planning to participate in **Campus Shield**. The Department of Public Safety will send letters explaining **Campus Shield** to all School Districts in early May.

For additional information, contact Rich Matason: (724)-600-7300 or email: rmatason@co.westmoreland.pa.us.

- WESTMORELAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS**
- Belle Vernon Area
 - Burrell
 - Derry Area
 - Franklin Regional
 - Greater Latrobe
 - Greensburg Salem
 - Hempfield Area
 - Jeannette City
 - Kiski Area
 - Ligonier Valley
 - Monessen City
 - Mount Pleasant Area
 - New Kensington-Arnold
 - Norwin
 - Penn-Trafford
 - Southmoreland
 - Yough

9-1-1 Public Relations Activities

Telecommunications Officer (TCO) Randy Neiderhiser and 9-1-1-Supervisor Tony Matuszky participated in the 2009 Community Health Fair at Southmoreland High School on Saturday, March 23, from 10 AM until 2 PM. They answered questions from individuals and handed out literature and 911 materials.

Randy stated that several hundred people went through the school during

the fair. As per the information received by the school, seventy seven different agencies were present to speak with attendees.

On May 1st 2009 TCO's Randy Neiderhiser and Ted Malik will participate in the Senior Citizens Expo being presented by state senators Kim Ward and Don White.

The expo will be held at the Kirk S. Nevin Arena in Greensburg and will take place between the hours of

10 AM and 1 PM. Both TCO's will be available to answer any questions from attendees and hand out 911 literature and materials.

PEMA
WESTERN AREA
QUARTERLY TRAINING
May 13-14, 2009
Coraopolis
Allegheny County



NWS Conducts Sky Warn Class for Local Emergency Management Coordinators

Warning Meteorologist and SKYWARN Director for the National Weather Service (NWS) in Pittsburgh, Mr. Rich Kane, presented the NWS SKYWARN class to



Westmoreland County Local Emergency Managers and interested persons at the County EOC

on March 31.

Approximately 50 persons attended the three hour training class.

SKYWARN training covers

the basics of thunderstorm development, fundamentals of storm structure, identifying potential severe weather features, information to report, how to report information, and basic severe weather safety.

After successfully completing this training, SKYWARN spotters are able to identify and describe severe local storms and provide timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

They help keep their local



communities safe by becoming part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather.

SKYWARN® is a volunteer National Weather Service (NWS) program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters nationwide.

4th Annual Elected Officials and Emergency Coordinators Seminar Announced

The Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety will hold its 4th Annual Emergency Management Seminar for Westmoreland County Elected Officials and their Emergency Management Coordinators on Wednesday May 27, 2009 from 9:00a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Hall Auditorium on the campus of the Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, PA. There is no registration fee for this seminar and lunch will be provided.

This year's Seminar, titled ***Are You Ready?***, will update participants on current issues in the emergency management area, particularly with respect to the

Department of Homeland Security's "Ready America" and "Ready Business" Programs, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "Are You Ready" Program, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's "Ready PA" Program.

Expert speakers will present extremely valuable information for preparing for future emergencies that may affect our jurisdictions. In addition, we have arranged for several organizations to have available a number of items that will help our jurisdictions get "Ready."

As with past Seminars, this Elected Officials Seminar will provide an excellent opportunity to

become current with respect to emergency management responsibilities, and will afford a great opportunity to network with other local elected officials and emergency managers.

Because seating is limited, we ask that interested elected officials, emergency managers and business leaders register no later than May 11, 2009.

Any questions can be directed to Sandy Smythe – DPS Administrative Officer:

Office Phone:(724) 600-7306

E-Mail: ssmythe@co.westmoreland.pa.us.

DPS Commendation Medal Awarded to Joseph Paulisick, Westmoreland Intermediate Unit

The Department of Public Safety presented the DPS Commendation Medal to Mr. Joseph Paulisick, Westmoreland Intermediate Unit, in recognition of, and appreciation for, his excellent service as the primary Education Liaison to the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Joe served as the direct contact between the DPS and the 17 school districts in Westmoreland County whenever matters of public safety impacted school safety and emergency preparedness. He was a very active member of the DPS Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff, the Westmoreland County Health Care

and Emergency Management Task Force (HCEMTF), and the County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD). He actively participated in every County Weather and full-scale all-hazard exercise that included a school component scenario.

Most recently, Joe worked closely with the DPS staff on the Safe Schools program and on arranging for school districts to receive required National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) training as part of the County's *Campus Shield* exercise program.

The Department of Public Safety commends Joe for the excellent

working relationship that he has had with the Department of Public Safety, and we wish him well during his retirement.



Sandy Smythe, Administrative officer, presents Joe Paulisick with Commendation Medal



Keystone Emergency Management Association (KEMA) Seeks New Members

The Keystone Emergency Management Association announces its annual Membership Drive to kick off the New Year. KEMA provides a state-wide forum for the exchange of ideas, techniques, and best practices in Emergency Management. If you are an emergency management professional looking to expand your network by connecting with colleagues, seeking information on the issues concerning your area, or looking to further increase your knowledge of the field, then consider becoming a member of KEMA today!

Visit <http://www.PEMA-PA.org> to obtain a membership application and learn how the KEMA network can benefit you and your organization. Membership is open to all Emergency Management professionals in local, state, or federal government, non-profit or voluntary organizations, private sector, or to any individual interested in gaining an understanding of comprehensive emergency management in the Commonwealth. Interested students and universities are also encouraged to join!

Membership Benefits Include...

- Access to Pennsylvania's broad network of Emergency Management professionals and subject matter experts capable of providing guidance and feedback on a variety of topics.
- Networking opportunities with local, state, and federal officials.
- Access to the annual conference and training summits.
- Voting and nomination privileges—KEMA encourages members to be active in the decision making process.
- Growth and development opportunities: members are offered the opportunity to serve on various committees. KEMA fulfills its mission through the work of these committees.
- A quarterly newsletter, an awards and recognition program, frequent updates on pending legislation, and opportunities to provide input on changes to the state Emergency Management Certification Program.
- Mentoring opportunities, prospective employment opportunities, potential for collaborative partnerships, and numerous other opportunities.

KEMA representatives are available to give presentations to your group. Contact Angel L. Gillette at AGillette@NorthamptonCounty.Org or Kay Carmen at KaCarman@ycdes.org to arrange for a brief presentation on the benefits of membership. Contact Rich Matason, WCDPS Director, at 724.600.7300 for additional information.

Annual PEMA Weather Exercise

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS... ..HIGH WINDS...DAMAGING HAIL ...FLASH FLOOD WARNINGSTORNADO WARNINGS....

The Westmoreland County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff was faced with all of these severe weather scenarios as part of the annual PEMA WeatherEx that was held on March 5 between 0900 hours and 1200 hours.

This year's WeatherEx was a functional exercise that included a well-staffed Simulation Cell. Gene Komondor, Emergency Management Coordinator for North Huntingdon Township, designed and executed this exercise as a requirement of the Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP) class that he was taking at the Emergency Management Institute, Emmetsburg, Md.



SIMCELL Operations during WeatherEx 2009

WeatherEx 2009 was much more intense than exercises held in previous years. Message flow from the SIMCELL to the EOC began at 0900 hours and continued non-stop

for three hours.



EOC STAFFED TO ECON LEVEL 2

Over 320 entries (not including the checklist items) were logged into the Knowledge Center "Parent" Event and the 23 "Child" Events that were created as the exercise developed.



During this year's WeatherEx, 9-1-1 Telecommunications Officer, Mike Guy, operated the 9-1-1 console in the EOC and handled the multitude of incoming calls and outgoing dispatches. EOC staff then entered the appropriate information into the Knowledge Center.

Westmoreland County VOAD Addresses Medical Special Needs Shelter Planning

The Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety convened a forum of community and emergency response support agencies that were interested in becoming more involved in response and relief efforts during times of disaster in Westmoreland County. This effort, known as the Westmoreland County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), was formed a few years ago and actively functioned for a period of time, before going inactive. The VOAD forum was held on April 8, 2009 at Commissioners Hall, Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood, PA.

Through a collaborative effort with the Westmoreland Association of Volunteer Administrators (WAVA), DPS and WAVA have agreed to have WAVA provide lead support for the county-wide VOAD project. Mary Clark, from the Westmoreland County Intermediate Unit, has graciously volunteered to serve as the lead chairperson for the VOAD.

The VOAD was reactivated due to the growing need to be prepared for a number of emergency situations that could affect our residents. One of the more pressing needs is to develop procedures for registering the special medical needs population of the County and to develop a shelter and evacuation plan for them. The County needs to plan for how it will work with State and local agencies to shelter special medical needs persons during times of county-wide or region-wide disaster emergencies. Rather than form another specialized task force, forum participants determined that the VOAD was an excellent vehicle for accomplishing this mission. After all, special

needs issues concern all service-oriented agencies and organizations in one way or another

This re-activation, therefore, came at an excellent time, given PA Department of Health's concern for the special medical needs populations. Many issues can be addressed now and many of the VOAD agencies and organizations can provide much needed assistance. In addition to some re-organizational issues, VOAD Forum participants discussed the following issues:

- a. How to identify medical special needs persons in our County;
- b. How to identify other special needs residents;
- c. How to meet the challenges of identifying, opening, and staffing special medical needs shelters;
- d. How to plan for caring for the animals of special needs persons;
- e. How to identify organizations in the County that currently have special needs/ medical special needs plans, and how to leverage them effectively into a county-wide plan;
- f. How to identify resources county organizations currently have that could be directed to supporting special needs/ medical special needs shelters.

At the next VOAD meeting on May 6th, we will begin developing the details of the County Special Medical Needs plan and will determine how best to evaluate and validate that planning through an detailed exercise program.

Please contact Mary Clark, Westmoreland County VOAD Chairperson, with your questions or concerns. Mary can be reached by phone at 724-219-2309 or by email at mclark@wiu.k12.pa.us.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY**

911 Public Safety Road
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

Phone: 724-600-7300
Fax: 724-600-7388



WEBSITE:

www.wcdps.org

WCDPS VISION

To become a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania leader in the development and execution of public safety programs and procedures through teamwork and partnership with other agencies and organizations sharing a similar vision

WCDPS MISSION

Our mission is to support the direction, management, and employment of emergency services and resources in Westmoreland County to ensure the public safety of everyone in the County, 24 hours a day every day.

IN MEMORIAM

The Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety and 911 Center extend our deepest sympathy to the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, and the families and friends of Officers Paul J. Sciullo Jr, Eric Kelly, and Stephen J. Mayle, who were slain in the line of duty on Saturday, April 4, 2009, while responding to a domestic violence call in the Stanton Heights area of the City of Pittsburgh. This tragic loss has affected all emergency responders. These men and their selfless sacrifice will not soon be forgotten.

DEPARTMENTAL GOALS

1. Become a leader in developing and executing public safety programs and procedures.
2. Lead through teamwork and partnership with other agencies.
3. Support the direction, management and employment of county emergency services.
4. Support the direction, management and employment of county emergency resources.
5. Ensure the safety of everyone in the County, 24 hours a day, every day.
6. Employ the MCCC as a forward command post and as an active back up 911 Center
7. Establish a state-of-the-art county emergency management/ 9-1-1 training center.
8. Seek and employ grant funding for special public safety programs.