



# REGION 13 NEWSLETTER

Region 13 Counter-Terrorism Task Force

Volume 1, Issue 1  
APRIL 17, 2005

## NIMS Alert

### IS-700 The NIMS Introductory Course - Who Needs to Take It?

Last September when the Secretary of Homeland Security sent a letter to the nation's governors, he outlined a series of steps that **must** be taken and actions that **should** be taken in FY 2005 to become compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Specifically the letter said that state, territorial, tribal and local level jurisdictions should support NIMS implementation by completing the NIMS awareness course *National Incident Management System, An Introduction - IS 700*. This independent study course explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. The Secretary clearly intended to provide discretion to state, territorial, tribal and local governments in deciding who should take the course.

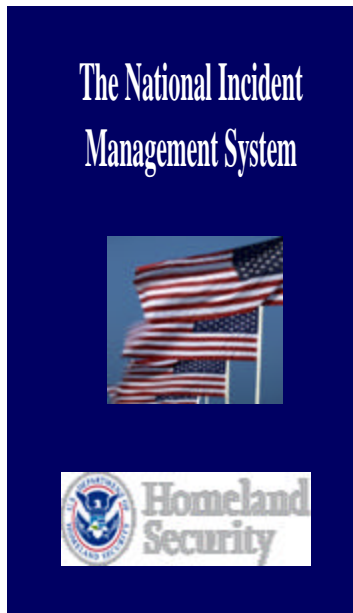
As further guidance, the NIMS Integration Center encourages all emergency personnel with a direct role in emergency preparedness, incident management or

response to take the NIMS course by Oct. 1, 2005. It is offered free-of-charge through the Emergency Management Institute at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>.

#### WHO SHOULD TAKE THE COURSE IN FY'05?

**Executive Level** - Political and government leaders, agency and organization administrators and department heads; personnel that fill ICS roles as Unified Commanders, Incident Commanders, Command Staff, General Staff in either Area Command or single incidents; senior level Multi-Agency Coordination System personnel; senior emergency managers; and Emergency Operations Center Command or General Staff.

**Managerial Level** - Agency and organization management between the executive level and first level supervision; personnel who fill ICS roles as Branch



Directors, Division/Group Supervisors, Unit Leaders, technical specialists, strike team and task force leaders, single resource (con't on page 3)

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## REGION 13 ACTIVATING INCIDENT SUPPORT TEAMS

In accordance with the Counterterrorism planning, Preparedness and response Act (act 227 of 2002), Regional tasks Forces shall develop a policy to organize, activate, assemble and deploy Incident Support Teams (ISTs).

Members of ISTs must meet the following criteria:

1. a minimum of five years of Command and Staff experience;
2. Documentation of experience in multi-agency or multi-jurisdictional incidents;
3. High school diploma or GED;
4. NIMS 201 or equivalent;
5. Hazmat Awareness as defined in OSHA Regulation 1910.120;
6. Ability to participate based on employer requirements (i.e., the task Force will request a letter from the employer stating that the IST member will be released to perform his/her

#### IST duties

Personnel interested in joining the IST should submit a resume to their County Emergency Management Coordinator.

For more information contact your County EMC or Chris Bova, Region 13 Planning Coordinator at the following number and email:

Work: (412)473-3761  
Email:

[CBova@county.allegheny.pa.us](mailto:CBova@county.allegheny.pa.us)

#### Upcoming Events:

**PNC PARK EXERCISE - MAY 7, 2005**

**TWISTED RAIL EXERCISE - JULY 16, 2005**  
(see article on page 2)

## FULL-SCALE WMD EXERCISE – “TWISTED RAIL”

On Saturday, July 16, 2005, the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety and the Region 13 Counter-Terrorism Task Force full-scale WMD exercise, titled **TWISTED RAIL**.

This exercise will be conducted in conjunction with CSX Railroad and AMTRAK, both of which are providing training and railcars for the exercise. The exercise will be conducted in and around the West Newton Railroad Station.

The goals of **TWISTED RAIL** are to comprehensively exercise and evaluate participating organizations' capability to respond to a terrorist incident involving weapons of mass destruction in a railroad scenario, and to exercise the

integration of local emergency response assets with private sector and county resources using the Incident Command System/ Unified Command System.

The exercise will involve a terrorist event that may include the employment of one or more WMDs that will result in a number of hostages and /or casualties.

Fire departments, police departments and EMS companies from in and around West Newton, and from nearby jurisdictions having railroads running through their areas have been invited to participate in the program, which includes both preparatory classes and a full-scale field drill. Training for this event will run through June.

Any fire department, police department, or ambulance service that would like to participate in any or all of the training and / or the **TWISTED RAIL** exercise should contact :

Rich Matason, Director of Public Safety, Westmoreland County:

Phone: (724) 600-7300

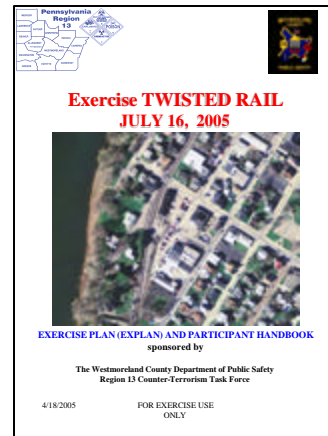
Email:

[rmatason@co.westmoreland.pa.us](mailto:rmatason@co.westmoreland.pa.us)

Paul Williams, Emergency Management Coordinator, Borough of West Newton:

Phone: (724) 872-7121

Email: [pcwilliams@access995.com](mailto:pcwilliams@access995.com)



## This Issue's FOCUS: Training

The Region 13 Training and Exercise Committee's Mission is to oversee the total Training Management System by identifying, validating and maintaining continual surveillance of WMD training conducted and all WMD training requirements and shortfalls in order to enhance regional counter-terrorism readiness and to foster domestic preparedness among all disciplines within the region.

The Training and Exercise Committee is focused on accomplishing four goals:

1. Formalize a mechanism (i.e., Forms) for all disciplines within our Region to request and track WMD training in accordance with the Strategic Plan.
2. Track WMD training conducted among all disciplines within our Region.
3. Enhance Readiness for First Responders, foster mutual aid response and

identify WMD training shortfalls.

4. Involve all 11 disciplines— encourage each to be a shareholder in taking full advantage of all the WMD training, while funding is available.

In order for the Training and Exercise Committee to maximize training opportunities while using training dollars both efficiently and effectively, they depend on each member county to continually assess their abilities to detect, respond to, and recover from a WMD incident per their Strategic Plan.

Therefore each County should identify all WMD training goals and objectives they need to accomplish in order to maintain a high readiness posture in the event that a terrorist incident or all-hazards disaster/emergency should occur in their geographical area.

Once the counties have identified their WMD training requirements, the responsible county coordinator work with the region 13 Training and

Exercise Coordinator to fill their training needs and requests.

The Region 13 Training and Exercise Coordinator is Eric Sheetz. Eric works fulltime for Region 13 and can be reached at the following telephone number and email address:

Telephone: (412) 473-3760.

Email:

[ESheetz@county.allegheny.pa.us](mailto:ESheetz@county.allegheny.pa.us)

Some of the training currently planned for Region 13 in the upcoming months includes the following courses and programs.

**Course # PER-222, "Public Safety Response-Sampling Techniques"**, will be held at the Westmoreland County Public Safety Training Center, Smithton, PA, 3-5 May 2005, from 0800-1700 each day. This course is taught by the national Center for Biological Research, LSU.

(con't on page 3)

### Region 13 Member Jurisdictions

ALLEGHENY  
 ARMSTRONG  
 BEAVER  
 BUTLER  
 CAMBRIA  
 FAYETTE  
 GREENE  
 INDIANA  
 LAWRENCE  
 MERCER  
 SOMERSET  
 WASHINGTON  
 WESTMORELAND  
 CITY OF PITTSBURGH

## Who needs to take NIMS?

(con't from page 1)

leaders and field supervisors; midlevel Multi-Agency Coordination System personnel; EOC Section Chiefs, Branch Directors, Unit Leaders; and other emergency management/response personnel who require a higher level of ICS/NIMS Training.

**Responder Level** - Emergency response providers and disaster workers, entry level to managerial level including Emergency Medical Service personnel; firefighters; medical personnel; police officers; public health per-

sonnel; public works/utility personnel; and other emergency management response personnel.

The NIMS introductory course very likely will be required in FY'06 for state, territorial, tribal and local personnel who have emergency assignments at any level of government. Full NIMS compliance is required by Oct. 1, 2007.

**NA: 004-05**  
**The NIMS Integration Center**  
**March 5, 2005**

## Instructions for Accessing the IS700 NIMS Course Online:

- ?? Go to: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- ?? Select the "education and training" menu.
- ?? Go to "Information and Course for Emergency Personnel".
- ?? Select the "EMI Independent Study Courses" menu.
- ?? Select "Our Courses" from the menu on the left side of the screen.
- ?? Select IS700 NIMS from the list of courses.

## Excerpts from PEMA, OHS BRIEFING ON FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SPENDING, March 8, 2005

HARRISBURG: Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Director Adrian R. King, Jr., briefed the media on federal Homeland Security funding and first-responder equipment purchased by the Commonwealth's nine Regional Counter Terrorism Task Forces (RCTTFs). King was joined by Jonathan A. Duecker, Director of the PA Office of Homeland Security; Robert A. Full, Director of the Allegheny County Emergency Management Agency and Chairman of the

Southwestern/Region 13 Task Force; and Evalyn Fisher, Director of PEMA's Bureau of Planning and Training.

"During the past six years, more than \$200 million in homeland security funds have been distributed to the nine RCTTFs and to state public safety agencies," King said. "These funds have made possible significant improvements in all-hazards preparedness and emergency response capabilities across the Commonwealth."

Homeland security grant money is disbursed through PEMA in its capacity as the State Administrative Agency, to each of the RCTTFs and various state agencies. The task force model was adopted in 1998 by Governor Tom Ridge, and continued by Governor Rendell. Funds are distributed through the RCTTFs based on the following risk criteria: threat, vulnerability, location of critical infrastructure, population and needs.

(con't on page 5)

*"During the past six years, more than \$200 million in homeland security funds have been distributed to the nine RCTTFs and to state public safety agencies.."*

**Adrian King,**  
**Director, Pennsylvania**  
**Emergency Management**  
**Agency**

## FOCUS: Training

(con't from page 2)

**Course # DEC01, "WMD Mass Casualty Personnel Decon"**, will be held at the following locations at the dates listed:

Fayette 31 May-2 June  
 Armstrong 4-6 June  
 Washington 8-10 June

**Course # AWMD01, "Advance WMD Material and Detection Course,"** will be held in the following counties during the dates listed:

Fayette 9 July  
 Armstrong 10 July  
 Monroeville FD#4 12 July

**Course # PER-220, "Emergency Response to**

**Domestic Biological Incidents,"** will be held at the Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood, from 28 to 30 June 2005.

**Course # PER-212, "WMD/Terrorism Incident Defensive Operations for Emergency Responders,"** will be offered at Sharon Regional Health Systems in

Mercer County from 21 to 23 June. This course is taught by the Texas Engineering Extension.

Detailed information on these courses is available from your County Emergency Management Coordinator and from Eric Sheetz.

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400 North Lexington Street, Suite 200  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15208-2561

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Fax: (412) 241-6941

Newsletter Editor: Rich Matason



**We're on the Web:**  
[www.pa-region13.org](http://www.pa-region13.org)

## Editorial Comment

Welcome to the first edition of the Region 13 Newsletter. With all that has been happening in the Homeland Security area, especially concerning funding and equipment purchasing, the Region 13 Executive Council felt it was appropriate for us to publish a Newsletter periodically to provide a timely way to share important information with the first response communities of the Region. In this issue we have focused on training. In future editions we will focus on other key functional areas of the Region—planning, logistics, and finance.

We will use this Newsletter to keep you abreast of current Homeland Security trends and actions as they affect us in the Region - things such as the National Incident Management System, or NIMS, which we all must be certified in by October 1, 2006.

We intend to use future editions of the Newsletter to share with you "lessons learned" and "best practices" that result from the numerous full-scale exercises conducted within the Region.

We hope that this first edition of the Region 13 Newsletter provides you with some information useful to you and your first response organizations. If you have a comment or a concern, please feel free to let us know. Region 13 exist to support the first responders of Region 13. We need to know if we are doing that well, or if we need to improve.

We look forward to a good information exchange into the future,

Rich Matason  
Director of Public Safety, Westmoreland County  
Editor  
Email: [rmatason@co.westmoreland.pa.us](mailto:rmatason@co.westmoreland.pa.us)

## DHS National Preparedness Strategy Documents Stress Common, Consistent Approach

The first *National Strategy for Homeland Security*, published by the Office of Homeland Security in July 2002, listed three strategic objectives:

- ?? Prevent terrorist attacks within the United States;
- ?? Reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism; and
- ?? Minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur.

The President issued Homeland Security Directive 5: *Management of Domestic Incidents* (HSPD-5) in February 2003. This document required the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to lead a coordinated national effort with other federal departments and agencies and state, local, and tribal governments to establish a national Response Plan (NRP) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

In December 2003 the President issued a companion directive, HSPD-8, *National Preparedness*, "to establish policies to strengthen the preparedness of the United States to prevent and

*respond to threatened or actual domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies by requiring a national domestic all-hazards preparedness goal, establishing mechanisms for improved delivery of federal preparedness assistance to State and local governments, and outlining actions to strengthen preparedness capabilities of Federal, State, and local entities."*

As a result of HSPD-8, the DHS has recently published a series of documents which, when taken together, outline the national preparedness strategy. Those documents include the *Interim National Preparedness Goal*, published on March 31, 2005; the *National Planning Scenarios*, published in July 2004; the *Universal Task List* (DRAFT), published on July 30, 2004; and the *Target Capabilities List: Version 1.0*, published on January 31, 2005.

The *Interim National Preparedness Goal* includes "readiness targets, priorities, standards for preparedness assessments and strategies, and a system for assessing the Nation's overall level of preparedness." HSPD-8 requires that the National Preparedness Goal establish "measurable readiness targets...that appropriately balance the potential threat and magnitude of terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies with the resources required to prevent, respond to, and recover from them."

(con't on page 5)



## Homeland Security Spending National Preparedness Strategy Documents

(con't from page 3)

"The RCTTF structure promotes regionalism, mutual aid and equipment standardization," said Duecker. "More importantly, the RCTTF model puts decision making and the tools of prevention and first response into the hands of the people who know how to respond the best -- county and local law enforcement and first responders."

Funding priorities and equipment purchasing decisions for the Commonwealth are made in accordance with the State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy that was completed in 2003 and is scheduled for update and review in 2006. As a general rule, purchases are focused on four key areas:

- ?? Basic Personal Protective Equipment;
- ?? Basic Detection and Decontamination Equipment;
- ?? Interoperable and Enhanced Communications Systems; and advanced Level Equipment, Supplies and Training for Regional Specialized Response Teams.

According to Full, the RCTTF structure and the homeland security funding received by the Region 13 Task Force have significantly improved all-hazards preparedness in southwestern Pennsylvania.

He reviewed two recent events that demonstrate improved emergency response capabilities. In January 2005, a train derailed in West Deer Township, Allegheny County. Three rail tank cars containing toxic chemicals were involved. Those first responders arriving on the scene used chemical detection equipment and personal protective gear purchased with homeland security funds to respond quickly to the accident.

The second example involved tropical storm Ivan in September 2004 when hundreds of Allegheny county residents were trapped in homes, buses and cars due to flash flooding.

"The RCTTF concept quickly allowed other counties to deliver rescue boats and specialized equipment to minimize the loss of life," Full recalled.

**Article by Maria Smith, PEMA Press Secretary**

(con't from page 4)

One of the tools that the National Preparedness Goal uses to provide a consistent way for entities across the Nation to work together to achieve the Goal is the *National Planning Scenarios* document. Using fifteen scenarios ranging from chemical, biological and radiological terrorism to natural disasters and pandemics, the Scenarios highlight the scope, magnitude, and complexity of these disasters and emergencies and form the foundation for the development of national preparedness standards that can then be used to measure homeland security capabilities at all levels of governmental organization.

The *Universal Task List* provides a menu of tasks from all sources that may be performed in major events such as those listed in the *National Planning Scenarios*. The UTL currently lists approximately 1700 tasks that are to be performed by federal, state, and local governments and the private sector to prevent, respond to, and recover from events defined by the scenarios and other planning documents.

The UTL is a key element in developing a requirements-based training system. It lists *what* needs to be performed in terms common to all levels of government and all professional communities, from the national strategic to the incident level. The UTL serves as the basis for the development of a Mission Essential Task List that identifies the capabilities for mission success.

The *Target Capabilities List (TCL)* provides a list and description of the capabilities needed to perform critical homeland security tasks. Critical tasks are defined as "those that must be performed during a major event to prevent occurrence, reduce loss of life or serious injuries, mitigate significant property damage, or are essential to the success of a homeland security mission." Approximately 200 tasks of those listed in the UTL are currently identified as critical.

The TCL lists 36 Target Capability Summaries among which are Criminal Investigation and Intervention, Emergency Operations Center, Emergency Response Communication, and Firefighting Operations/Support.

Each Target Capability Summary includes a capability description, an expected outcome summary, a link to the NRP Emergency Support Function(s), associated critical tasks, capability and performance measures, and a list of elements that impact the capability, such as personnel, planning, organization and leadership, equipment and training.

Using these documents that comprise the national preparedness strategy, it is now possible for all levels of government and all professional communities, from the national strategic to the incident level, to prepare for major disasters and emergencies using a common approach. As this system is refined in the coming years, the emergency response and emergency management communities, in particular, will have at their disposal some very valuable training and evaluation tools.

**PNC PARK DISASTER DRILL, MAY 7, NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

The PNC Park Disaster Drill is a full-scale exercise testing the emergency response capabilities of the City of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Pirates and PNC Park, local area hospitals, and various response agencies from around the region to a simulated terrorist event at PNC Park.

The event will take place in real-time over a 6 - 8 hour period. The agencies involved will test many facets of emergency response including the PNC Park evacuation plan, medical injury classification or triage, victim transportation, scene preservation, scene security, decontamination and communications.

The true success of this exercise greatly depends on the participation of volunteer participants.. As an exercise participant, you will get a first hand look at how our community would respond to a terrorist event.

Entertainment and parking will be provided for volunteers that day. In addition, everyone participating will receive a special gift as a token of our appreciation for your assistance.

If you are interested in volunteering to participate in the drill, you can do so by accessing the following link: <http://swpa.redcross.org/?zone=&id=42&sid=>

**Article by Crystal L. Kern**  
[CKERN@alleghenyenergy.com](mailto:CKERN@alleghenyenergy.com)

## REGION 13 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

14 Jurisdictional Coordinators

### INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES

#### Executive/ Policy Committee:

*Chair-Bob Full, Allegheny County*

*Co-Chair: Rich Matason, Westmoreland County*

#### Equipment Committee:

*Chair-Wes Hill, Beaver County*

*Co-Chair: Ray DeMichiei—City of Pittsburgh*

#### Training/Exercise Committee:

*Chair: Roy Shipley, Fayette County*

*Co-Chair: Randy Brozenick, Armstrong County*

#### Communications Committee:

*Chair: Paul Beatty, Indiana County*

*Co-Chair: John Nicklin, Mercer County*

#### Planning Committee:

Chair::

Co-Chair:

### DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC COMMITTEES

#### Law Enforcement:

*Chair: Frank Jannetti, Mercer County*

#### Fire/Hazmat:

*Chair: Jeff Yates, Washington County*

#### Medical/Health:

*Guy Napolillo, Fayette County*

#### Military-Civil:

*Rich Lohr, Somerset County*

#### Urban Search and Rescue:

*Rich Matason, Westmoreland County*

#### Business/Utilities:

*Frank Matis, Butler County*

#### Public Information:

*Rich Matason, Westmoreland County*

## REGION 13 OBJECTIVES

1. Formalize regional mutual aid and inter-government agreements to respond to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) events (terrorism), chemical emergencies and other man-made and natural disasters.
2. Establish an interoperable communications system within the region and western Pennsylvania for all emergency response agencies.
3. Develop a specialized equipment resource pool specific to WMD responses to be utilized throughout the region.
4. Ensure specialized WMD training is available to all emergency services personnel and support agencies as necessary.
5. Apply for grant funding for special acquisitions and projects as a group.
6. Foster positive networking of information, technical applications, law enforcement intelligence, incident prevention, and form solid relationships among all group members and participants.
7. Develop Regional Response and Intelligence Protocols and Procedures.
8. Ensure the ability to deliver highly trained and equipped teams of responders capable of minimizing the effects of a terrorist incident within the region.
9. Build the group's WMD preparedness and response into a system that provides the region an enhanced ability to more effectively and efficiently respond to and mitigate other man-made and natural disasters.