OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE:
February 28, 2023

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, February 27, 2023, through 0600 hours, February 28, 2023.

STATUS REPORT: (as of 0600 hours)

THREAT STATUS:

National Terrorism Advisory System: The United States remains in a heightened threat environment. Lone offenders and small groups motivated by a range of ideological beliefs and/or personal grievances continue to pose a persistent and lethal threat to the Homeland. Domestic actors and foreign terrorist organizations continue to maintain a visible presence online in attempts to motivate supporters to conduct attacks in the Homeland. Threat actors have recently mobilized to violence, citing factors such as reactions to current events and adherence to violent extremist ideologies. In the coming months, threat actors could exploit several upcoming events to justify or commit acts of violence, including certifications related to the midterm elections, the holiday season and associated large gatherings, the marking of two years since the breach of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, and potential sociopolitical developments connected to ideological beliefs or personal hostility. Targets of potential violence include public gatherings, faith-based institutions, the LGBTQI+ community, schools, racial and religious minorities, government facilities and personnel, U.S. critical infrastructure, the media, and perceived ideological opponents.

Effective: 11/30/2022 1400 hours to 5/24/2023 1400 hours.

Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) Status: Limited Partial Activation for Adverse Weather

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 0530 hours, 1,828 customers
Telephone Outage Reports:	None

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

OPEN:

ADVERSE WEATHER – Statewide, 2/27/23 – The Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) ordered a Limited Partial Activation of the Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) effective at 1700 hours on 2/27/23 to maintain situational awareness and coordinate the response to any potential impacts from the winter weather crossing the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Watch and Warning Center (CWWC) is operating at an Enhanced status and is monitoring conditions, coordinating initial response, and providing situational updates as needed. The main impact of the storm is to the northeast area of the Commonwealth, with the bulk of the snow impacting the Scranton area between 1900 hours on 2/27/23 to 0300 hours on 2/28/23. At 2037 hours on 2/27/23, Tier I restrictions were implemented on I-81 from I-84 to the NY state line, and the entire length of I-84; the restrictions were lifted at 0500 hours on 2/28/23. A 45 mile per hour (MPH) speed restriction with commercial vehicle in the right lane only was implemented on I-80 from mile marker 256 to the NJ state line, I-81 from mile marker 100 to the NY state line, and the entire lengths of I-84 and I-380. A variable speed limitation of 55 MPH was implemented on I-80 between mile markers 178 and 192; the restriction was lifted at 0500 hours on 2/28/23. I-80 was closed for two hours at exit 277 in Kidder Township, Carbon County, due to a single tractor trailer accident; no trapped queue was reported.

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 Emergency Management Agency (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. Norfolk Southern reported a rail car was venting so it was decided that there would be no offensive fire attack. 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. Local police advised the residents of those homes and an additional 12 homes of the evacuation recommendation. On 2/6/23, all 22 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 evacuation of farm animals from Kindred Spirits Rescue Farm. The recommended evacuation zone remained at one mile. PA-51 was closed to PA-168. 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. A local hospital reported three patients from the Chippewa area and one from East Palestine complaining of burning eyes and chest pains. 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. A single hopper train was intentionally breached so that it could burn freely to help clear debris from the railway. All previously damaged train cars were removed from the track and replacement track installation occurred. 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. Two firefighters from Darlington Township, Beaver County had trouble breathing after washing their apparatus and one sought medical attention. Air monitoring continued and there were no contaminates 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. On 2/9/23, Darlington Township EMA completed door to door notifications advising residents that were evacuated of the availability of well testing and bottled water. Additionally, there are only 20 total homes in the evacuated area, not 22 which was previously reported. 19 of the notifications have been completed and they continued attempting to contact the remaining resident. 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 continue 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.

LARGE DIESEL FUEL SPILL - Somerset County, 10/27/22 - Highland Tank and Manufacturing located at 1 Highland Road in Quemahoning Township discovered that a 2,000-gallon diesel fuel spill occurred when the fuel was mistakenly pumped to the area of an old tank that was no longer in service. The spill affected the Oven Run Creek which runs behind the facility as red dye from the diesel fuel could be spotted as a sheen on the water and was visible on the rocks. McCutcheon Enterprises, Inc. (MEI) was contacted to provide cleanup. They dispatched a vacuum truck to mitigate the Oven Run Creek and installed an underflow dam and excavated the soil. The stream was surveyed for further impacts. A unified command meeting occurred on 10/28/22 involving the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Somerset County Department of Emergency Services, Highland Tank, and local agencies. The contractor continued containment/collection activities on Oven Run Creek and the source area which mitigated the threat of additional release. As of 11/2/22, boom and pad operations for most of the spill were completed. DEP authorized MEI to move to monitoring and maintenance of the spill. On 11/3/22, Highland Tank changed out the absorbent pads south of the mid-way underflow dam. On 11/4/22, MEI vacuumed out the trench on the hillside next to the parking lot and continued to do so every

day and a half. The water was clear at the booms and underflow dam near the AMD intake. As of 11/7/22, MEI continued daily upkeep with vacuuming the trenches and replacing absorbents. An environmental engineering firm was brought into core bore the soil at the initial spill location. On 11/8/22, MEI continued with upkeep on trench and absorbent replacement and returned on Thursday afternoon, 11/10/22. As of 11/13/22, mitigation efforts continued, and the core boring was scheduled for later in the week. During the Unified Command Meeting on 11/17/22, it was reported that the stream looks clear and the collection areas that remained had no signs of product. MEI demobilized their remaining equipment due to forecasted freezing temperatures for the remainder of the week. PA DEP requested that MEI vacuum the trench out one more time before they left. The absorbent pads and booms in the trench seemed to work as planned. Highland Tank personnel continued to change the absorbent pads and booms in the trench as needed. Core boring began on 12/5/22. Sixteen borings were drilled, and soil samples were collected at 14 of them with four wells installed. Three of the wells had a strong odor. A trench and several collections points were still in place and being checked daily. As of 12/22/22, there was a sheen just below the interceptor, but the sheen was minimal. Ground water sampling and well gauging was conducted once a week throughout the month of January along with the placement of a skimmer bailer. Small amounts of product were detected but due to the small amount additional vacuum events were not planned. Monitoring of mitigations efforts continues.

CLOSED:

ROAD CLOSURE – Berks County, 2/28/23 – I-78 east was closed at mile marker 34.2 in Windsor Township for a vehicle accident involving two tractor trailers and a passenger car. Approximately 25 gallons of diesel fuel was spilled onto the roadway. There was a trapped queue of one and a half miles that was released in an hour and a half. A detour was established with a one-mile backlog. The road reopened after two hours.

GAS LEAK – Montgomery County – 2/27/23 – Emergency crews responded to a gas leak at 1004 South Trooper Road (PA-363) in West Norrington Township. PA-363 was closed in both directions, and 12 homes and one business were evacuated as a precaution. PECO secured the gas leak and PA-363 was reopened.

WATER OUTAGE – Tioga County, 2/23/23 – The reservoir for Westfield Borough went dry overnight due to a water leak found near the baseball field at Cowanesque Valley High School on North Fork Road in Westfield Township. The leak was isolated, and the reservoir has refilled. Water was restored to the borough except for the high school and classes were cancelled on 2/24/23. A Boil Water Advisory (BWA) was issued for the high school, the Home Comfort Restaurant, and a few adjacent residences due to a loss of positive pressure caused by the repairs. On 2/27/23, the BWA was lifted.

DISASTER DECLARATIONS:

12/15/22 – Carbon County issued a Disaster Declaration due to adverse weather that passed through the area on 12/14-15/22.

11/29/22 – Newell Borough in Fayette County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather that passed through the area on 11/27/22.

11/28/22 - Declarations of Disaster Emergency were issued for Dunlevy, Coal Center, Roscoe, Elco, Stockdale, and Allenport boroughs in Washington County due to adverse weather that passed through the area on 11/27/22.

9/12/22 – The Borough of Cranesville in Erie County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to the borough's refuse collector suddenly going out of business on 8/15/22 causing a public health emergency.

9/10/22 - Yoe Borough in York County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to damages from flash flooding from a significant rainstorm on 8/5/22.

9/2/22 - West Taylor Township in Cambria County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to damage caused by a severe storm on 8/21/22.

8/23/22 – East Taylor Township in Cambria County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to damage caused by a severe storm on 8/21/22.

8/23/22 – Middle Taylor Township in Cambria County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to damage caused by a severe storm on 8/21/22.

8/19/22 – The U.S. Small Business Administration issued SBA disaster declaration #17579 and 17580 / PA-00120 for flash flooding that occurred on 8/5/22. The primary county affected is Westmoreland, and the contiguous counties affected are Allegheny, Armstrong, Cambria, Fayette, Indiana, Somerset, and Washington. The Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan application deadline date is 05/19/2023.

6/28/22 – North Strabane Township in Washington County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a landslide that occurred on 4/17/22 within the Majestic Hills neighborhood.

5/11/22 – Bridgewater Borough in Beaver County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a landslide that occurred on 5/7/22 in the area of 1000 Sharon Road.

4/14/22 – Lower Makefield Township in Bucks County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a Ransomware cyber-attack affecting township government systems.

3/3/22 - West Mahoning Township in Indiana County issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to a structure fire involving the municipal building. The Declaration was extended on 3/17/22 and again on 5/18/22.

2/21/22 – Elected officials from Jenner Township in Somerset County signed a Declaration of Disaster Emergency for the response to the fuel oil spill on Quemahoning Creek.

1/30/22 - Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey signed a Declaration of Disaster Emergency for the City of Pittsburgh in response to the Fern Hollow Bridge collapse.

1/29/22 - Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for Allegheny County in response to the collapse of Fern Hollow Bridge in Pittsburgh.

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). Plus, 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 impacted the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania causing widespread threats of serious flash and riverine flooding and other adverse impacts throughout the Commonwealth.

10/5/20 – The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requested that President Trump declare a major disaster for nine Pennsylvania counties in the wake of devastating flooding caused by Tropical Storm Isaias in August 2020. The request included Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia counties.

8/11/20 – A Disaster Declaration was issued for Philadelphia County for events and damages related to Tropical Storm Isaias.

8/4/20 – A Disaster Declaration was issued for Montgomery County for events and damages related to Tropical Storm Isaias.

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.

3/19/20 - A Disaster Declaration was issued for Elk, Mercer, Monroe, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, and Susquehanna Counties in response to the COVID – 19 outbreak.

3/18/20 - A Disaster Declaration was issued for Adams, Allegheny, Butler, Clearfield, Forest, Greene, Pike, and Schuylkill Counties in response to the COVID – 19 outbreak.

3/17/20 - A Disaster Declaration was issued for Cambria, Cameron, Clarion, Clinton, Crawford, Cumberland, Fulton, Juniata, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Northumberland, Potter, Warren, and Washington Counties in response to the COVID – 19 outbreak.

3/16/20 - A Disaster Declaration was issued for Bedford, Beaver, Blair, Cameron, Carbon, Columbia, Erie, Franklin, Huntington, Indiana, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Lycoming, McKean, Perry, Tioga, Wayne, Wyoming, and York Counties in response to the COVID – 19 outbreak.

3/15/20 – A Disaster Declaration was issued for Luzerne County in response to the COVID – 19 outbreak.

3/14/20 – A Disaster Declaration was issued for Centre and Westmoreland Counties in response to the COVID – 19 outbreak.

3/13/20 – An Emergency Declaration for Public Assistance Emergency Protective Measures was issued on March 13, 2020, for all Pennsylvania counties to cover eligible costs that are directly associated with the Emergency Protective Measures being taken to respond to and protect the residents of Pennsylvania from the COVID-19 virus. The designation is EM-3441.

3/13/20 – A Disaster Declaration was issued for Bradford, Bucks, Dauphin, Fayette, Northampton, and Union Counties in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

3/12/20 – A Disaster Declaration was issued for Allegheny, Berks, Mifflin, and Montour Counties in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

3/08/20 – A Disaster Declaration was issued for Montgomery County in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

03/07/20 – A Disaster Declaration was issued for Delaware County in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

01/18/19 – The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania signed a statewide Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on 01/18/19 due to a severe winter event that is expected to impact the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, causing dangerous winter weather conditions including snow, ice accumulation, and flooding.

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.

1/10/18 – The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania signed a statewide disaster declaration on 1/10/2018 for the on-going heroin/opioid epidemic. It will enhance state response and increase access to treatment. The declaration is the first-of-its-kind for a public health emergency in Pennsylvania. It will utilize a command center at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to track progress and enhance coordination of the health and public safety agencies. The declaration specifies 13 key initiatives that are the culmination of a collaboration between all state agencies, with focus on the departments of Health, Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Pennsylvania State Police. On 3/6/18, the governor amended this declaration to include the winter storm that began on 3/6/18.

12/2/16 – A Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance (Cat A-G) was declared on December 2, 2016, for Bradford, Centre, Lycoming, and Sullivan counties. In addition, all areas in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The designation is FEMA–4292-DR.

CONTIGUOUS STATE EVENTS OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO PENNSYLVANIA:

Delaware: Normal Operations

Maryland:	Enhanced monitoring in support of COVID-19 response
New Jersey:	Enhanced Monitoring for potential winter weather impacts
New York:	Normal Operations
Ohio:	Daily Operations
West Virginia:	Partial activation for severe weather – State of Emergency for all 55 counties; Enhanced monitoring in support of COVID-19 response

24-Hour Projected Weather Statewide:

National Weather Service, 0506 hours, 2/28/23

Low pressure will pull away from Pennsylvania today, causing spotty light rain or drizzle to taper off. Across the northeast corner of the Commonwealth, temperatures will remain cold enough for light mixed precipitation into early afternoon. An increasingly gusty west wind will draw drier air into the region by afternoon, causing breaks in the cloud cover in many locations. Highs today will range from the upper 30s over the northern tier of the Commonwealth, to the low 50s near the Mason Dixon Line.

High pressure will build over the Commonwealth tonight, bringing fair weather and light winds with lows mostly in the 20s. Low pressure tracking through the Great Lakes could produce a shower or two over northern Pennsylvania Wednesday. Otherwise, expect fair and mild conditions. Highs will range from the 40s over the Pocono Mountains, to the 60s across the southwest corner of the Commonwealth.
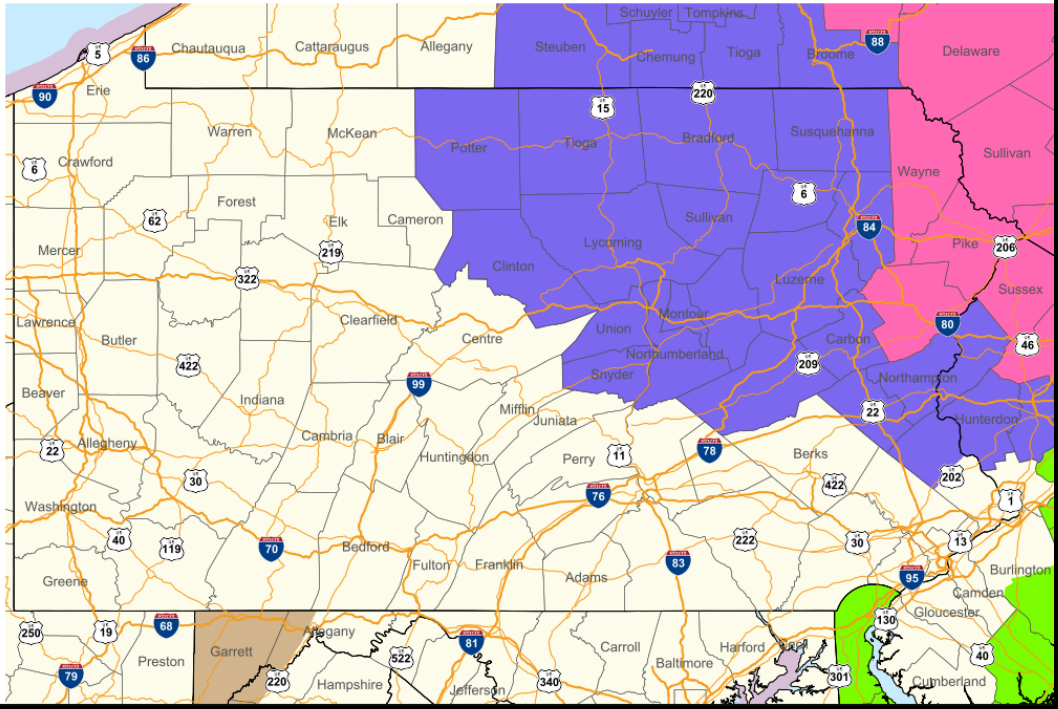
WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

A Winter Storm Warning is in effect until 1300 hours on 2/28/23 for Monroe County

A Winter Storm Warning is in effect until 1900 hours on 2/28/23 for Wayne and Pike Counties

Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

Winter Storm Warning
Gale Warning
Winter Weather Advisory
Coastal Flood Advisory
Small Craft Advisory
Wind Advisory

Graphic Created
February 28th, 2023
5:10 AM EST