



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE:

March 6, 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, March 5, 2023, through 0600 hours, March 6, 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: 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 0530 hours, 2,644 customers
Telephone Outage Reports: None

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

OPEN:

POWER LOSS AT A PERSONAL CARE HOME – Venango County, 3/4/23 – The Sugar Valley Lodge Polk Personal Care Home at 196 Church Street in Polk Borough is without power and water. 13 residents and one staff member were relocated to the Reno Volunteer Fire Department on 4th Street at 1730 hours. The American Red Cross is assisting the fire department. As of 3/5/23, power has been restored and efforts are in progress to restore water. Residents are expected to return on 3/6/23.

ADVERSE WEATHER – Statewide, 3/3/23 – High winds and a wintery mix of weather crossed the Commonwealth, resulting in trees and wires down on roadways, as well as property damage. Speed restrictions were implemented on I-81 from exit 188 to the NY state line and from exit 100 to exit 130, on I-80 from exit 101 to exit 123 and from exit 178 to exit 192, and on the entire lengths of I-84 and I-380; but have since been lifted with the exception of I-80 between exits 101 and 123. Power outages peaked at over 74,000 customers without power and is decreasing. Property damage included the roof blowing off a mobile home in Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County. Somerset County reported a tree took out a porch to a residence in Somerset Borough. Cambria County reported numerous trees and wires down affecting Cresson, Portage, Ashville, Blacklick, and Adams/Richland Township areas. Chester County reported PA-340 was closed in West Caln Township due to a transformer explosion that damaged the utility pole and wires and dropped them on the ground. No critical care facilities were affected. The roadway has since reopened. Fayette County lost their phone lines, and 911 calls were transferred to Westmoreland County for approximately an hour and 20 minutes. The county 911 center and county jail were on generator power. Highlands Hospital in Connellsville reported their phones were out for three hours. The hospital lost electrical power; partial power was restored, but not enough power was available to run the air handlers, CT scanners and some lab equipment. Currently, they are on EMS Divert. South Connellsville Fire Company opened a shelter with the assistance of the American Red Cross at their station due to the power outage. The American Red Cross also opened a shelter at the Hopwood Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall. The Ligonier Fire Department also opened a shelter at their facility due to PA-271 being closed. Residents are unable to access their homes. US-119 was closed from Eighty Acres Road to Connellsville Street due to poles and wires down on the roadway. Jefferson County's 911 center was placed into storm mode. They reported minor instances with trees and wires down. Monroe County reported PA-423 was closed from PA-196 to Tobyhanna Campground Road in Coolbaugh Township due to trees and wires down. Somerset County reported they were in storm mode for one and half hours with multiple trees and wires down. Multiple tower sites were on generator power but have returned to commercial power with the exception of the PA-31 tower. Their Web CAD dispatching system was down as it is based in Fayette County. PA-653 is closed from Garrett and Humbert School Roads to Walker Road in Black Township due to trees and wires down. Susquehanna County reported that PA-92 was closed from Stonehouse Road to PA-2034 in

Gibson Township due to trees and wires down. PA-982 in Mount Pleasant Township is closed due to trees and wires down. Westmoreland County and Unity Township activated their EOCs during the evening hours to manage storm issues but have since stood down. On 3/4/23, six shelters were opened to assist those who did not have power or could not return home due to closed roads; two in Fayette County, two in Westmoreland County, one in Cambria, and one in Venango. Declarations of Disaster have been issued for Fayette County, and the City of Connellsville and Menallen Township in Fayette County. Power outages continue to decline.

SEARCH FOR POSSIBLE DROWNING VICTIM - Luzerne County, 3/2/23 - A rescue boat searched the Susquehanna River near West Pittston Cemetery on 5 West 8th Street in Wyoming Borough for a possible drowning victim. A male's cell phone, a note, and other evidence was found in the area which initiated the search. The search was discontinued overnight. The search continued on 3/3 until late afternoon when the winter weather set in. The search may resume Monday.

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 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. 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. 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 will begin on 3/2/23. People continue to visit the Health Resource Center (HRC) and it will remain operational Monday - Friday through 3/10/23. 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 continues by Commonwealth agencies. The EPA Region 3 Director accompanied by staff, Pennsylvania Senator Casey, and Representative Deluzio toured the site on 3/2/23.

CLOSED:

BERKS COUNTY, GREENWICH TOWNSHIP, 3/6/23 - A tractor-trailer fire closed I-78 east at mile marker 38 in Greenwich Township. Traffic is being rerouted onto Old Route 22. The trapped queue was approximately 1,800 feet and was cleared in just over one hour. The trailer was empty, and an undetermined amount of diesel fuel and engine oil was leaked. The road was open in approximately three hours.

MISSING ENDANGERED PERSON ADVISORY (MEPA) – York County, 3/4/23 - A Missing Endangered Person Advisory (MEPA) was issued for a 69-year-old Hispanic male last seen at 1500 hours on 3/4/23 in the 200 block of S. Hawthorne Street in York City. He was found safe yesterday afternoon.

DISASTER DECLARATIONS:

3/4/23 – Fayette County issued a disaster declaration due to adverse weather and storm damage throughout the area on 3/3-4/23.

3/4/23 –The City of Connellsville, Fayette County issued a disaster declaration due to adverse weather and storm damage throughout the area on 3/3-4/23.

3/4/23 – Menallen Township, Fayette County issued a disaster declaration due to adverse weather and storm damage throughout the area on 3/3-4/23.

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:	Normal Operations
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, 0536 hours 3/6/23

Sunshine accompanying the tranquil and cold conditions this morning across central and eastern Pennsylvania will be quickly followed by thickening clouds through the day, ahead of a relatively fast-moving, but potent upper-level disturbance. Temperatures at daybreak ranged from low to mid-20s in the perennial cold spots of the northern mountains to mid-30s in the larger metro areas of southeastern Pennsylvania.

This aforementioned weather feature will help to transport warm, moist, and unstable air over a developing, nearly stationary frontal boundary that will extend east-southeast from an area of surface low pressure located near Pittsburgh this evening.

Light rain will develop across western Pennsylvania with wet snow over the northern mountains of the Commonwealth before sunset. A rather narrow swath of moderate to heavy snow is expected to occur tonight, near and to the north of Interstate 80 with a general 1 to 4 inches of snow falling throughout most valley locations across the northeastern half of the state and up to 6 or 7 inches possible on the higher terrain between Interstate 80 and Route 6 in northern Pennsylvania.

Over southern parts of the Commonwealth, rain showers later today into early tonight will mix with wet snow near and to the east of the route 22/322 corridor late tonight and early Tuesday.

High temperatures this afternoon will vary from the balmy low to mid-60s over the southwest corner of Pennsylvania, to the chilly mid and upper 30s across the northern mountains.

Colder and drier air will flow in behind this system and stay with us through the middle of the week before temperatures moderate later in the week.

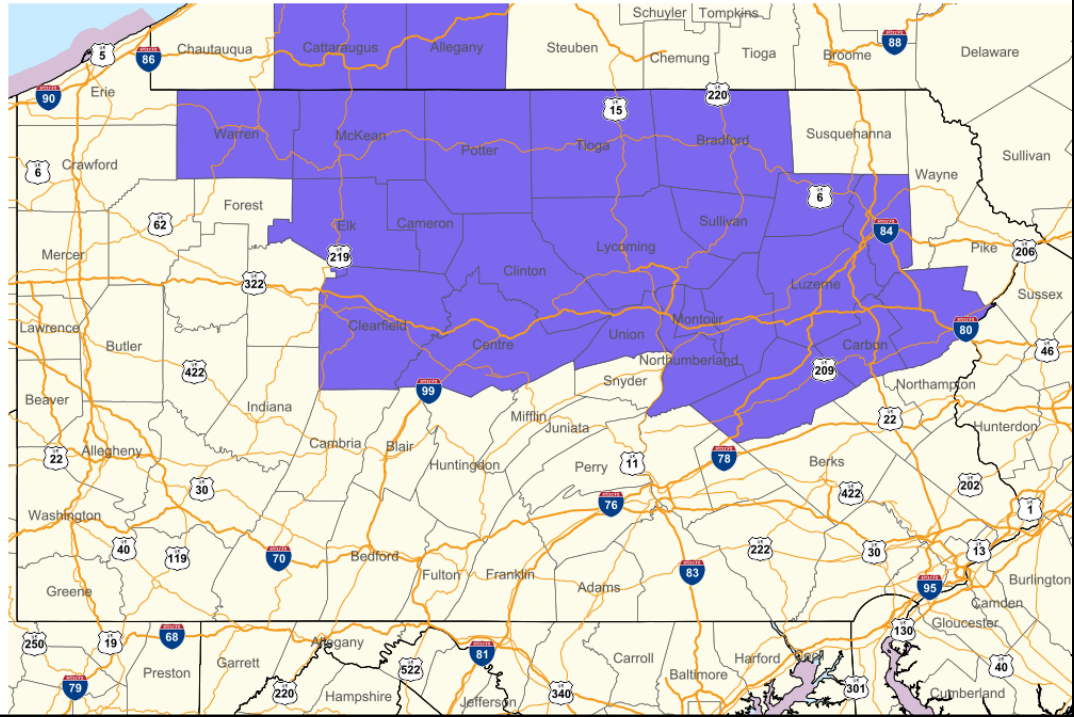
WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

None



Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

- Winter Weather Advisory
- Small Craft Advisory
- Gale Watch



Graphic Created
March 6th, 2023
4:50 AM EST