



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE:

March 24, 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 23, 2023, through 0600 hours, March 24, 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 0600 hours, 312 customers
Telephone Outage Reports: None

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

OPEN:

SINKHOLE IN A WATERWAY – Washington County, 3/23/23 - A sinkhole was reported in Pike Run in West Pike Run Township. The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Fish and Boat Commission responded to the scene. The sinkhole was confirmed to be related to an abandoned mine. PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation is devising a plan in anticipation to divert Pike Run and grout the sink hole on 3/24/23. Fish and Boat confirmed Pike Run is a trout stock fishery waterway and will attempt to rescue trout in downstream shallow holes.

SEARCH – Delaware County, 3/22/23 – A search is underway for a 46-year-old male last seen at 1900 hours on Sunday, 3/19/23 at Route 352 and Yearsley Mill Road near the Penn State Brandywine Campus in Middletown Township. The subject walked away from a local hospital. He is described as six feet tall, 180 lbs., tattoos on his neck, arms, and hands, wearing a black Carhartt jacket, black hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans, and eyeglasses. He has not been seen or in contact with anyone since Sunday and police have a reason to believe he is endangered.

SILVER ALERT – Washington, D.C., 3/20/23 - A Silver Alert was issued by the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., who are seeking the public's assistance in locating a 66-year-old male who was last seen in the 2400 block of 25th Street, Washington D.C., on Sunday, March 19, 2023. He is described as a black male, five feet five inches tall, 128 pounds, with a dark complexion, short salt and pepper hair, and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a black coat.

TRAIN DERAILMENT – Columbiana County, Ohio, 2/3/23 - On 2/3/23 at 2130 hours mutual aid crews from Beaver County responded to a train derailment near Taggart Street, East Palestine, Ohio. Approximately 53 railcars derailed and some of them caught fire. There were five cars of vinyl chloride within the wreckage. Around 2330 hours a call was received from an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 representative, and they advised there was no current impact to PA. EPA Region 5 and Ohio EPA set up air monitoring equipment and they also used handheld monitors, and nothing was detected. Members of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Southwest Regional Office were also onsite monitoring through daylight and maintained a presence until there was no threat to PA. An IMAAC model showed a potential impact to residences in PA if harmful chemicals were released from any of the derailed cars. Beaver County EMA Coordinator reported that they followed Columbiana County, Ohio's lead and a message was sent out to 16 registered users in the one-mile zone to shelter in place. Ohio later changed their message to an evacuation, but Beaver County remained as a shelter in place due to no residences being impacted. Shell Monaca was provided green foam to help extinguish the fires. Clean-up contractors from SPSI and Hepaco responded to the scene. 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. 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. On Monday, 3/6/23, Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro announced that Norfolk Southern has agreed to pay Pennsylvania millions of dollars for the impacts of the train derailment. Norfolk Southern agreed to reimburse local fire departments to replace contaminated or damaged equipment used during the response to the derailment, to provide funds for a Community Relief Fund to be run by officials in Beaver and Lawrence counties,

and to reimburse state agencies (DEP, DOH, and PEMA) for associated costs. Norfolk Southern will collect soil samples by March 9th with representatives from the EPA will be present. Removal of the train tracks closest of Pennsylvania began over the weekend and was completed 3/5/23. Excavation of the contaminated soil began, and odors are expected to be released into the air. Air monitoring will be increased during the process which is expected to take at least three to four days depending on the depth of the contaminants in the soil. The EPA requested Norfolk Southern to provide additional financial assistance to residents within one mile of the derailment site if they are impacted by the odors released during the excavation of the soil which the company has agreed too. Pennsylvania state agencies will support another East Palestine Community Resource Fair this Thursday at the East Palestine High School. Beaver County will coordinate a separate Community Resource Fair for Pennsylvania residents for next week which the state agencies will support. U.S. Senator Bob Casey completed a quick tour and talk at the Health Resource Center Monday morning. A Norfolk Southern contracted company has sampled 16 private wells in Pennsylvania. DEP has sampled 27 private wells in the area as of Monday with more sampling expected 3/7/23. On 3/8/23 DHS coordinated a call with Beaver and Lawrence counties about the possibility of applying for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Emergency Response Grant (SERG) to provide funding for additional behavioral health services that may be required following this incident. DOH and PEMA also participated in the call. Excavation work at the site was temporarily stopped due to elevated readings and release of odor. The pit has currently been covered as Unified Command decides how to move forward. Beaver County will coordinate a separate Community Resource Fair, supported by appropriate state agencies, for Pennsylvania residents on March 16, 2023, from 1800-2000 hours at the Darlington Township Fire Department. The excavation of the soil at the south tracks of the derailment site is mostly complete. As of 3/13/23, Norfolk Southern is waiting on soil samples to come back from the elevated spots that were detected. Due to contaminants being detected during the initial excavation, at 2-4", additional sampling was done at 12-15" to make sure all contaminated soil is removed. Soil excavation for the north track is still in the planning process. As of 3/16/23, the excavation of the soil at the south tracks of the derailment site is complete. If the results from the soil samples are within acceptable limits, it will take about a week to reinstall the tracks on the south side. The Health Resource Center (HRC) completed its final daily operational period at 1400, 3/16/23. The HRC will operate on Thursdays beginning next week.

CLOSED:

BOMB THREAT – Berks County, 3/23/23 - A bomb threat occurred at Kutztown High School in Kutztown Borough. An unknown number of students and staff were evacuated to the middle school for the remainder of the day. A search of the school was conducted by local police with nothing found.

SCHOOL FIRE – Philadelphia County, 3/21/23 - A three-alarm fire occurred at the Our Mother of Consolation School in the City of Philadelphia. An unknown number of staff and students were evacuated from the school. One firefighter was taken to a local hospital with minor injuries. No injuries to students or staff were reported. Fire crews remained on scene through the morning of 3/22/23 to extinguish any hotspots. An investigation on the cause continues.

HAZMAT INCIDENT – Lancaster County, 3/12/23 – An ammonia leak occurred at the Kunzler Meat Company facility in Lancaster City. A shelter in place order was issued. The HAZMAT team entered the building and was able to secure the valves to the leaking compressors. The product also leaked into a French drain system which was believed to be how it entered the Lancaster City Wastewater Treatment Facility. The shelter in place order

was lifted after four and a half hours. The HAZMAT team continued to monitor the area. The wastewater treatment facility assessed impacts to their facility; it was found that more oxygen was needed in the treatment process after the release. On 3/23/23, all assessments on the wastewater treatment facility have been completed.

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 of COVID-19
New Jersey:	Normal Operations
New York:	Normal Operations
Ohio:	Normal Operations
West Virginia:	Enhanced monitoring of COVID-19; State of Preparedness for all 55 counties ahead of potential heavy rainfall and high winds

24-Hour Projected Weather Statewide:

National Weather Service, 0555 hours 3/24/23

Rain showers will continue across the southern portion of the Commonwealth this morning as a cold front that moved through PA overnight stalls south of the Mason Dixon line. High temperatures today will range from the mid-40s to the lower 50s.

After a break in the rain this afternoon, occasional showers will redevelop this evening across southern Pennsylvania then expand back north tonight and continue on Saturday. Snow may mix in at times over parts of northeast Pennsylvania on Saturday.

A damp and raw day is expected Saturday before more sunshine and breezy conditions help dry things out on Sunday.

WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

A Flood Watch has been issued for Fayette and Greene Counties until 0800 hours on 3/25/23.



Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

- Flood Watch
- High Wind Watch
- Gale Watch



Graphic Created
March 24th, 2023
5:30 AM EDT