



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE:

May 29, 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, May 28, 2023, through 0600 hours, May 29, 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 personal grievances continue to pose a persistent and lethal threat to the Homeland. Both domestic violent extremists (DVEs) and those associated with foreign terrorist organizations continue to attempt to motivate supporters to conduct attacks in the Homeland, including through violent extremist messaging and online calls for violence. In the coming months, factors that could mobilize individuals to commit violence include their perceptions of the 2024 general election cycle and legislative or judicial decisions pertaining to sociopolitical issues. Likely targets of potential violence include US critical infrastructure, faith-based institutions, individuals, or events associated with the LGBTQIA+ community, schools, racial and ethnic minorities, and government facilities and personnel, including law enforcement.

Effective: 5/24/2023 1400 hours to 11/24/2023 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 0540 hours, 55 customers
Telephone Outage Reports: None

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

OPEN:

MISSING PERSON SEARCH DETAIL - Chester County, 5/3/23 - A search was conducted for a 20-year-old male who was last seen on foot in the area of the 1200 block of New Hampshire Lane in West Bradford Township on 5/3/23 at 2215 hours. He is described as being six feet two inches tall, 160 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes, pierced ears, wearing a grey North Face hoodie with green trim, blue jeans, and crocs. The male suffers from PTSD, autism, mutism, and a diminished mental capacity. He may run from the police department and not know his full name. County canine units assisted with the search; however, search operations ceased with the male not located. A Missing Endangered Person Advisory (MEPA) was issued on 5/4/23 at 1141 hours.

COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE FIRE - Berks County, 3/24/23 - A four-alarm fire with explosion occurred at the R.M. Palmer Candy Company in West Reading Borough. A level 2 Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) was declared, and Emergency Medical Services and MCI trailers were requested from Lebanon County. Due to significant structural damage and partial collapse, a grid search of the incident area was initiated. A resource request was made for a modified Type 4 Urban Search and Rescue team to include collapse engineers, canine search teams (live and cadaver), technical search, rescue specialists, and logistic and planning personnel. A three-mile temporary flight restriction was issued around the incident but was lifted at 2235 hours last evening. Norfolk Southern rail traffic was paused in the area due to debris on the railroad tracks. As of 0606 hours this morning, rail traffic has resumed with a five-mph restriction due to instability of buildings in the area. A shelter in place order was issued for residents along Franklin Street. The PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT) was requested to assist with traffic control at the exits of US-422 to Penn Avenue and at the intersection of Penn and 4th Avenues. The county Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was at an enhanced level. They stood down at 0130 hours this morning. On 3/25/23, five apartments at Penn Avenue and 2nd Street were deemed uninhabitable. The American Red Cross is assisting the residents and reported there is no need for a shelter. Search efforts have been completed. PATF-1 has demobilized and departed for home base. Both eastbound and westbound lanes of Penn Avenue and the off ramps from US-422 eastbound and westbound reopened. On 3/28/23, the National Transportation Safety Board opened an investigation into the explosion and fire.

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 3/23/23. Excavation of the north track and removal of contaminated soil and water continues. OSHA has joined the on-site operations to provide support to the safety officer and ensure that the community and personnel are safe during operations. EPA Region 5 conducted an information session focused on air quality and air monitoring on 4/27/23. Activities are ongoing.

CLOSED:

MISSING PERSON – Greene County, 5/19/23 - A search was conducted for a missing male in the area of the Wisecarver Reservoir in Franklin Township. The male's truck was discovered at the kayak launch with an empty kayak on the reservoir. PA Fish and Boat, Company 61 of the Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Department, Company 62 of the Morris Township Volunteer Fire Department with their boat, and Region 13 Murrysville Medic 1, who provided divers and sonar equipment, assisted the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) with the search. After several hours of searching the reservoir, the search was suspended for the day with the male not being found. Authorities lowered the water level of the reservoir to aid in

the search. Search operations continued Sunday, May 28th. Pennsylvania State Police reported the male's body was located and recovered.

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, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Indiana, Somerset, and Washington. The application period for economic injury loan applications expired on 5/19/22.

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:	Normal Operations
New Jersey:	Normal Operations
New York:	Normal Operations
Ohio:	Normal Operations
West Virginia:	Normal Operations

24-Hour Projected Weather Statewide:

National Weather Service, 0407 hours, 5/29/23

A slow-moving low-pressure system over the Carolinas will bring clouds and the potential of a few showers over southern Pennsylvania this Memorial Day. Meanwhile, mostly sunny and warm conditions will prevail over the rest of the Commonwealth. Highs will range from 75 to 80 over the southern tier counties, to the low and mid-80s over the rest of Pennsylvania.

A back door cold front will push westward across the region this evening, perhaps accompanied by a shower over the north central mountains and followed by breezy and cooler conditions overnight. Lows tonight will range from the upper 40s over the Pocono Mountains, to the upper 50s along the Ohio border.

High pressure will build over the region Tuesday, supplying sunny and warm conditions. Highs will range from 75 to 80 over most of Pennsylvania and the low to mid-80s across the northwest counties.

WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

None



Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

■ Rip Current Statement
■ Small Craft Advisory



Graphic Created
May 29th, 2023
5:10 AM EDT

TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK:

