



VOLUME 17, ISSUES 1 & 2

# BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

SPRING & SUMMER, 2022 NEWSLETTER

## BVPS FEDERALLY EVALUATED EXERCISE

*Schuyler Mu*

Planning and training for the biennial federally evaluated nuclear exercise never really stops for Beaver County Radiological Program staff. With the pandemic prohibiting many in-person activities in 2020, County staff continued to train remotely, refining video conferencing techniques already in place and updating equipment and software to enhance their ability to connect with volunteers and support agencies, successfully completing the 2020 exercise.

2021 was meant to be an off year, but as Doug Humble noted in a recent newsletter issue, off years are anything but slow. It may mean that Radiological staff don't have an evaluated exercise on their calendar, but they are still busy updating plans and looking ahead to strategically map out their trainings for the following year's exercise. Training for the 2022 exercise began in 2021 and continued into the spring of 2022. Emergency Worker Decontamination Stations (EWDS) and School Districts are typically scheduled first for training as their exercises are evaluated "out of sequence", that is, prior to the date of the BVPS and County EOC evaluated exercise. This year, the evaluated exercise for Darlington's EWDS and the school districts was held on April 19th. Both groups demonstrated successful radiological responses for the federal evaluators, as pictured below.

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Decontamination of emergency responders was evaluated at Darlington's EWDS



BVIU representatives coordinated with local school districts on radiological response

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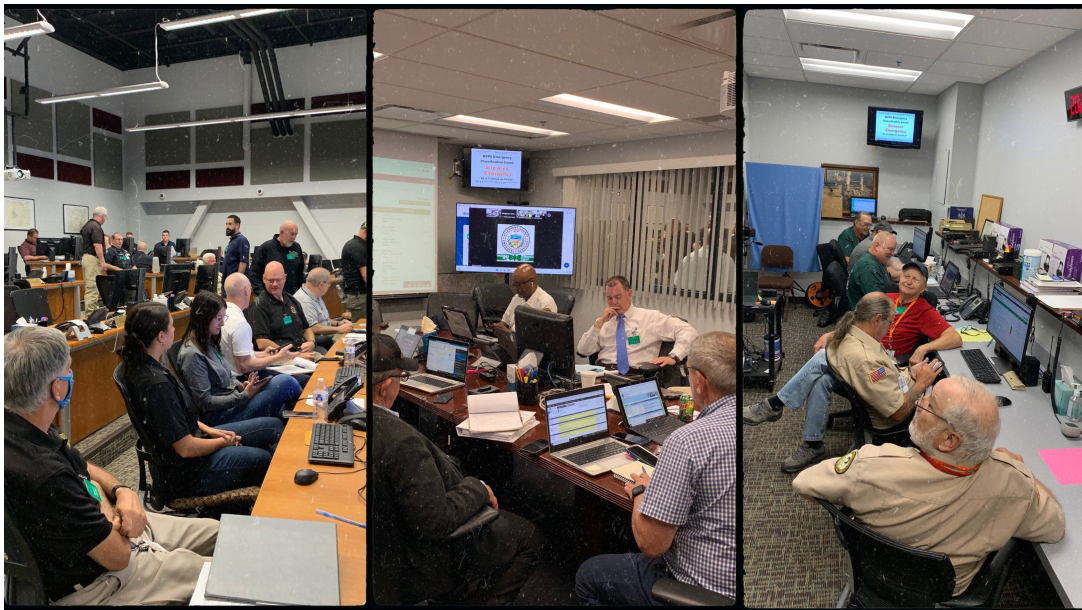
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## BVPS EXERCISE, cont.

Beaver Valley Power Station and County and Municipal Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff trained for the exercise through the months of April and May. On May 12th, a "dry run" exercise was held for County EOC staff members. This rehearsal drill has always been an opportunity for participants to re-familiarize themselves with their exercise roles and work out communications issues and EOC message flow procedures prior to the actual evaluated exercise. This year's dry run proved to be more useful than ever as the full County's EOC staff had not been together for an in person nuclear response exercise since 2018. There had been changes to personnel as well as changes to the main software program used for incident management and to track exercise events.

After utilizing the dry run to full advantage, the county and BVPS headed into the evaluated exercise on the evening on June 7th. Although we are still waiting for the final report from the evaluators, the county Radiological Program staff were pleased with the initial findings and grateful to the many volunteers for their tremendous support, without which success would not be possible.



**From left to right: County Emergency Operations Center staff respond to exercise injects; management level staff from the county and power station make exercise decisions in the EOC's Situation Room; valued volunteers from the county's amateur radio organizations assist with exercise communications from the EOC's radio room.**

**On exercise night, staff demonstrated the county's ability to distribute dosimetry equipment to municipal responders. A drive through system was set up at the Beaver County Hazmat Garage, and municipal volunteers simulated pick up of radiological response equipment by picking up lunches for their staff.**





## THANK YOU TELECOMMUNICATORS!

Beaver County's dispatchers were shown appreciation during Telecommunicators Week in April with meals and gifts from partner agencies and management staff. Telecommunicators: thank you for all you do!



## HAZMAT TECH REFRESHER TRAINING HELD

*Jeff McKay*

Beaver County's Hazardous Materials Response Team 700 members participated in their annual Hazmat Technician Refresher which is held the end of February each year. The program is a 16 hours class provided by US EPA and covering multiple sessions on different Hazardous Materials subjects and skills, including the application of Chlorine Kits and Air Monitoring Operations. Breakout groups provided better one on one experiences with the specialized instructors. The program ended with a full scale drill involving a response to an unknown chemical release.

Thank you to Christine Wagner and her team of instructors who had taken a weekend of their lives to travel to Beaver County to share their knowledge with us, and most of all, thank you to our team members who attended these trainings to keep up their knowledge and skills.

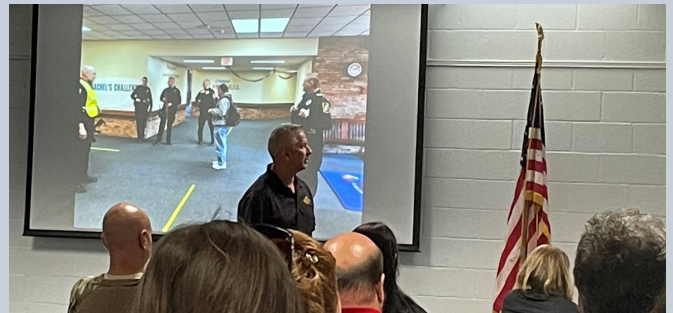


## ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING AND EXERCISES

*Doug Humble*

Emergency Services partnered with the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Department and ESU Team as well as with Beaver Falls City Police Department to conduct Active Shooter Training at Beaver County's Human Services Building on October 27, 2021. The training included a review of Department of Homeland Security's "Run, Hide, Fight" practices and 2 full scale exercises; participants included a shooter actor, 911 dispatch, police response and employees from all of the agencies/departments housed within the building as well as personnel from Community Development (located across the street). After the exercises, a hotwash (organized discussion) was conducted to assist in the preparation of an After Action Report and improvement plan. Additionally, Active Shooter training was presented to new 911 dispatchers early in 2022, and Emergency Services supported the County ESU team at a full scale response exercise at Hopewell High School on July 13, 2022, pictured below left.

A county-wide School Shooting Symposium was held on July 19 and July 26 at the Community College of Beaver County. Hundreds attended over the 2 days with nearly every Beaver County school represented, as well as the District Attorney, Sheriff, State and Local police, the FBI and more. I was pleased to participate and spoke at the event on active shooter and safe schools planning and guidance that Emergency Services can offer to schools.



## WHAT IS VOAD?

VOAD stands for Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. The National VOAD organization was founded in 1969 as a way to coordinate response and recovery after Hurricane Camille. State, regional and county VOAD groups carry on that same mission by bringing together community helpers from faith based organizations, non-profits and other service agencies to provide recovery assistance in partnership with State and County Emergency Management Agencies. VOAD groups assist with sourcing and managing donations, tracking assistance to avoid duplication of services, and ensuring that help gets to those who need it most. Beaver County's VOAD group was revived and reorganized in the early 2000's following several major flood events. Today, the group meets quarterly to discuss incidents, community service events and to train on disaster response and recovery and has been hard at work during recent meetings refining partner capabilities and organizing resources.





# NEWS & NOTES



- **Congratulations to Coleton Flynn, Miguel Bracco, Ava Braunbeck, Connor McHattie and Joseph Fanfarilli** who were all recently promoted from dispatch trainees to Telecommunicators. Emergency Services has also welcomed two **new Emergency Management employees**, pictured at left are Emergency Management Specialist **Madyson Knox-Bennett** and Hazmat Planner/Equipment Coordinator **Jason Gallagher**.



- The following municipal volunteers were awarded their **PEMA certifications: John Bender III**, Professional Certification for Center Township and **Eli Kosanovich**, Basic Certification for Eastvale & West Mayfield Boroughs. **Tino Yaccich**, Emergency Management Coordinator for Rochester Township, was awarded Advanced Certification and was also recently presented his Professional Certification at the PEMA In Service Training at Seven Springs on June 22nd. Mr. Yaccich has successfully completed all phases of the career development program. Great work!



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

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The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter  
is created and published by the Beaver County  
Emergency Services center.

Beaver County Emergency Services is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. Emergency Services manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery.

The Emergency Services center is also the home of the county's Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services. Emergency Services works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to Beaver County.

### Want to contribute?

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