



BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

SPRING, 2020 NEWSLETTER

ARE YOU READY?

by Eric Brewer, Beaver County Emergency Services Director

COVID-19, or as we know it, Coronavirus - is your agency ready for it? At time of publication, there were sixteen positive cases of Covid-19 within Pennsylvania. The risk to the general population in the state is low, but that can change at any point as we see more positive cases in the US. The Pennsylvania Department of Health has the lead in monitoring of individuals at risk that have been returning to the US from China as well as the overall response should we start to see positive cases in the state. Currently there is no vaccine to prevent the novel coronavirus and no approved medications to treat it. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid exposure to this virus.

The CDC recommends:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. It's estimated we touch our face/mouth approximately 90 times a day.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and dispose of tissues in the trash. Do not cough or sneeze into your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Disposable wipes should be readily available for areas such as doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls and desks and the surfaces should be wiped before each use.

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Chiefs and Department Heads should be aware of potential issues that could arise from this virus. Your agency can help protect the health of staff by cleaning surfaces and items that are touched frequently with disinfectant, advising employees to stay home if sick, purchasing supplies such as tissues, soap, and hand sanitizer to promote healthy habits, and engaging with the state health department to confirm channels of confirmation and methods for dissemination of local outbreak information. Your department should prepare and practice Emergency Operations Plans and Continuity of Operations plans, and if not already included, they should incorporate a pandemic crisis.

Ask some simple questions to you and your staff:

- Are you able to sustain your department if absenteeism spikes from increases in sick employees?
- What happens if schools close and your child is now home for weeks/months? Do you have provisions for childcare?
- Are you able to implement flexible working arrangement plans? Can employees work from home? Does your information technology support this type of work?
- Do you have PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) available? Is providing PPE for your employees in your budget?
- Do you have any contingency plans?
- Identify essential business functions, essential jobs or roles, and critical elements within your supply chain. What happens if you are unable to get essential supplies?

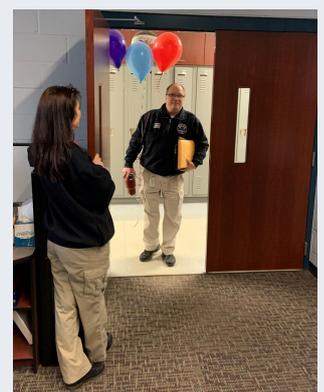
Health officials aren't sure what the future of COVID-19 will bring, but the chances it will end up in Pennsylvania are good. Your agency no matter how big or small should be prepared.

If your department does not have a plan in place you can visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for templates or contact our agency, and we can assist in the planning process.

KEVIN DANIEL'S RETIREMENT

by Kevin Whipple, Deputy Director

On January 23, 2020, Kevin Daniel retired as a Supervisor at the Emergency Services Center after 30 years of service. Kevin began his career on September 6, 1989. On his last day, he was recognized by the Beaver County Board of Commissioners at their public meeting. Upon arriving back at the center following that meeting, we celebrated his career with a surprise luncheon where he was presented with citations from the State Senate and State House of Representatives who each sent Commonwealth Citations recognizing this great occasion.



BVPS EVALUATED EXERCISE TRAINING

by Doug Humble, Emergency Planning & Training Specialist

Beaver County is busy preparing for another Beaver Valley Power Station federally Evaluated Exercise.

In May and June, evaluators from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will observe exercise play at over 50 locations in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio. These exercises occur regularly and are required by law so that federal authorities can evaluate our communities' ability to safeguard the health and safety of the public in the unlikely event that a large scale emergency occurs at the Beaver Valley Power Station which affects the surrounding communities. Even though we are currently preparing for this specific exercise, planning and training is a continual process in Beaver County.



ENERGY HARBOR

by Dave Linkimer, Emergency Preparedness Supervisor, Beaver Valley Power Station

If you have driven through Shippingport in the past week you may have noticed some new signs at Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS). As of February 26, BVPS is no longer affiliated with FirstEnergy and is under the ownership of a newly formed company called Energy Harbor. Energy Harbor is a financially secure independent power producer and fully integrated retail energy provider focused on safe and best-in-class operations. With its fleet of safe and reliable generating resources, including three nuclear power plants providing substantial carbon-free generation, Energy Harbor is well positioned for long-term competitiveness in a low-carbon future. Energy Harbor looks forward to continuing to ensure we are protecting the health and safety of the public by supporting and working closely with our local Emergency Services.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE TEAM (HMRT) 700 TRAINING

by Jeff McKay, Emergency Planning & Training Specialist

The Beaver County Hazardous Materials Response Team 700 has started the year out with multiple trainings. We began with our safety program presented by Brian Hanne, which covered information pertaining to operations in different environmental conditions and the medical problems we need to prepare for.

We then attended a compressed version of the Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (C-MERRTT) program. This is an 8 hour refresher training focused on developing a comprehensive understanding of radioactive material, radiological survey instruments, decontamination techniques for handling radiologically contaminated victims, and resources available to responders. Our presenters Dave Linkimer from Beaver Valley Power Station, Doug Snyder of the PA Fire Academy and Mark Linsley from Technical Resources Group, a contractor of the Department of Energy, all provided a very informative program on transportation radiological response.

As the team continues to strive to train and make our response more efficient, we received a new piece of equipment from our PA Region 13 Taskforce. The Thermo Fisher Scientific Gemini Analyzer is a handheld integrated Raman and FTIR instrument. Raman or FTIR spectroscopy will quickly verify the contents of drums, bags and bottles. The Gemini handheld analyzer minimizes time on a target, and the chemical analyzers deliver a rapid, field-based identification of unknown chemicals, explosives and chemical weapons, as well as narcotics. The Hazmat team can execute our mission more quickly and safely by utilizing this instrument. Most recently, we spent a 16 hour training weekend with Christine Wagner of the EPA and Hillary, Don, and Dave of Weston Solutions who provided our annual Hazardous Materials Technician refresher program. The training provided us with more information on responses requiring corrosives neutralization as well as responses to varied incidents including ammonia leaks, radioactive medical waste disposal and methane present at a landfill. This training also gave team members the opportunity to use the Gemini to identify unknown chemicals and to practice sampling operations for Anthrax as well as practice with CAMEO, MARPLOT & ALOHA software to plot potential threat areas.

I would like to thank all of the presenters and the team members who continually come to train and prepare in the event of a Hazardous Materials Response. Great job to all!



MUNICIPAL EMC TRAINING, 1ST QT 2020

by Jeff McKay, Emergency Planning & Training Specialist

As part of the Emergency Management training for Municipal EMA Coordinators, Beaver County provides quarterly training on different issues that pertain to EMA responses. This January, we invited Richard Ressel from the Bart Township Fire Department in Lancaster County to speak to us about his experience at the West Nickel Mine Shooting (Amish School).

On October 2, 2006, a shooting occurred at an Amish one room schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, which is a village of Bart Township. A gunman took hostages and shot eight out of ten girls (aged 6–13), killing five, before committing suicide in the schoolhouse. The gunman (32) was a milk tanker truck driver who served several Amish farms in the Nickel Mines area (including some of the victims' families). He had three children and a wife, for whom he left four separate suicide notes. Rich presented information on how the gunman approached the school and how the 911 center was notified, as well as how the initial response was handled by the State Police. State Police were trying to communicate with the gunman while waiting for backup when the shooting started. PSP immediately approached the school when suddenly the shooting stopped, and the gunman committed suicide. This was followed by the painstaking response by EMS and Fire to treat the victims at the scene and determine how they would be transported, by ground or by air. One problem was the issue of medical helicopters being unable to land due to media helicopters covering the incident. As the presentation went on, Rich talked about his friend's physiological issue after the incident and that help wasn't made available for him. Other issues he spoke about were working with the Amish population's beliefs, handling the national media, and dealing with the Amish funerals to help them cope with the national attention.

Rich also talked about donations received - from expired food and drinks to used stuffed animals etc. Donation management can become a big concern and one that isn't often planned for. And finally, Rich provided us with a demonstration about incident command by tossing tennis balls to an individual. This was meant to represent the many positions and tasks that are going to build up in the arms of the IC and that may overwhelm you at an incident. His point that the IC may need to delegate these jobs and tasks to others was well taken. Thank you Richard Ressel for coming out from Lancaster County to present to our local EMA coordinators.



**Have you thanked a dispatcher lately?
Show your appreciation April 12-18, 2020 during
National Public Safety Telecommunicators week.**

NEWS & NOTES

- Emergency Services **staffing changes** in the last quarter include a promotion and new hires within the 911 training program. Congratulations are in order to Cole Zurik who completed dispatcher training and was promoted to a part time dispatcher position in December, and Jamie Crappio and Josh Trone have joined the team as new dispatch trainees.
- **ID badges** will be issued to Law Enforcement Officers who require an ID to enter the Beaver County Courthouse and EMS personnel only. Appointments and department head authorization are required in advance. Please call 724-775-1700 to schedule an appointment or for more information.
- **As of January 1, 2020, the Beaver County 911 Center has discontinued faxing incident information and updates to local departments.** Local agencies can use the NetViewer website to securely access incident information or they may choose to have closed incident reports emailed to them. If your agency is ready to upgrade, please contact Jim McCarthy at 724-775-1700 or jmccarthy@beavercountypa.gov.

EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- March 8: Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 11: Beaver County Firefighter Assoc. Mtg, 7 pm
- March 12: BVARA FCC Tests & Meeting, 5 pm
- March 18: DOT PHMSA Rail Hazmat Response Operations Training, Hazmat Garage
- March 18: Chiefs of Police Meeting, Noon
- March 19: First Day of Spring
- March 19: BVPS Evaluated Exercise Dry Run
- March 23: Blood Drive, noon—6 pm

APRIL 2020

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- April 9: BVARA FCC Tests & Meeting, 5 pm
- April 10: Good Friday Holiday, County Offices Closed
- April 12: Easter Sunday
- April 15: Chiefs of Police Meeting, Noon
- April 15: Hazmat Training, 6:30 pm, Hazmat Garage
- April 24: Mental Health First Aid Training

MAY 2020

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- May 2: Hazmat Physical and Chemical Properties Training, Hazmat Garage
- May 5—6: BVPS Evaluated School District, Support County & EWDS Exercises
- May 10: Mother’s Day
- May 14: BVARA FCC Tests & Meeting, 5 pm
- May 19: VOAD & LEPC Meetings, 11 am & 1 pm
- May 20: Chiefs of Police Meeting, Noon
- May 20: Hazmat Training, 6:30 pm, Hazmat Garage
- May 25: Memorial Day, County Offices Closed

ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED AT THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

For more information on any of the above listed events, or to add your public safety event to future calendars, please email the editor at: smu@beavercountypa.gov



Together,
we
can do
amazing

Economy Ambulance Blood Drive

Monday, March 23
Noon - 6 p.m.
Beaver County Emergency Services
The Meeting Room
351 14th Street, Ambridge, PA 15003

To save time, complete your health history questionnaire online on the same day as your donation.

Go to Vitalant.org, select Donate, then Health History Questionnaire and start your questions.

To make an appointment:

- Visit vitalant.org, click on the Donate button and search with group code C5990032 or
- Download the Vitalant-Pittsburgh Mobile App for your smart phone, or
- Call 877.258.4825 or contact the Economy EMS office at 724.266.9111

For more information or to schedule a donation, call **877.258.4825** or visit us at vitalant.org
Find us @vitalant:   

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003
724-775-1700

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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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