

120 Davies Dr.
York, PA 17402

Special points of interest:

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- > Year End Summaries
- > YAMMRS Update

The Brief

Severe Winter Weather

December brought a couple of reminders that the time to prepare for severe weather is ahead of the storm. On December 5th, a winter storm dumped up to 8 inches of snow in the Shrewsbury area in York County. Red Lion received about 5 inches and points north received less. While the storm didn't cause a widespread emergency, it was a sign of things to come. On December 19th, a second storm system moved through York County. This time with more impressive results. Southern York County received about 20 inches of snow.

Accumulations tapered off to the north. This storm system prompted approximately 2 dozen municipalities, the City of York, and the County of York to issue Snow Emergency Declarations. The City of York later issued a Disaster Declaration to assist with storm response efforts. Municipalities issuing a Snow emergency Declaration are asked to fax a copy of the document to the York County Office of Emergency Management at (717) 840-7406. YCOEM would also ask that municipal officials report the declaration to our **Weather Line** at (717) **840-2989**. The Weather

Line is a valuable tool in assisting York County Emergency Management staff in maintaining situational awareness. YCOEM personnel monitor the Weather Line via telephone which can be important in the event severe weather hampers the response.



Above: A parked car alongside a snow bank in Red Lion.

Below: While most people were digging out, a southern York County girl enjoys the benefits of a foot and a half of freshly fallen snow.



Above: A formerly plowed-in sidewalk in southern York County is cleared using a snow blower revealing the depth of the snow.

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County Animal Response Team (CART)



CART members and Decon Strike Team during an EXERCISE to learn how to handle animals that have been contaminated with a chemical.

York County CART has 25 active volunteer members trained to respond to emergencies involving animals. Members have to take ICS courses and HazMat Awareness. In 2009, the team responded to a dozen calls. CART is requested by first responders through 911. The team typically is called when large animals, such as farm

animals and large exotics including Alpacas and Emus, are involved in incidents. The parent organization is PA SART (State Animal Response Team). PA SART provides grant funding and drives planning initiatives to county teams across the state. Anyone interested in joining is asked to call Linda Spahr at 840-7145.



CART corralling a turkey and prepping for transport during an exercise.

York/Adams Metropolitan Medical Response System

Many experts believe a third wave of H1N1 Flu could strike in the February—March time-frame. Therefore, efforts to combat the illness continue in full force. YAMMRS will soon complete round 1 of administering the vaccine to children who were registered to receive it in school. The week of January 11, 2010, YAMMRS will begin

heading back to elementary schools in York and Adams Counties to provide the recommended second dose of vaccine to the 5-9 age group. It has been a monumental effort and YAMMRS would like to thank the more than 900 volunteers who assisted in the effort. Visit www.yammrs.org for more information.

Right: Parents fill out forms at Memorial Hall at York Fairgrounds during a YAMMRS pre-school / toddler vaccination clinic on November 24th.



Left: Mom looks more relaxed than daughter about to receive the H1N1 flu shot at the November 24th clinic.

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)

The South Central Pennsylvania Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team was formed nearly 25 years ago. Today, the team consists of 46 active volunteers who are trained through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. In 2009, the team completed 24 missions requiring 45 personnel assignments. CISM is a comprehensive, integrated, multi-component crisis intervention system. The Team is comprised of firefighters, sheriffs personnel, police officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, nurses, 911 dispatchers,

first responders, pastoral caregivers and mental health clinicians. CISM encourages first responders to call following any event that causes unusually strong emotional reactions that have the potential to interfere with one's ability to function normally. The team is requested through 911. The goals of CISM include: mitigate the impact of the event; accelerate the recovery process; reduce cognitive, emotional and physiological symptoms, and assess the need for other services. Please contact Joyce Daniels at (717) 324-0673 for more information.

Services

Debriefing- a structured group discussion where participants are encouraged to discuss their thoughts and emotions.

Defusing- a shortened version of a Debriefing.

Individual- one-on-one discussion

Large Group Crisis Intervention- demobilizations / crisis management briefings

Education



PEMA Certifications

It's been a busy 4th quarter in 2009 for municipal emergency managers. Many prioritized professional development this year. Join YCOEM in congratulating municipal emergency management coordinators and their staffs in achieving Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Certifications. PEMA Certification is a three tier program highlighting the advancement of emergency managers at the municipal level. The three tiers are: Basic, Advanced, and Professional.

It takes a minimum of 3 years to work through the three tiers and achieve Professional Certification. During the program, emergency managers learn about Pennsylvania Law as it relates to Duties and Responsibilities of municipalities. Emergency Managers are also trained in the Incident Command System (ICS), National Incident Management System (NIMS), HazMat Awareness, and more. Current requirements are outlined in the table below. The PEMA Certification Program is currently undergoing revision and changes are expected to take effect in 2011.



Above: Windsor Twp. EMA staff after receiving Advanced PEMA Certifications at a Township Supervisors Meeting. (Left to Right) Alan Reed, Bernell Kohler, Jeff Joy, and EMC Elmer Fromm.



Above: Northeastern Area EMC John Moramarco (left) receives his Professional Certification. Northeastern EMA is a cooperative merger of Mt. Wolf Borough, Manchester Borough, and East Manchester Township to share EMA staff and resources. YCOEM Municipal Planner Jeff Joy (right).

Below: York Twp. EMC Kathleen Dellinger on the right receives her Professional Certification at a Township Commissioners Meeting. On this night, Deputy EMC Ray Shaffer received his Advanced Certification and three other York Twp. EMA staffers: Jay Lewis, Anne Zarlenga, and Jack Dellinger all received their Basic Certification. Jeff Joy of YCOEM pictured on left.



Special Note: If you'd like a representative from YCOEM to attend a plaque presentation in your municipality, please call 840-2990 today.

BASIC	ADVANCED	PROFESSIONAL
Initial Orientation	1 Year After Basic	1 Year After Advanced
Duties & Responsibilities	Work Environment	Voluntary Agencies In EM
Initial Damage Reporting	ICS/EOC Interface	Advanced Computer Course
Emergency Program Manager	Intermediate Computer Course	Special Events Contingency Planning
Basic Computer Course	Intro to HazMat	The Professional in EM
Act 1978	FEMA IS-Elective	Written Endorsement
1 County Quarterly Training	ICS Single Resource	1 County Quarterly Training
1 Year on Staff	EM for Elected Officials	
Written Endorsement	Response to Terrorism	
	1 County Quarterly Training	
	Written Endorsement	

York County Missing Child Task Force C.A.R.E. Team

It was a busy and successful fourth quarter for YCMCTF. On the evening of November 11, YCMCTF held a fundraiser for “Lou” the bloodhound at Isaac’s Restaurant and Deli in Springettsbury Township. The support from the community was overwhelming. By the end of the evening, the team raised more than one thousand dollars. One week later, YCMCTF held a conference for the law enforcement community in York County.

Wayne Sheppard and Colleen Nick presented that day, each are with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Ms. Nick’s daughter Morgan was abducted back in 1995. She now travels the country sharing her story with law enforcement. Colleen holds out hope that her daughter will be rescued one day. The conference, too, was a success. Law enforcement from approximately 20 York County Departments attended.

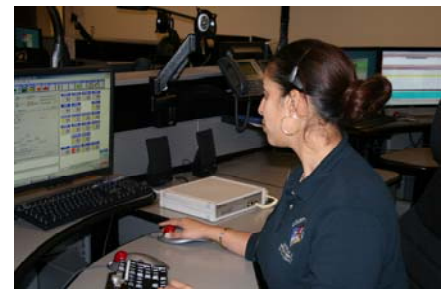


Above: Colleen Nick meets “Lou” the bloodhound. Nick says she is definitely a “dog person”.

York County 911 Year End Summary

2009 was a busy year at York County 911. There were more than **335,000** calls into the Emergency Communication Center. Many calls require a response from multiple agencies. The men and women who work in the ECC take great pride in the work they do and the service they provide to the community and first responders.

Agency Type	# of Responses
Police	319,420
EMS	44,119
Fire	30,999
Total	394,538



Above: A dispatcher in the ECC fields a call into York County 911.

York County HazMat 2009 Snapshot

York County HazMat had a good 2009 and is looking forward to 2010. Last year, the team participated in 31 trainings, a number of them with teams from other counties to better prepare for larger scale incidents. In 2009, there were 26 calls that required HazMat personnel in the field.

The team was put on standby 17 times. York County HazMat received the most calls from York City with 6. York Township was second with 4. Conewago, W. Manchester, and Springettsbury Townships all experienced incidents generating 3 HazMat calls or standbys.

Number of Calls By Month	
January 5	July 5
February 5	August 4
March 6	September 3
April 4	October 3
May 2	November 4
June 1	December 1



Above: Summer ‘09 Training
Below: 91A at an Expo



York County 911 Open House

In October, York County 911 invited the community in for an open house. Participation was strong as hundreds of York County residents stopped in to participate in activities and take a tour of the York County Department of Emergency Services Center. YCDES hopes to make the Open House an annual event. Outdoors, folks were able to tour the Communications Vehicle, HazMat

Vehicles, Fire and EMS apparatus provided by various departments, CART Trailer, and Emergency Medical Helicopters. The little ones walked through a “smoke house” provided by the Eureka Fire Department and they also enjoyed the bounce house. Inside, folks received a tour of YCDES including the Emergency Communication Center (911 call center) and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).



Above: York County resident tries to walk a straight line wearing special goggles that simulate the effects of alcohol.

YCDES would like to thank the following agencies and individuals for making the day a success:

Access-York, American Red Cross, Autism Society, Brock’s Catering, Brusters Ice Cream, Cape Horn Beverage, Craig Lantz Balloon Artist, Darrah’s DBA J&K Salvage, Eureka Fire Co., Food Lion, Harris Communications ,Imagined Signs, Interpreter Ross Rector, Kimball Associates, Leah Burkley and family, Life Lion, Memorial Hospital Medic 102, North Codorus Twp. FD, Pennsylvania State Police, Pepsi, Pleasant Hill FD, Ruppert Security, Springettsbury Twp., Springwood Realty, Stat Medevac, Windjammers, Inc., York Area Regional PD, York Area United Fire/Rescue, York Co. HazMat Team, York Co. Maintenance Dept., York Co. Parks Dept., York Co. Sheriff’s Dept., Yorkco Beverage.

Below: A shot of the parking lot showcasing some of the apparatus and activities available to the public.



Training And Quality Assurance Pass State Evaluations

On December 14th, a 911 Training and Quality Assurance Program review was conducted by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Bureau of 911 to assess York County’s compliance with the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act. According to PEMA: “The review noted no weaknesses and provided

reasonable assurance that York County is in compliance.” The Quality Assurance Department’s mission is to randomly review calls to verify policies and procedures are followed to ensure a high degree of service. The Training Department is in charge of 911 recruitment, testing, and training.

Top: Quality Assurance Supervisor Amy Smith in her office between evaluations.



Bottom: William James is the Training Administrator



YCDES Holiday Party

On December 21, YCDES held its annual Holiday Party. In addition to friends and good food, Santa made an appearance for the little ones and Commissioners Chronister and Reilly teamed up with YCDES Executive Director Eric Bistline for a cookie judging competition. YCDES would like to wish everyone a safe and happy New Year in 2010!



Above: The cookies are lined up and ready for tasting. Below: The judges evaluate the cookies. Director of 911 Cindy Dietz was declared the winner.



Left: Future dispatchers share their wishes with Santa.



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

YCDES
120 Davies Dr.
York, PA 17402

Phone (717) 840-2915
Media Line (717) 840-2977
24 hr. (717) 840-2999
Fax: (717) -840-7406

Off The Editing Room Floor



Above: This photo was taken in the afternoon ahead of the December 19th snowstorm. The halo and spots called "Sun Dogs" are caused by ice crystals in the upper atmosphere.



Above: At a recent PEMA conference in State College, Director of Central Area PEMA Offices Fern Harmon presented York Township Emergency Management Coordinator Kathleen Dellinger with a plaque. Dellinger was recognized for her role working on a committee that's modifying PEMA Certification requirements.