



Office of the Fire Marshal

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WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

July 2021

The Whitpain Township Emergency Management Team provides the following report of activities for the month of July 2021.

TRAINING:

On Wednesday, July 28, 2021, Emergency Management Coordinator Camarda attended an online training session regarding the use of volunteer agencies and groups at times of disaster. The session was part of the monthly training put on by Montgomery County Emergency Management and sponsored by the Southeastern PA Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD).

OTHER ISSUES:

On Friday, July 2, 2021, Emergency Management Coordinator Camarda reviewed the annual downstream notification report from the Merck Company, located at 770 Sumneytown Pike in Upper Gwynedd Township.

On Wednesday, July 14, 2021, Emergency Management Coordinator Camarda reviewed an updated SARA Tier III Emergency Plan for the North Wales Water Authority's Clearwell, located at 1209 Township Line Road in Lower Gwynedd Township.

On Wednesday, July 21, 2021, a severe storm with straight line winds at speeds of 70 to 90 mph struck Whitpain Township at about 3:10 PM. The storm delivered rain, hail as well as the intense winds. Immediately reports of felled trees and utility poles started to come on to the township. The township opened its Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and started to coordinate cleanup efforts as well with effected utility companies. The decision was made to declare a local disaster emergency. All public works staff were held over from their standard day shift to start clean-up efforts. The EOC would operate until 11:00 PM Wednesday evening. The EOC would reopen at 8:00 AM and operate until closed at 7:00 PM on Thursday. The EOC maintained contact with the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Preparedness during the storm in the event additional staffing or resources would be needed.

At the height of the storm's aftermath, numerous roadways were closed and an estimated 80% of the township was without power. The township's public works crews worked diligently to open as many of the roadways as possible and they provided generator power to many traffic signals. Many roads remained closed as the felled trees were entangled in electrical wires and would need PECO's teams to confirm that the power lines were not energized and to assist with their removal. The final roadway was opened 53 hours after the storm struck.

The emergency declaration was lifted on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

David M. Camarda

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Emergency Management Coordinator