

Emergency Preparedness Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2017

9:00 am

The WCASD held an Emergency Preparedness Meeting on Monday, July 1, 2017 at the Spellman Education Center, 782 Springdale Dr. Exton PA.

Representatives from various first responders attended the meeting included local municipal governments, police departments, fire departments, hospitals, county emergency management, and school district personnel. Attendees included: Chrissy DePaolantonio, Safe Schools Planning Coord., CC Dept. of Emergency Services; Don Herb, Dep. Chief CC Haz. Mat Team, CC Dept. of Emergency Services; Bill Turner, Deputy Dir. for Emergency Mgt., CC Dept. of Emergency Services; Jim Morehead, Operations Lieutenant, WC Borough PD; Mike Cotter, Juvenile Officer, West Goshen PD; Justin DiMedio, Lieutenant, West Goshen PD; Joe Gleason, Chief, West Goshen PD; Greg Stone, Captain, West Goshen PD; Joe Catov, Chief, West Whiteland PD; Kurtis Rainey, School Resource officer, West Whiteland PD; Brenda Bernot, Chief, Westtown East Goshen PD; Mike Meiswich, School Resource officer, Westtown East Goshen PD; Michael Lynch, Township Manager, East Bradford Township and Supervisor, West Goshen Township; Mike Holmes, Assistant Emergency Mgt. Coord., East Goshen Township; Rick Smith, Township Manager, East Goshen Township; Kevin Miller, Emergency Mgt. Coord., East Goshen Township; Judy Lizza, Township Manager, Thornbury Township – CC; Teresa DeStefano, Thornbury Township - CC; Jeff Seagraves, Township Manager, Thornbury Township - DC; Michael Cotter, Borough Manager, West Chester Borough; Lisa Covatta, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator, West Goshen Township; Andrea Testa, Emergency Mgt. Coord., West Goshen Township; Robert Pingar, Township Manager, Westtown Township; Don Verdiani, Emergency Mgt. Coord., Westtown Township; Duane Brady, Emergency Mgt. Coord., West Whiteland Township; John Felicetti, Director: Safety, Security and Emergency Management, Chester County Hospital; Valter Vieira, Emerg. Mgt. & Safety, Chester County Hospital; David W. Boyer, Security Manager, Paoli Hospital; Kerry P. Larkin, Trauma Program manager, Paoli Hospital; Mark Ross, Regional Mgr. of Emergency Preparedness, Hospital Assoc. of PA; Chaz Brogan, Director of Operations, Good Fellowship Ambulance & EMS; Bob Fleming, Deputy Chief/Public Info. Officer, Goshen Fire Company; Jon Stafford, Assistant Chief, WC Fire; George 'Bud' Turner, Chief, West Whiteland Fire Company; Shawn McGlinchey, VP Risk Management, Krapf Bus Companies; Jim Scanlon, Superintendent, West Chester Area SD; Bob Sokolowski, Assistant Superintendent, West Chester Area SD; Kevin Campbell, Director of Facilities & Operations, West Chester Area SD; Tammi Florio, Director of Elementary Ed, West Chester Area SD; Sara Missett, Director of Secondary Ed, West Chester Area SD; Leigh Ann Ranieri, Director of Pupil Services, West Chester Area SD; Michael Wagman, Director of Technology, West Chester Area SD; Marilee Giardinieri, Nurse Coordinator, West Chester Area SD; Ellen Gacomis, Principal PWE, West Chester Area SD; James Whitesel, Facilities & Operations, West Chester Area SD; Carol DeLuca, Admin. Ass't./Ass't. Board Sec., West Chester Area SD; Linda Cherashore, Admin. Ass't./Board Sec., West Chester Area SD; Terri-Lynne Alston, Principal EXE, West Chester Area SD

The goal of the meeting was to answer the question if there is a breach, what is the plan, not to debate the merits or disadvantages of the pipeline.

Attendees introduced themselves.

The following documents were made available to the group: agenda, letter from school district dated December 29, 2016 to Sunoco Logistics (Sunoco response to said letter was included in the body of the agenda), Quest Consultants Pipeline Safety Analysis for Middletown Coalition for Community Safety,

Accufacts Inc. Pipeline Safety Analysis for West Goshen Township and the school district evacuation plan handout.

3 District Schools, Penn Wood Elementary, East Goshen Elementary, and Exton Elementary within 3,105, 1,609, and 1,740 feet respectively of the pipeline, and the pipeline is at a depth (at the closest location to the schools) 132 feet, 75 feet, and 50 feet respectively.

The shutoff valves are at a distance of .39 to 4.49 miles away from the schools. Penn Wood Elementary: 4.49 North (Boot Rd) and 1.14 South (Duffers); East Goshen Elementary: 2.16 North (Boot Road) and 3.57 South (Duffers); Exton Elementary: .39 North (Exton) and 2.44 Miles South (Boot Road).

What are the procedures for shutting down the pipeline?

Jeff Seagraves discussed that there are two old pipelines (a 12" line that is currently having maintenance and an 8" line that is active. In December 2016, the old pipelines were commissioned to pipe propane North to South. These pipeline are not buried as deeply as the Mariner East 2 pipeline will be buried.

Delaware County has held meetings to discuss the pipeline. Rose Tree Media School District has had an evacuation drill.

Dr. Missett, WCASD, briefly reviewed the district evacuation plans. Drills currently practiced: Fire Drill, Active Shooter (Internal and External), Bomb Threats (Internal and External), and Tornado.

Mr. Felicetti, CC Hospital Emergency Mgt. explained that hospital capacity for mass injuries is dependent on a variety of factors. Triage happens in the field initially to assess the situation then the coordinator determines, how many, what type, how to treat and then they are dispersed across the region. The following questions were then discussed:

1. In the event of a pipeline incident, how will a determination be made between shelter-in-place vs. evacuation of a school?

District Crisis Situation Procedures Flow Chart - outlines the procedures classroom teachers and building principals take when assessing a crisis. Each year, the District consults with Emergency Management and discusses what should we be doing? And what shouldn't we be doing? The plans and flowchart are reviewed, reassessed and revised every summer. These plans change every year. The flowchart is the only part of the plan that is accessible to the public. The details of the plan are kept confidential due to security and safety reasons.

In the event that the principal or a teacher dials 911 – once emergency personnel arrive, the emergency personnel take over authority at the site.

2. If students are evacuated, where exactly will they be taken? (Sunoco's recommended plan is that people self-evacuate on foot at least 1/2 mile and not use vehicles or cell phones since they are potential ignition sources) How will we ensure the safety of students evacuating on foot for this distance?

The ½ mile was taken from the DOT emergency response guidebook and is a starting point only. Flammable ranges vary. Once emergency responders arrive on scene and data is gathered, data driven decisions will be made vs. decisions based on estimates. There are too

many variables to create an absolute plan to follow. Most decisions will be incident based (game time) decisions.

Will Sunoco notify WCASD in the event of a leak? Sunoco's response is that they will call 911.

3. Will there be a system in place to account for each student prior to evacuation and at the designated evacuation location?

The district has evacuation plans in place. WCASD uses School Messenger as its phone alert system. It also uses Facebook, Twitter, and the district website.

Emergency responders use Knowledge Center software providing responding agencies incident, triage, resource status, critical infrastructure, document management and training exercises. Bed status known within minutes. Children hospitals would be used first and system tracks where all students are. There is also apps that track students transported to hospitals.

The district will provide a .csv file to track students, if an evacuation is taking place.

The Knowledge Center is available to WCASD through CHESCO SNS.

4. How will parents be reconnected with students? How will emergency responders prevent hundreds or thousands of parents from flocking to the school(s) to collect their child(ren)?

In the event of an incident – it is very important that the building respond as a whole and to the directions provided by the administration.

Superintendent to send notification out immediately with a follow up after more information has been received or to give the all clear.

Students might not be able to get to designated relocation point due to location of incident. School district needs to alert parents about this.

District listserv along with website and social media will be used to disseminate information.

5. How will the District communicate with parents in the event of an emergency if cell phones are potential ignition sources?

Immediately. Parents can be alerted right away by School Messenger. Kids may text more quickly, and School Messenger will follow-up with factual information. Factual, immediate communication is key.

Once everyone is at relocation site, parents will be alerted. There is a concern that parents may send a text to student, and if they do not receive a response, parents may hop in car with expectation of arriving on site. NEED to explain to parents that in the event of an evacuation caused by a leak, students may not be able to respond to a text for 10 to 15 minutes, and parents are not to come to the school building.

6. How will the District prevent students from using cell phones during a pipeline emergency?

District protocol is similar to fire drill. Everyone shuts off phones. Once at the relocation site, phones can be used. Parents must understand that driving toward school during an emergency situation puts them as well as the emergency responders at risk.

From a liability standpoint, Sunoco states that no cell phones/cars (or other points of possible ignition) be used. However it depends on the concentration of gas. It is a game time decision.

7. Is there contingency planning in place in case the local fire department (e.g. Greenhill Road) is itself incapacitated due to its close proximity to the pipeline?

Sunoco has agreed that if there's any gas leakage on that property, the station will be notified immediately. The fire department is cautiously optimistic that this is enough. The county has a system in place to have other local fire departments respond in this case.

8. How is the county going to clearly communicate the safety plan to parents, students, and the community so that everyone knows exactly what to do in the event of an emergency?

County Listserv is the notification system. READY ChesCo.org is Chester County's official source for emergency information and government notifications. Residents are encouraged to enroll in the service. Delaware County has a similar system: Delco Community Alert System

Reverse 911 calls to residents is not effective since many no longer have landlines at home.

County is in a support role, plans reside at the municipal level. They would coordinate. Pipeline incident would be considered HAZMAT.

There is a PAV (Pipeline Awareness viewer) app. Can an app specific to the Mariner 2 pipeline be developed?

9. Do our emergency response teams have the capacity and resources to handle a leak of highly explosive gas? What is the plan if they are not able to enter an affected area for hours, if not days?

Sunoco immediately shuts down the pipeline to minimize exposure and then to determine containment. Burn off vs. dissipate – a decision to be made by first responders.

10. What role does the school district have if a leak occurs off school hours?

District would follow direction from the local municipality. Evacuate vs. wait and possibly provide fallout shelters.

East Goshen Township has an audio recording at the township website memorializing their meeting with representatives from Sunoco. There are 9 pipelines in East Goshen.

Next steps

- Provide notes from meeting in a publishable format. Attendees, questions, answers. Provide info to board, parents.
- Dr. Scanlon will reach out to the parochial schools in the area.
- Friday, September 15, emergency responders will attend the Chester County Superintendents meeting to discuss emergency preparedness in our area and to have the superintendents encourage district parents to sign up for the county listserv: READY ChesCO.org
- The school district will send out an email blast to parents/community to sign up for READY ChesCo.org emergency alerts, once information is available and ready for distribution.
- In October, the plan will be presented to parents and the community at a meeting.

All stakeholders will be invited to participate (county emergency, fire departments, police, school district, hospitals, etc.) Information will be posted on district and municipal websites.