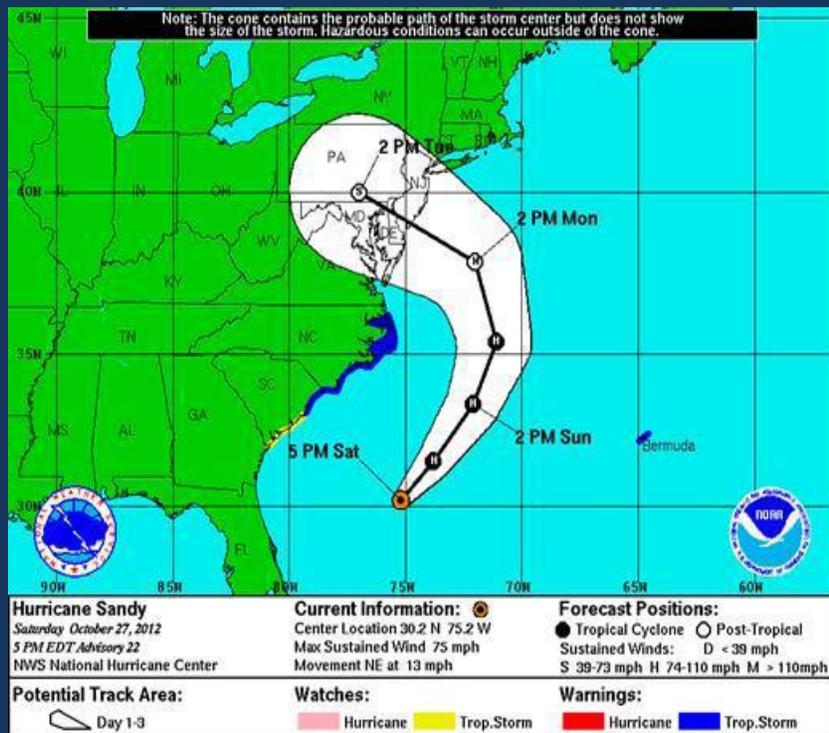


# York County Office of Emergency Management

## Annual Report

### 2012



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## **Vision**

It is the vision of the York County Office of Emergency Management to be recognized as the most professional, well respected, proactive, community and customer oriented municipal emergency management agency in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## **Mission**

York County Office of Emergency Management is charged with protecting the community by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain and improve the capability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism or other man-made disasters.

We undertake this mission with clear customer-focus and recognition that people are the most valuable asset. We value the contributions and dedication of the personnel who staff the emergency response and management systems. We employ and deploy the best available technologies in support of our mission.

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## Executive Summary

After a busy and historic year in 2011, York County experienced a relatively quiet 2012. A large focus of our efforts was directed toward recovering from Tropical Storm Lee which occurred in September 2011. A total of 4034 people applied for federal benefits. The Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) wrapped up its mission of providing services to those whose losses exceeded the benefits received. They served a total of 50 people.

Hurricane Sandy provided the greatest potential for disaster this year. Fortunately its impact in York County was minimal.

On Oct 24, 2012 Hurricane Sandy was identified by the National Weather Service (NWS) with the potential to impact PA the following week. At this time in keeping with the mission developed by the PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), to have County and Local Emergency Management Agencies begin to lean forward and prepare for all types of Hazards, the NWS started to provide briefing slide on the track of this storm. At this point it was still in the monitoring stage. The NWS continued to provide briefing slides on Oct 24th through Oct 26th. At 13:00 on Oct 26, 2012 the York County OEM Staff, 911 Staff and President Commissioner Chronister attended a webinar conducted by the NWS. This webinar provided updated information on the storm. At this point we began issuing press releases and using Twitter and Facebook asking the residents of York County to be prepared for the storm. Another webinar was conducted on Oct 29, 2012 at 13:00 providing additional information. The York County OEM Deputy Director started a partial activation of the EOC at 01:30 on Oct 29, 2012. At 08:00 the rest of the OEM staff reported for duty. At this time we requested a representative to act as a Liaison Officer from the National Guard. We also requested a representative from RACES, Met Ed, PennDOT and the Red Cross. All requested EOC staff reported. During the next 36 hours the EOC was activated. On Oct 29, 2012 the York County Commissioners sign a Disaster Declaration which was forwarded to the State EOC along with declarations from 44 Municipalities. We coordinated the precautionary evacuation of four mobile home parks. Working with Glen Rock EMA we monitored the rising waters in Glen Rock. There were numerous 911 calls for wires and trees down and basement flooding. Our EOC coordinated with Met Ed and PennDOT to get the electric services repaired and roads open. During the storm there were 5 successful water rescues within

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York County. Following deactivation the OEM Staff began the Initial Damage Assessment for York County. After receiving the reports for the municipalities it was determined that York County did not meet the threshold for Individual and Public Assistance but uploaded the damage report to assist the State in meeting the state threshold.

Weather played a big part in the activities of OEM. In North Hopewell Township an EF0 tornado ripped the roof off of a house. There were no injuries.



Training and exercises play a crucial role in any emergency management program. OEM conducted and participated in numerous training opportunities, including hazmat training, Incident Command classes, the regional Wide Vigilance exercise, dispatcher training, and more.

It's important to note that our Director and Deputy Director both received certifications for their positions in 2012. Congratulations to both.

York County OEM would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who supported our EOC operations this year during Hurricane Sandy. The roles and services of voluntary agencies in emergency management will be successful only when agencies are willing and able to collaborate with one another and with other disaster relief organizations to accomplish common goals. Neither voluntary agencies nor the government, working alone, can help the American public mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Collaboration among all sectors of the emergency management community must begin during the mitigation and preparation phases and continue through response and recovery operations.

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## 2012 Summary

### 1. Preparedness

#### 1.1. Amateur Radio

The amateur radio group continues to work on their digital communications equipment. There have been frequent changes but progress continues. The group participated in the eight-county South Central Task Force (SCTF) Wide Vigilance exercise by working with the hospitals through the Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Service (HEARS).

#### 1.2. Hazmat

Hazmat 91 has taken in 5 new members. The team also has several other applications which will be processed through the next several months.

The team continues to train both locally and regionally with the other four regional hazmat teams.

Four members attended the IAFC (International Association of Fire Chiefs-Hazmat conference) in Baltimore. Eight members attended the annual Pipeline Emergencies training.

All equipment is calibrated and ready for service.

#### 1.3. Emergency Management Coordinators

Local Emergency Management Coordinators attended 4 training sessions this year, in accordance with Part V Emergency Management Service of Title 35 Public Health and Safety. Work continues on updating and reviewing their EOPs. The EOPs for nursing homes, daycares, schools and dams also continue to be updated and reviewed. Pager testing was conducted to allow for digital paging of EMCs for incidents. This concept will begin in 2013.

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## 1.4. Training and Exercises

Over 1,200 hours of training was conducted this year. The Hazmat Team members accounted for over 750 of those hours. Other training included Incident Command, namely ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents. The Hazmat Team also participated in the regional Wide Vigilance exercise, which evaluates the capabilities of regional assets over a 3-day, multi-operational period scenario.



York County participated in two MS-1 (Medical Support) drills, which allow hospitals and EMS personnel to be trained on and demonstrate the transport and treatment of potentially contaminated patients following a radiological incident. Hanover Hospital and Glen Rock Ambulance displayed the proper techniques for handling an injured emergency worker from the TMI EPZ. York Hospital and Delta-Cardiff Ambulance completed the same objectives for the Peach Bottom EPZ.

## 1.5 Radiological

The biennial Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station full-scale exercise was held the week of March 26. In preparation, we conducted training sessions for 3 municipal EMAs, 2 school districts, and 2 fire departments, providing instruction to over 150 people. The County's Peach Bottom RERP plan, as well as, all radiological response plans at the municipal level were reviewed

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and updated. It was a successful exercise with a fully activated county EOC, where we responded to unmet municipal needs and fulfilled all FEMA evaluation criteria. We also successfully demonstrated the set-up of mass care centers, and evacuee and emergency worker monitor/decon stations.

York County OEM hosted its first ever annual training day in June 2012. The day is modeled after the annual training day hosted by Exelon. Several classes were offered, with most focusing on the response to a radiological incident. Over 50 people attended training, in six different courses. We plan to make this an annual event.

### **1.6 SARA Planner**

OEM's SARA (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act) Planner reviewed 93 plans from SARA facilities. Facility off-site response plans are prepared by the county Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPCs) in accordance with the provisions of SARA Title III, PA Act 165, and guidance from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA).

## **2. Response**

### **2.1. Amateur Radio**

In times of crisis and natural disasters, amateur radio is often used as a means of emergency communication when wireline, cell phones and other conventional means of communications fail. These "hams" are dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours and much of their own money to make the system work.

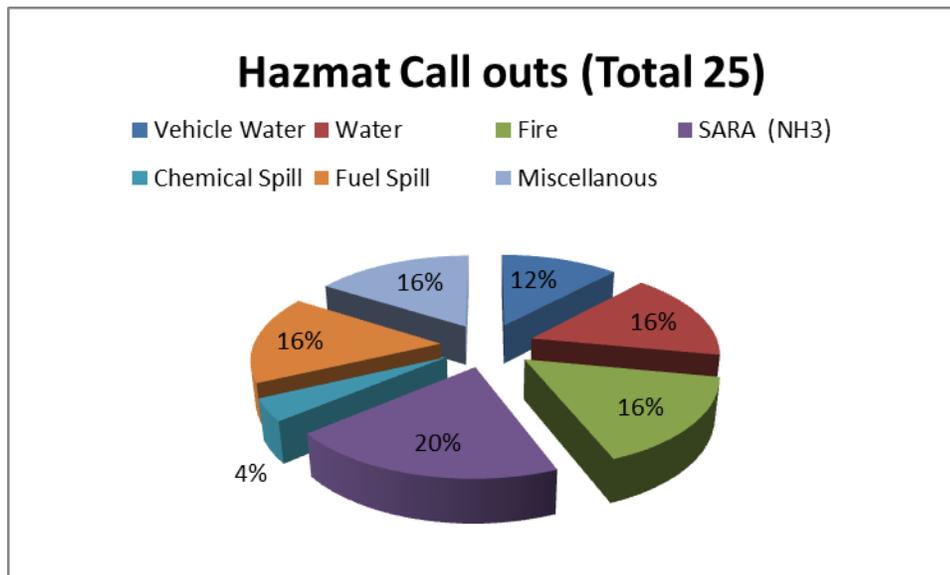
As stated in the preparedness section, amateur radio is working hard to perfect Digital Communications. With this digital method, in a disaster situation, they would be able to transmit large amounts of information in a short time span, thus reducing time on air and problems without the usual spelling errors.

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## 2.2. Hazmat

The Hazmat Team had 56 calls for the year. Most of them were standbys and officer calls. Most calls have been transportation-related incidents, usually with fuel spills. There were 9 standby calls. There were 25 calls on which the full team responded. The Duty Officer responded to 22 calls, accounting for almost half of the responses.



The Hazmat Team responded to a chlorine leak that caused an entire housing development to be evacuated. There was also a train accident involving a train that struck a tractor trailer, causing a leak of diesel fuel. There was also an ammonia leak at SARA facility.

The Team participated in two full-scale exercises. One was the regional Wide Vigilance Exercise, and the other was at a local SARA facility.

This group of dedicated volunteers trains monthly to stay current in their field.

## 2.3. Emergency Management Coordinators

Local EMCs had the opportunity to test their EOPs this year with the impact from Hurricane Sandy. Several municipalities in the east central part of the

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county came together and worked collaboratively in preparation and response to the hurricane.

### **3. Recovery**

#### **3.1 Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)**

York County VOAD was active this year finishing up recovery operations relating to TS Lee from 2011. There were a total of 4,034 people who applied for federal assistance. VOAD, through the Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC), assisted 50 people who either didn't receive benefits, or needed additional help.

The LTRC has completed all work from TS Lee and will stand down until needed again. The County is grateful for the generous participation of all our VOAD partners.

### **4. Mitigation**

The York County Hazard Mitigation Plan was reviewed and updated this year. The final plan is expected to be released in 2013. The plan is updated every 5 years to keep the county in compliance with regulations. The Hazard Mitigation Plan allows planners to review and analyze the hazards and risks that affect the county. Local emergency management partners, business leaders and municipalities use the plan to analyze risks.

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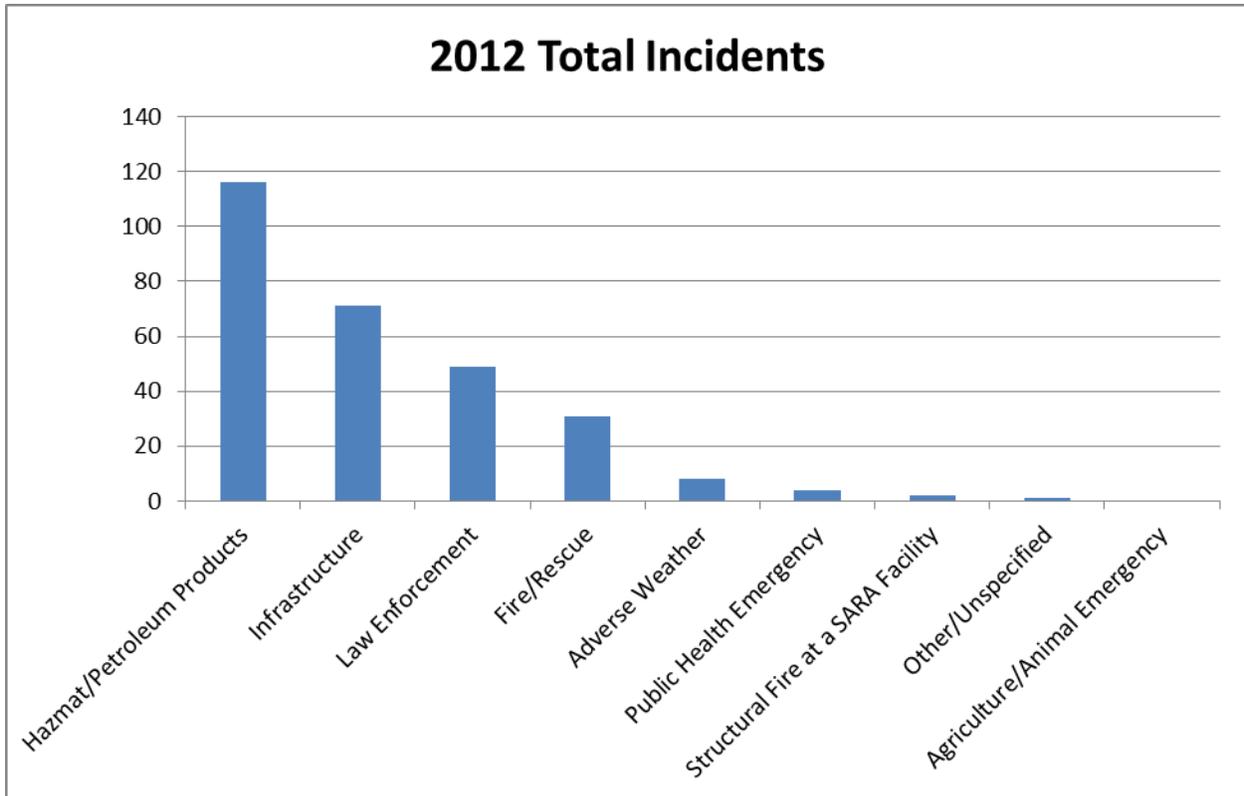
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## Yearly Incident Summary

The Pennsylvania Emergency Incident Reporting System (PEIRS) establishes standard criteria for reporting incidents to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) that affect the safety, security, health and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

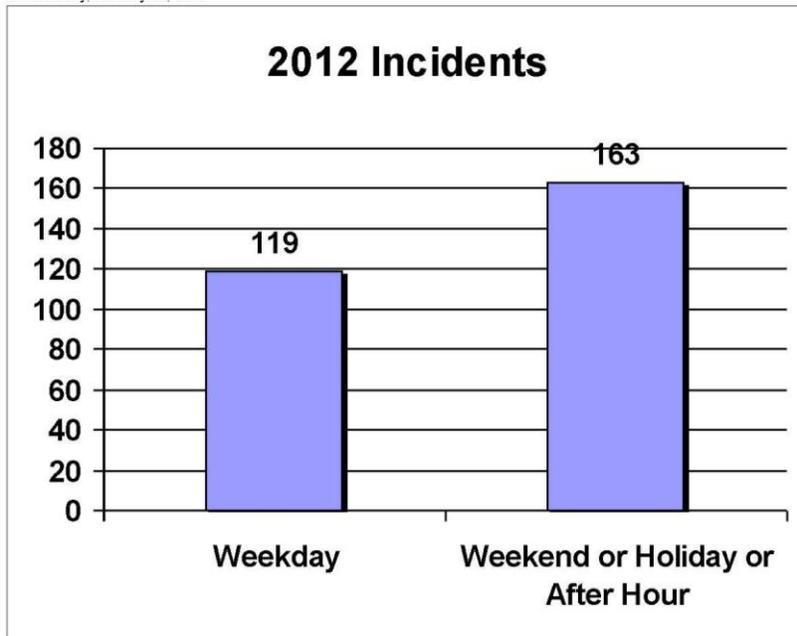


The chart above includes all categories. There were a total of 282 calls for the year.

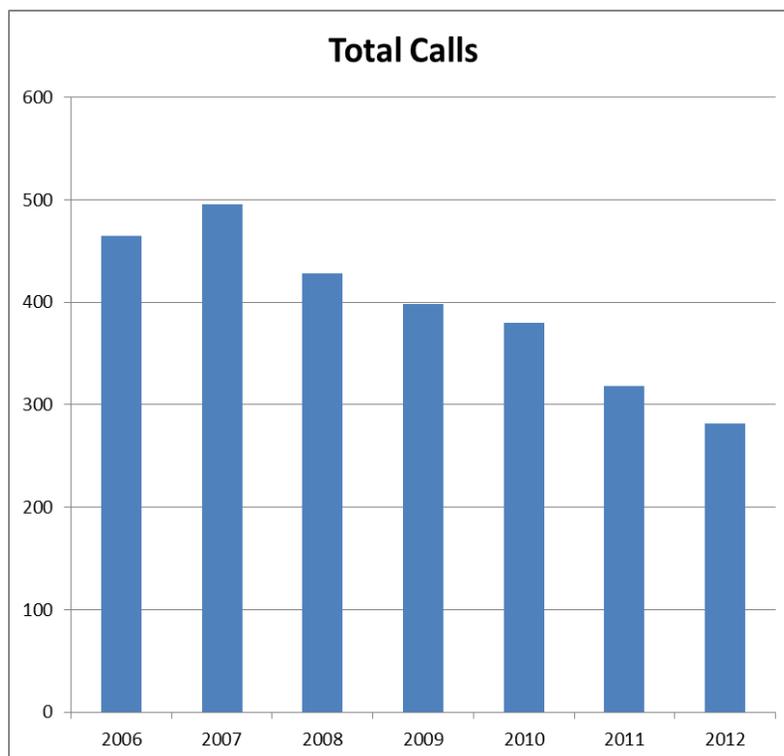
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The following chart shows that almost two-thirds of our incidents occur after hours.



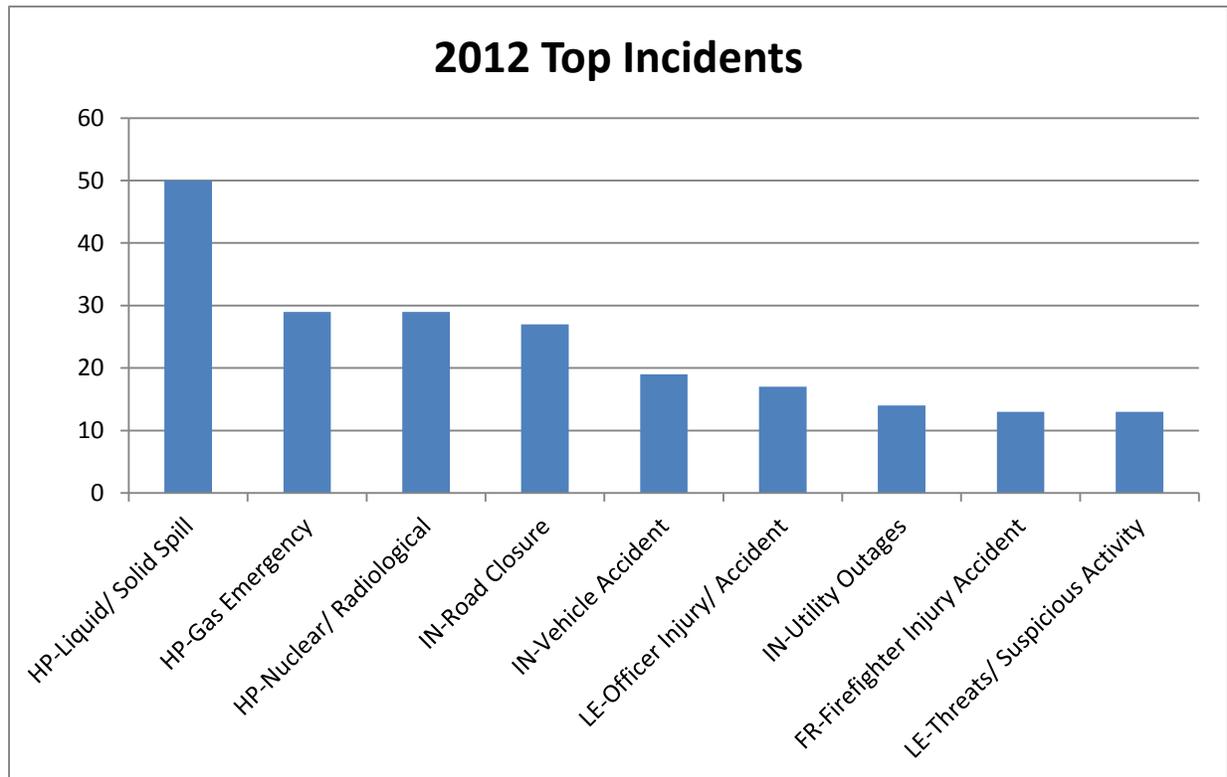
The total call volume has been steadily decreasing since 2007, from 496 calls to 282 in 2012. This can be attributed to better awareness and planning, which is a key function of emergency management.



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## 2012 Leading Incidents

The categories below include the top incidents impacting the reporting process. Individual incidents are included in this report under 2012 Incident Details.



**Liquid/Solid Spill (50):** This category is comprised mainly of vehicle accidents involving diesel fuel spills, which could impact or contaminate soil or waterways. On a few occasions, spills were discovered in storm drains or in the soil due to illegal dumping of oils, paints, or other substances. This creates environmental issues.

**Gas Emergency (29):** This category deals with natural gas disruption and odors.

**Nuclear/ Radiological (29):** This category includes Events of Potential Public Interest (EPPI), which include ambulance calls to Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station. These are generally non-nuclear related calls, but fall into this category. Other areas that are included are radiological transportation accident, radiological waste spill, receipt of radiological transport notices, theft or loss of any state or federally-licensed radiological source, fire at a nuclear regulatory commission or

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state licensed radiological materials facility, activation of a nuclear power plant siren system, radiological release and nuclear plant unplanned outage.

**Road Closure (27):** This category deals with long term road closures that could affect evacuation routes and other key roadways.

**Vehicle Accident (19):** The majority of these reports were for accidents involving school buses or vans.

**Law Enforcement Officer Injury/Accident (17):** This category is used to report accidents and injuries to law enforcement officers during the course of their duty.

**Utility Outages (17):** This category is used to report long term outages of any utility to include electricity, natural gas, telephone and others.

**Firefighter Injury/Accident (13):** This category is used to report accidents and injuries to firefighters during the course of their duty.

**Threats/Suspicious Activity (13):** This category is used to report threats such as bomb threats and other notable suspicious activity.

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