

York County
Office of
Emergency
Management

Annual Report

2014



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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

The weather was once again the main impact in York County for 2014.

Beginning on the morning of Monday February 3, 2014, a winter storm system impacted the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with snow, which created an increase in transportation hazards including various road closures. The fast moving low pressure system brought snow to the southern and eastern half of the state during the morning hours. The heaviest snow fell during the morning commute and those driving in the Harrisburg, York, Lancaster, Lehigh Valley and the southeastern areas were advised to prepare for hazardous winter weather driving conditions. A stronger and more dynamic winter storm was predicted to impact the area from Tuesday night, February 4 into Wednesday, February 5, 2014 with the potential for significant snow and ice. Another winter storm system was also predicted for the weekend (February 8 to 9, 2014) and into the next week (February 10 to 15, 2014).¹

Winter Storm Maximus began overnight Sunday February 2 into Monday February 3. This was a heavy wet snow which stuck to tree limbs and branches. Tuesday was cold and there was no melting of the snow from the trees. York County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) began preparing for the next Winter Storm Nika. This storm was predicting an inch or two of snow follow by ice. Because the snow for Maximus was still on the trees and the prediction of ice it was decided to open the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at midnight. Overnight Wednesday night it began to rain and then rapidly turned to ice. York County received .5 inches of ice. Because of this ice all schools were closed, the County Government was closed and numerous businesses closed. The 911 center quadrupled their call volume for the day. At the height of the storm over 45% of the county was without power. The EOC coordinated with the Red Cross to open a shelter at the York County School of Technology. The EOC also coordinated numerous non-Red Cross supported shelters and warming stations. The EOC coordinated with the utility companies to restore the power. The EOC center was opened until 22:00 hours February 6 when we began monitoring the cleanup using OEM Duty Officers.

¹ Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency After Action Review (AAR) Winter Storm Feb 5-15, 2014, (May 19 2014)

Planning for Winter Storm PAX began on February 12. The storm was forecasted to produce snow at a rate of 1" inch an hour. York County OEM contacted nursing homes and assisted living facilities to assess their preparation. OEM contacted the American Red Cross and working with them established a location for shelter at Red Lion High School. The York County EOC was activated on February 13 at 03:00 with the Operations and Training Officer monitoring the situation. The rest of the OEM staff arrived at 08:00 to assist with monitoring the storm. All schools were canceled for the day and many businesses were closed. All County offices were also closed. The major roadways reduced speed limits to 45 MPH. and numerous roads were closed for snow related reasons. During the storm 3 storm related injuries were reported. The snow stopped around 14:00 but the predictions were for wrap around snow beginning around 18:00 and producing another 3" to 4" of snow. As a result of the storm Fire Station 68-3 suffered a roof collapse. When the snow finally ended, there was around 17" inches of snow total. All schools either canceled school for the next day or were on a 2 hour delay. The EOC closed at 20:00 on February 13 with the main OEM line transferred to the Duty Officer.

2014 Summary

1. Director

York County participates in the South Central Task Force (SCTF) along with seven counties in our region. The SCTF will assume a leadership role in delivering a comprehensive and sustainable regional "all-hazards" emergency preparedness program that addresses planning, prevention, response and recovery for events in South Central PA that exceed local capabilities.

In 2014, OEM held to the same budget level as the previous year, while continuing to provide outstanding service to the county. Funding from the county, grants from PEMA and other sources, and donations provide the funding stream needed to continue our mission.

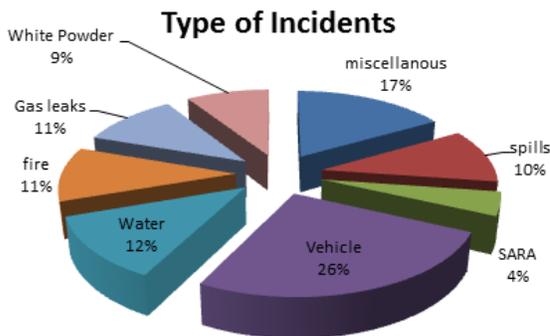
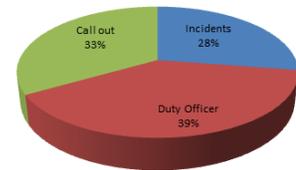
OEM has actively been using social media outlets to notify the public on hazardous weather conditions and other events that may impact on the residents in the county. We find this very useful for feedback from residents as to what they are experiencing during an event.

2. Hazmat

The Hazmat Team had 51 calls for the year. Twenty eight percent were team responses, and 72% were for standby and duty officer calls.

Most calls have been transportation-related incidents, usually with fuel spills.

Standby vs Duty Off. vs Incidents



The team recruited 2 new members this year. While membership has increased, the number of people responding to calls has decreased. This follows the national trend of public safety agencies losing volunteer participation.



Hazmat 91 participated in several exercises to maintain their skills. The team will begin planning this year to get ready for recertification in 2016

All equipment is calibrated and ready for service.

3. Municipal Planner/Trainer

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 schools, nursing homes, daycares, and dams also continue to be updated and reviewed.



OEM participated in numerous public education events throughout the year. The focus was on maintaining an emergency kit, and developing an emergency plan.

4. Training and Exercises

During 2014 the Operations & Training Officer attended the following Train the Trainer Courses for FEMA G-Series Courses at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA):

G 346 Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools

During 2014 the Deputy Director/Operations and Training Officer conducted training classes on Hazmat Awareness (DHMA) and Hazmat Awareness Refresher (DHMAR) for the County 911 staff. He also conducted Hazmat Operations Refresher (DHMOR) classes for local Fire Departments and conducted one Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) G-series Course. The table below is the Operations & Training Officer's Training Report:

Date	Class	Students	Hours	Total Hours
2/19/2014	DHMA	14	4	56
6/17/2014	DHMAR	22	3	66
6/19/2014	DHMAR	25	3	75
6/24/2014	DHMAR	25	3	75
6/26/2014	DHMAR	18	3	54
7/12/2014	G 191 ICS EOC Interface	14	8	112
9/24 & 25/2014	G 146 HSEEP	24	16	384
12/15/14	DHMA	7	4	28
				850

York County OEM again hosted its third annual training day in June 2014. 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. The Red Cross presented a class on local shelter operations. PEMA taught a class on local response to a transportation incident involving radiological material. Both topics were well received. The day concluded with a tabletop exercise that centered on a municipal EOC response to a nuclear power plant incident. Approximately 35 people attended training, in four different courses. We plan to continue and expand this event in future years.

In September, OEM participated with Northern York County Regional Police in an active shooter exercise at Spring Grove Middle School. This multi-agency exercise focused on student evacuation and parent reunification.



On Dec. 7 2014 the whole Emergency ServicesCenter moved to the Long Term Backup Facility (LTBF) in West Manchester Twp. to allow a new UPS System to be installed. The 911 Center did all dispatching from this location. The OEM tested the backup EOC. This was a successful test and verified that the LTBF could be used.

The OEM staff continued to pursue professional development activities. Shen Kreiser received her Basic Emergency Management Staff certification; Jim Welty received his Advanced Deputy Director certification; and Bill James Received his Advance Staff certification.

5. Nuclear Planner/Trainer

The department participated in the first hostile action-based exercise scenario for Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station Radiological Response drill, along with numerous federal, state, and regional partners. This exercise was the first federally evaluated nuclear power plant exercise with a security incident as the initiating event for the scenario for Peach Bottom. Despite some planning challenges, with the involvement of two states, the exercise went very well and was considered a success by all involved players.

Three municipal EOCs and two school districts were trained in preparation for the Peach Bottom Exercise, resulting in 113 people versed in radiological response procedures. The York County Hazmat team also participated in Radiological Transportation Incident Training.

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 Penn Twp Ambulance displayed the proper techniques for handling an injured evacuee from the TMI EPZ. York Hospital and Delta-Cardiff Ambulance completed the same objectives for the Peach Bottom EPZ.

6. SARA Planner/Trainer

The SARA Planner/Trainer assisted with and participated in one exercises throughout the year with various SARA facilities. These exercises are designed to evaluate the facility's emergency plans.

The SARA Planner/Training, in conjunction with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) reviewed 109 SARA plans..

7. Public Information Officer/Trainer

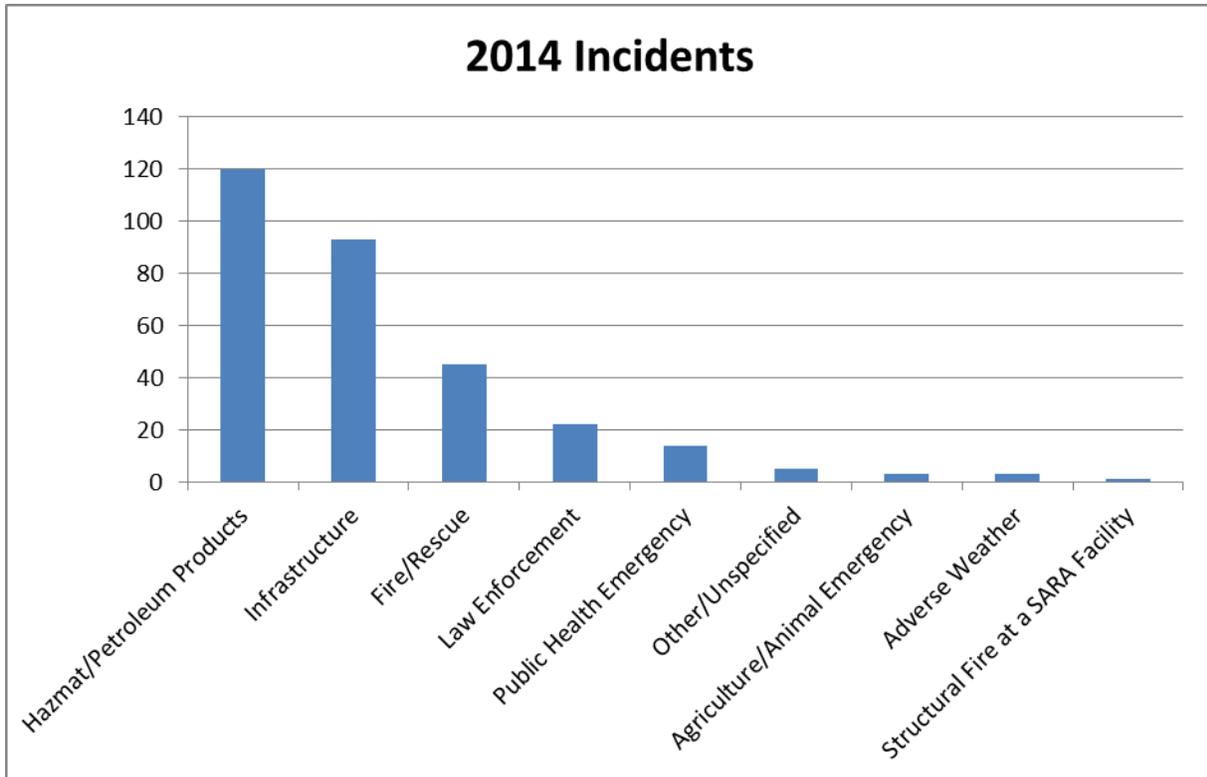
The Public Information Officer serves as the Director of Communications for the County. As the lead County spokesperson, the Director of Communications handled hundreds of media inquiries in 2014 and developed dozens of press releases/announcements.

The position also manages the County's website and coordinates/manages County social media pages.

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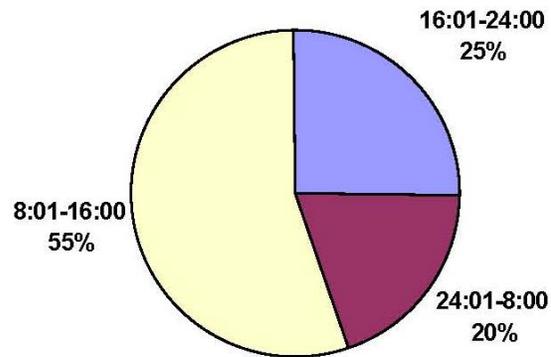
Yearly Incident Summary

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.

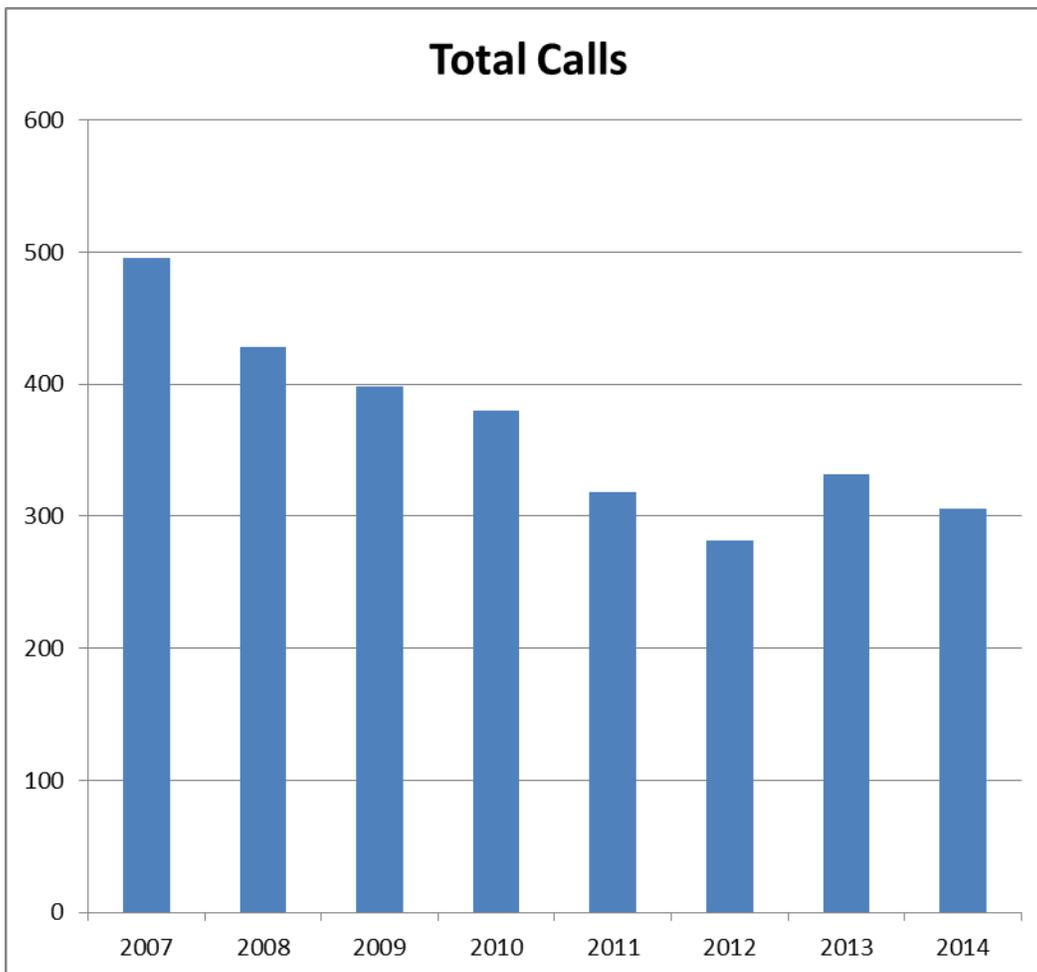


The chart above includes all categories. There were a total of 306 calls for the year.

The following chart shows that almost half of our incidents occur after normal business hours.



The total call volume decreased this year, from 332 in 2013 to 306 in 2014.



2014 Leading Incidents

The categories below include all incidents impacting the reporting process.

