



WCDPS NEWSLETTER



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Westmoreland County Park Police K-9 Unit



The Westmoreland County Park Police now have a K-9 program acquired through Pennsylvania Region 13 Counter Terrorism Task Force. Handler, Officer William Meyers and K-9 Rex recently completed an intensive training program in the City of Pittsburgh. Officer Meyers is a six year veteran of the Westmoreland County Park Police and Rex is an eighteen month old male Belgian Malinois.

Rex was born in Europe and went through a rigorous selection process by Sergeant Chris Micknowski of the City of Pittsburgh Police Department. Rex was housed at the Pittsburgh Police K-9 academy where he was prepped for the start of nearly 500 hours of training that he received. Both Officer Meyers and Rex will continue monthly training with the City of Pittsburgh Police. Officer Meyers and Rex are certified for explosives detection, tracking, patrol, firearm searches, building searches and article searches. The K-9 team will be patrolling county facilities and the county parks system on a daily basis. This program will enhance public safety, officer safety, expand police capabilities and improve the department's overall efficiency. Rex will be valuable crime fighting tool for the residents of Westmoreland County for many years.

The Westmoreland County Park Police can be reached at 724-830-3567 for non-emergency calls and by dialing 911 for emergencies. Calls for

assistance from Region 13 shall be made through Westmoreland County 911.

I would like to thank the Westmoreland County Boards of Commissioners, Director of Public Safety Michael Brooker, Region 13 coordinator William Hobough and Sergeant Chris Micknowski, of the City of Pittsburgh Police Department. Without their support Westmoreland County Park Police K-9 program wouldn't be possible. – Chief Nicholas S. Caesar.

Hurricane Sandy Knowledge Center Event #22346

The end of October 2012 brought the potential of a Hurricane to Westmoreland County. The Laurel and Chestnut Ridges kept the severe winds from causing major damages, and limited the power outages in the county.

On Monday night October 29th most fire departments in the county were kept busy with flooding calls, trees down, and wire down calls. Fire departments in Latrobe, Derry Twp., Unity Twp., Ligonier Borough, and Ligonier Twp. were actively involved in the rescue of residents who found their houses surrounded by rising water. A total of 26 people were rescued overnight, and sent to one of the two shelters set up for the emergency.

On Tuesday October 30th fire crews were called to Route 982 just north of Route 30 to a vehicle stuck in the roadway. When they arrived, they found a Ford Pick-up in over three feet of water after the driver drove around "ROAD CLOSED" signs and traffic cones blocking the road. His actions not only put his life in danger but also the first responders who had to rescue him.

The County EOC and six local EOC's were opened for two days during the super storm. West Penn Power reported approximately 3,500 customers without power during the storm. There were no storm related fatalities and injuries were minor.

This is another affirmation that our county's first responders, (EMS, Fire, Police and EMA Staff), answer the calls and respond as professionals to care for the needs of their neighbors. The Department of Public Safety thanks all those involved for their dedication and response.



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SARA Summit

On October 1, 2012, the 5th annual SARA Summit was held at the Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC). During the day long Summit, ten presenters provided timely information to participants. The topics discussed were invaluable to help participants navigate their daily duties and responsibilities, and allowed them to catch up on the latest SARA reporting and emergency planning issues that occur in the ever changing compliance and chemical security landscape. Here was the line-up of Federal, State and Local leaders in their field that provided valuable time and talent:

- *SARA Title III Compliance updates*, PENNSafe/PA Department of Labor & Industry, Chief-Carol Freeman
- *Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standard Update*, US Department of Homeland Security, Regional Commander-Garret Hansen/Inspector-Edward Barber
- *What are the Threats for Chemical Facilities?*, Pennsylvania State Police BCI, Intelligence Analyst-Lindsay M. Hovis
- *Emergency Preparedness, Ten Years of Chemical Safety Board Investigations*, US Chemical Safety Board. Video Forum
- *Operation Clean Fracture Exercise Review*/Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety HAZMAT Coordinator, Chris Tantlinger
- *Homeland Security Perspectives: Building Cyber Resilience*, US Department of Homeland Security/Mid-Atlantic Region Cyber Security Advisor-Bradford J. Willke, CISSP
- *The Value of Exercise in Emergency Planning*, One Star Consulting, President-Richard Matason/Vice President-Gene Komondor
- *Security Considerations*, US Department of Homeland Security, Protective Security Advisor-Bob Winters
- *FBI Briefing and Update*, Federal Bureau of Investigation-Pittsburgh, HAZMAT Team Leader; Special Agent-Philip Smith

There is no cost to attend the Summit, and it provides contact networking with peers and governmental compliance Chief's, Directors, and Inspectors. Participants have the opportunity to question and call on these key partners to ensure they are doing what they can to promote the mission of the Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and Superfund Amendment Reauthorization Act (SARA) law enacted to protect the public.

Please plan on attending next year. It is open to any agency or facility that works, responds, or interfaces with facilities that use chemicals in their day to day operation. Contact Chris Tantlinger – HAZMAT Coordinator at (724) 600-7349 for additional information.

WEBPAGE
 Please visit us at our Webpage:
www.wcdps.org

WCDPS Hazard Mitigation Volunteers Needed!

Westmoreland County has recently received a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding of \$67,000.00 to update the All Hazard - Hazard Mitigation Plan currently under 2009 to 2014 approval. A 2 year schedule is planned to execute this major process which will include 5 public meetings throughout the planning and review process.



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As mentioned at the Local Emergency Management Coordinators meeting in November, a solicitation for members for the Hazard Mitigation Working Group to become involved in the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Working Group was requested to help Public Safety and County Planning that procured the grant.

This is an intense and active undertaking that will require stakeholders from agencies at all levels, local residents, businesses, and the non-profit sector to actively participate in the mitigation planning and implementation process.

Under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 the *Federal Law Title 44: Emergency Management Assistance, Chapter 1 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Subchapter D: Disaster Assistance, Part 201.6 Local Mitigation Plans, (a) Plan requirements. (1) A local government must have a mitigation plan approved pursuant to this section in order to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project grants.*

We would like to have a group of ten (10) highly motivated persons by January 11, 2013 to be ready to hit the pavement for the January 16, 2013 planning meeting. Previous members of the Working Group will be polled to consider remaining on the group moving forward. Please get involved in this comprehensive review and hazard vulnerability analysis that will provide a clear road map for mitigation. Many new partnerships and building blocks for protecting life and property will result in the input by those that choose to enhance the communities in which they reside.

For more information, contact Chris Tantlinger at ctantlin@co.westmoreland.pa.us or Chris Bova at cbova@co.westmoreland.pa.us.

Local Coordinator in the Spotlight

Pete Tenerowicz

Director 61 Unity Township
Director 40 Youngstown Borough.

Pete has been the Local Emergency Management Coordinator (LEMC) for Unity

Township for the past 28 years and in 2005 he was named the LEMC for Youngstown Borough. Pete is married and has two grown children and spends his *spare* time with his grandchildren.

Over the years, Pete has experienced many emergency incidents, including but not limited to Floods, Blizzards, Tornados, HAZMAT, and Fire events. He also has several Major Special Events in his communities, including Arts & Heritage Festival at Twin Lakes Park, St. Bartholomew Festival, and the Westmoreland County Air Show.



Pete was part of the original PA-TASK FORCE 1 – Federal Urban Search & Rescue Team which was deployed to New York City to assist after the Attack on the Unites States on September 11, 2001. He retired from PA-TF-1 after 15 years as the Logistics Team Manager. Pete also assisted on scene in 2005 in Somerset County with the rescue of the 9 Quecreek Miners. As a result of that rescue, Pete played an instrumental role in the establishment of PA-Strike Team-1, the first Pennsylvania State Search & Rescue Team, which currently provides their services to the State through Region 13 Terrorism Task Force.

Pete also spent time with the staff from Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in 2005 to travel to Louisiana to reestablish airport service at Louis Armstrong International Airport in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Pete is a valuable resource not only to Unity Township and Youngstown Borough, but Westmoreland County and Western Pennsylvania, which is why we have chosen Pete Tenerowicz as our First “Local Coordinator in the Spotlight”.

Thanks Pete!



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2013 Calendar of Events

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- January 8 – Police Chief’s Meeting (TBD), 11:00 A.M
- January 9 – DCORT Meeting (WCSI Office), 2:00 P.M.
- January 10 – Commissioners Public Meeting (Courthouse), 10:00 A.M.
- January 11 – Westmoreland County Firemen’s Meeting (Station 9), 7:30 P.M.
- January 15 – Local EMC Meeting (911 EOC), 7:00 P.M.
- January 16 – Hazard Mitigation Working Group (911 Conference Room), 9:00 A.M.
- January 16 – Westmoreland Gas Exploration Working Group (911 EOC), 1:00 P.M.
- January 18 – Westmoreland County Fire Chiefs Meeting (Station 37), 7:30 P.M.
- January 21 – Martin Luther King Day – County Offices Closed
- January 24 – Commissioners Public Meeting (Courthouse), 10:00 A.M.

February						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

- February 5 – EMS Council (911 EOC), 1:00 P.M.
- February 8 – Westmoreland County Firemen’s Meeting (Station 79-7), 7:30 P.M.
- February 12 – Police Chiefs Meeting (TBD), 11:00 A.M.
- February 13 – Hazard Mitigation Working Group (911 Conference Room), 9:00 A.M.
- February 14 – Commissioners Public Meeting (Courthouse) – 10:00 A.M.
- February 18 – Presidents Day- County Offices Closed
- February 20 – Local Emergency Preparedness Committee-LEPC (911 EOC), 1:00 P.M.
- February 22 – Westmoreland County Fire Chiefs Meeting (Station 113-1). 7:30 P.M.
- February 28 – Commissioners Public Meeting (Courthouse), 10:00 A.M.

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- March 5 – EMS Council (911 EOC), 1:00 P.M.
- March 8 – Westmoreland County Firemen’s Fire Prevention awards (St.26), 7:00 P.M.
- March 12 – Police Chief’s Meeting (TBD), 11:00 A.M.
- March 13 – Hazard Mitigation Working Group (911 Conference Room), 9:00 A.M.
- March 14 – Commissioners Public Meeting (Courthouse) – 10:00 A.M.
- March 19 – Local EMC Meeting (911 EOC), 7:00 P.M.
- March 22 – Westmoreland County Fire Chiefs Meeting (Station 43), 7:30 P.M.
- March 28 – Commissioners Public Meeting (Courthouse) – 10:00 AM.
- March 29 – Good Friday – County Offices Closed



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[South Huntingdon Twp.](#)

[Gas Well Leak](#)

[Knowledge Center Event #21964](#)



On October 4th, the 9-1-1 Center received a call from a representative from Pennsylvania DEP that workers at a well site on Kosor Rd. in South Huntingdon Twp. hit a Control Measure, causing a leak. The DEP requested the fire department and EMS to the scene for stand-by. Westmoreland County DPS Deputy Director Brian Jones and Deputy EMC Dan Stevens also responded.

When they arrived on site at the well, the drilling company, the gas company, and the DEP were all on site. The fire department had returned to their station, which was only one and one half mile away for stand-by. There was security setup at the main access road to have accountability of everyone entering and leaving the site.

Deputies Jones and Stevens met with DEP and Gas Company representative and were advised that this was an uncontrolled release of frack fluid which occurred during the third stage of the process. The fluid leak was being vacuumed from the well bore as it came to the surface to prevent a release to the environment. As a precaution, the Gas Company contracted with Wild Well Control (WWC) to determine the best way to control the leak.

WWC Representative Ahmed Fakhri arrived on site and was awaiting his teams' arrival from Texas. After his site survey, he referenced the leak as a "BUBBLER", and his only concern was dealing with some acid that they use during the process. He asked what the department had available to assist in

the way of Level "B" Suits and Rubber Boots. Westmoreland Co. Region 13 Logistic Officer Bill Hobaugh was contacted for this request, and an inventory was provided. WWC formed a plan to monitor the well overnight and cap the well in the morning.

The next morning, WWC held a briefing on what had happened over night. They stated that the pressure in the well stabilized, and the drilling company put a plug in the well to stop the flow of fluid. This stopped the leak. WWC Representative Fakhri released his crew from Texas and deemed the site safe. The DEP remained on site to monitor and assure that there was not any impact on the environment.

During the entire event there was great inter-agency communication with all parties involved, and the Unified Command System was utilized and worked great. Cooperation between all agency individuals helped to reduce the threat from this potential well emergency, and allowed for the safe return at the end of the day of all responders to their families.

[New Staff Assignments at WCDPS](#)

The Department of Public Safety announces some new staff assignments at our agency. With the retirement of 3 key members of the department occurring within a short period of time, it was imperative to shift staff assignments to insure the successful completion of our day to day responsibilities. The following individuals have retired:

- Mark Brammel – Deputy Director
- Bill Fleming – Chief of Operations
- Joe Neidzalkoski – Chief of Communications

We wish them well in all their future endeavors, and thank them for all of their contributions to our mission of public safety.

Our new Deputy Director is Brian L. Jones. Some of you may be familiar with Brian. He was a department employee for many years back in the 1980's, serving at that time first as a dispatcher, then a 9-1-1 Shift Supervisor, and finally working his way



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up to the Chief of Communications. He brings with him many years of knowledge and expertise, particularly in the technical aspects of our operation. We welcome Brian back to our department, and look forward to working with him again.

Marc Taylor has been re-assigned in the department from the EMD Quality Assurance Supervisor to the Chief of Communications position. He is now responsible for the day to day operations of the 9-1-1 Center. Interviews are in process for the hiring of a new EMD QA Supervisor.

There is a plan to start a new Telecommunications Officer (TCO) course for the 9-1-1 Center sometime after the first of the year. Testing and medical screening will occur in January, with the start date for the actual training class to begin in February.

Please join us in wishing both Brian and Marc good luck in their new positions!

Fire Department in the Spotlight

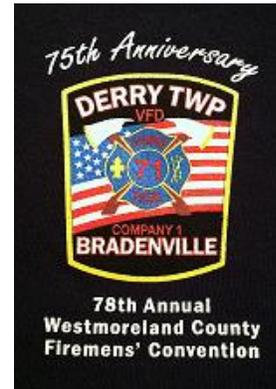
Bradenville Volunteer Fire Department Derry Township Company #1

A group of men from the Bradenville area held a meeting on February 14, 1938 to establish what is known today as the Derry Township Volunteer Fire Department Company #1 of Bradenville. Mr. Robert Jenkins presided over the meeting as chairman to have nominations and elections of officers. Mr. Harry Hull, of Southwest Greensburg VFD, who was 1st Vice President of the Westmoreland County Fireman's Association, swore in the newly elected officers. Mr. C.W. Hysong and Mr. Harry Snively of Southwest Greensburg VFD, Mr. Meyers of Herminie VFD, and Mr. Charles Loffer of Manor VFD each gave a speech; and each donated one dollar to the company establishing their first saving of four dollars.

During the early months of the department, the men held meetings every other week. They paid dues of ten cents per month. The department joined 55 other departments in the Westmoreland County Fireman's Association in March of 1938. They established by-laws and regulations for the operation of the department. In April of 1938, they established a

Fire Police that initiated the practice of ringing the church and school bells for alarms.

The main concern for the department at this time was to establish a good financial backing for the purpose of purchasing firefighting equipment, trucks, and real estate. They held raffles, a musical at the Derry High School, and bingos in the old Snydertown Hall, (present day Slovak Club). On July 5, 1938, five months after that initial meeting, the department received its charter with eleven members signing. Afterwards, they continued to raise monies for the department, and educated themselves as to what types of equipment they should purchase. Then, in August of 1940, the Department purchased property from the Enterprise Coronet Band of St. Clair, for the sum of four hundred twenty dollars and eighty cents. That property presently still houses the fire department.



From 1970 through 2013 the Department has grown with the community to become and maintain itself as a first class fire department. With the advancement of technology and the increase of emergency needs throughout this area the department has worked diligently to train and educate themselves with advanced firefighting, rescue, and hazard control techniques, as well as to acquire new equipment for safer and more efficient emergency operations. In 1978, the department joined the Westmoreland County 911 Dispatching System and was assigned the station identifier of Station 71.

Current equipment at this time for Derry Township Volunteer Fire Department of Bradenville includes 2001 Sutphen Rescue, 2002 Sutphen Engine,



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2011 tanker, 2005 brush, 1996 Squad and two water rescue boats.

June 13- 15th of 2013 the members invite you to join them as they host the Westmoreland County Fireman’s Convention. Activities for the convention include Battle of the Barrel and Mohawks dinner on Thursday. A memorial service will be held Friday at Saint Roses Church followed by a dance at the Bradenville Fireman’s Club. Saturday there will be a parade starting at 1:00pm and will be followed by the Fireman Olympics to be held at the Bradenville ball field. After the parade at the Bradenville playground there will be children’s activities, food, games, live music and to end the evening a gigantic firework display at 10:00 pm.

911 Dispatcher In the Spotlight

Noel Bernabeo



The Westmoreland County Board Of Commissioners recently honored Dispatcher Noel Bernabeo with a Certificate of Special Recognition at the Commissioner’s Public Meeting held on December 20, 2012

Noel was on duty as Police Dispatcher when an armed male threatened to kill his girlfriend and any Police Officers responding to the 9-1-1 call for assistance. Chief Greg Resetar of the Rostraver Township Police recognized Noel for her “professional and diligent efforts” put forth during the incident, and stated the county should be “proud” to have her as a 9-1-1 staff member. Congratulations Noel!

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DIRECTOR'S FORUM

It has been a busy and rewarding few months since the last WCDPS Newsletter. If there was such a thing as a Public Safety "bucket list", I would be well on the way to checking mine off. EF-1 Tornado - Check. Hurricane/Tropical Storm - Check. Mayan Calendar Apocalypse - Check. Major Public Safety Communications Project (Narrowband Paging) - Checks in the Mail!!

Through each of these challenges I have been extremely proud of the professionalism, hard work, and dedication demonstrated by our Public Safety Team....both here in the Department and the 911 Center, but also from our partners in the field. In this issue of the WCDPS Newsletter, we will highlight a few of those individuals and organizations as we start a new feature called "In the Spotlight".

First up....Westmoreland County's newest Park Police Officer, K-9 Rex, and his handler Officer Bill Meyers. Rex comes to DPS through funding from the PA Region 13 Counter Terrorism Task Force and recently completed several months of intensive explosives detection training at the City of Pittsburgh Police Canine Training Academy. K-9 Rex and Officer Meyers have already been deployed to incidents both inside and outside the County. Next is a dedicated Local Emergency Management Coordinator (LEMC) for Unity Township and Youngstown Borough, Pete Tenerowicz. Pete is active not only in his own community, but also at the County and state levels as well. One of our own 911 Telecommunications Officers, Noel Bernabeo, was recently presented a Certificate of Special Recognition by the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners for her calm and professional actions during a barricaded shooter situation. And finally, we would like to

recognize the Bradenville Volunteer Fire Department as they prepare to commemorate the 75th anniversary of their establishment on February 14th, 2013.

This issue features articles on the 5th Annual SARA Summit held at WCCC in October and a recap of Hurricane Sandy's impact on Westmoreland County over a two-day period at the end of October. We also recognize the service of three members of the Public Safety Staff who have recently retired, welcome a new member to the team, Brian Jones, as Deputy Director, and announce the reassignment of Marc Taylor as Chief of Communications.

As we close out 2012, I would like to thank all of my Staff and our partners in the first responder and business communities whose efforts helped ensure that when the citizens of Westmoreland County were in need you were there; trained and ready. Looking ahead to the New Year, WCDPS will look to take a more active role in Public Safety outreach. We plan to resume Zone Meetings during the first quarter where we will travel to each zone to meet with our Police, Fire, and EMS partners, local EMC's and elected officials, to provide an open forum to discuss public safety concerns and issues and open the lines of communication. Another focus area will be working with our school districts to review and update response plans under the Safe Schools Program. Finally, I would like to help revitalize our Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) network.

If you have any recommendations for topics for the WCDPS Newsletter or an individual or organization you would like to see "in the Spotlight", please send them to myself or Sandy Smythe. On behalf of the WCDPS, I wish you and yours a safe holiday season and all the best for the New Year!!



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Best wishes for this Holiday Season and Happy New Year from the Department of Public Safety staff!

If you have any comments, suggestions, or topics you would like to see addressed in future Newsletters, please contact Sandy Smythe – Administrative Officer at (724) 600-7306 or to ssmythe@co.westmoreland.pa.us.