



**WESTMORELAND COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE CORONER**

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John F. Swartz
Chief Deputy

Kenneth A. Bacha
Coroner

Jeffrey D. Monzo
Solicitor

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2017**

<u>Nature of Release:</u> Trench Collapse Fatality	<u>Date and Time of Incident:</u> May 22, 2017 3:25 PM
<u>Incident Location:</u>	208 Country Drive Rostraver Township
<u>Person(s) Involved:</u> Decedent: Vaughn L. Kopetsky, 60 y/o male Address: Latrobe-Derry Road Derry Township, Westmoreland County	
Date and Time of Death: May 22, 2017 at 4:15 PM.	
<u>Incident Details:</u> Cause of Death: Pending	
Manner of Death: Pending	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Westmoreland County Coroner, Kenneth A. Bacha, has released the following information on a trench collapse fatality.▪ The decedent and co-workers were working to replace a storm drainage system within a trench.▪ The decedent was in the process of exiting the trench.▪ A wall of the trench collapsed, trapping the decedent within the soil.▪ Co-workers began to dig and extricated the decedent from the trench.▪ Emergency medical personnel responded to the scene, however all life saving measures were unsuccessful.▪ Deputy Coroner Timothy P. O'Donnell pronounced the decedent dead at the scene.▪ An autopsy will be performed by Dr. Cyril H. Wecht and Pathology Associates on May 23, 2017.▪ Official cause and manner of death will be pending autopsy results.▪ Toxicology results will not be available for several weeks.▪ A funeral home has not been selected at this time.▪ Rostraver Township Police and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) also investigated.	
***** No further information is available from this office at this. *****	