



BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mid-year, 2023 Newsletter

911 PROGRAM RECERTIFICATIONS

Eric Brewer

As a new requirement by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), every 2 years our Quality Assurance (QA) and Improvement Program and Training Programs are required to be recertified. Funding for our 9-1-1 dispatch program is dependent upon our successful certification of the various 9-1-1 programs. The certification review is conducted by the PEMA 9-1-1 Office to verify that telecommunicator training and QA programs comply with the minimum requirements as adopted by PEMA.

I'm happy to say that both of those programs have been successfully recertified. This is a testament to the leadership of Deputy Director of 9-1-1 Brian Murray, the 9-1-1 administrative team and all of our employees!

Tina Martsolf is the 9-1-1 Quality Assurance Manager. She is required to review telecommunicator work performance and document compliance according to directives and standards. The QA process is also a way to identify learning opportunities and to reinforce good behaviors and incorporate best practices. Operation Managers Justin Magnifico and Chris Stone are instrumental in training and evaluating new employees as well as overseeing continuing education. 9-1-1 employees are required to have a certain amount of continuing education hours per year to maintain their certification.

The telecommunicator training program must comply with all training requirements adopted by the Commonwealth and includes curriculum for classroom, on-the-job, recertification, promotional, remedial, and continuing education. Special thanks to our 9-1-1 employees for doing their part to make this program successful.

In addition to our 911 program recertification, Beaver County's Hazmat Team 700 completed their 4-year recertification this summer as well. Jeff McKay has more details on the following page.

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HAZMAT TEAM 700 RECERTIFICATION

Jeffrey McKay

Beaver County Hazardous Materials Response Team 700 has completed the recertification process, and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) has certified Team 700 to continue to respond to hazardous materials incidents. Hazardous Material Response Team (HMRT) certifications are valid for a period of 4 years, and Team 700's certification expires August 31, 2027.

The team's simulated scenario for the recertification exercise was to respond to a transportation accident involving a vehicle carrying a 1 ton chlorine tank that was damaged and leaking. Patterson Township and Patterson Heights Fire Departments responded, assessed the scene and requested the Hazmat Team. Medic Rescue assisted in the pre and post medical monitoring of all responders, and Patterson FD also served as decontamination personnel for the Hazmat Team.

We had a great turnout of our Hazmat Team, and we thank you for your dedication to the team and the citizens of Beaver County. Once again, thank you to Medic Rescue and Patterson Fire Departments for participating, you did a great job.



911 QA/ QI Program Recertification



pennsylvania
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency certifies the 911 Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Program of Beaver County as being compliant with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public Safety Answering Point recertification requirements

David R. Padfield
Director
PEMA

Jeffrey Boyle
Executive Deputy Director
PEMA

Issued: June 30, 2023
Expires: June 30, 2025

911 Training Program Recertification



pennsylvania
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency certifies the 911 Telecommunicator Training Program of Beaver County as being compliant with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public Safety Answering Point recertification requirements

David R. Padfield
Director
PEMA

Jeffrey Boyle
Executive Deputy Director
PEMA

Issued: June 30, 2023
Expires: June 30, 2025

PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

NIMS TYPE II CERTIFICATION

This acknowledges that, pursuant to Section 209, Pennsylvania Act 165 of 1990 (as amended), the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency has appointed and issued State Certification 04-01-91 to

**Beaver County
Hazardous Materials Response Team 700**

July 13, 2023

To respond to releases of hazardous materials within the County of Beaver, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania until August 31, 2027.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges the dedication of the officers and the other members of the team to the protection of the lives and property of their fellow citizens from dangers presented by accidents involving hazardous materials.

David R. Padfield
Director, PA Emergency Management Agency

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING & EXERCISES

Doug Humble

Beaver County Emergency Services facilitated Active Shooter Training and Exercises at multiple locations during the first two quarters of 2023. Each event was supported by the School District and local law enforcement agencies of jurisdiction. Additionally, the Beaver County District Attorney's and Sheriff's Offices and Medic Rescue partnered with Emergency Services to deliver the trainings.

Aliquippa Elementary , January 13, 2023

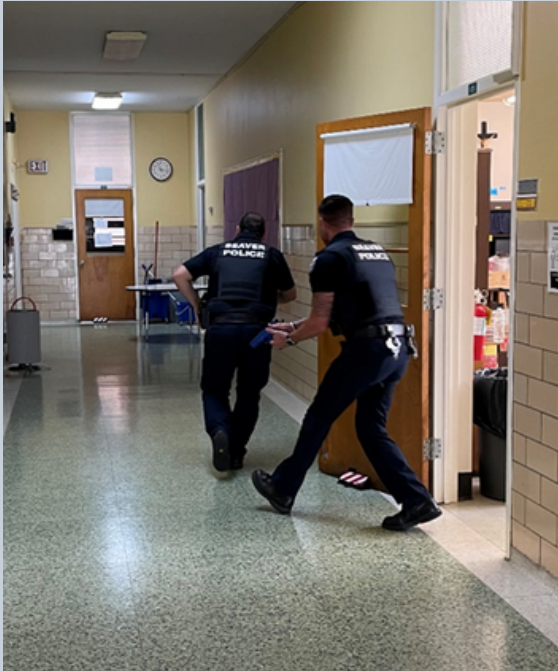


Beaver Falls Area School District, January 30, 2023

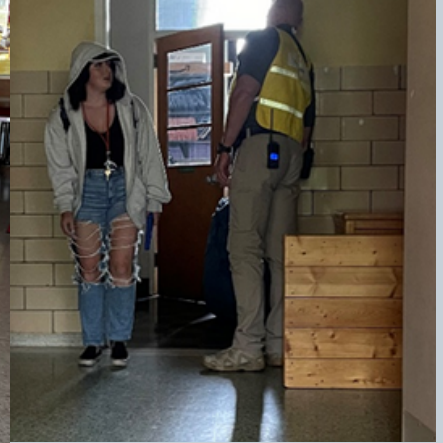


Beaver County Career Technologies Center, June 2, 2023

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING & EXERCISES, cont.



Saint's Peter and Paul, June 8, 2023



Emergency Services' Mobile Communications Unit was utilized at active shooter training events to enhance the exercises by receiving additional calls and creating more realistic practice scenarios. It also enabled 911 staff to train on Mobile Comm's systems.



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Madyson Knox-Bennett

Beaver County Emergency Services encompasses both 911 Dispatchers and Emergency Management, which involves day to day emergencies to disasters that require a bit more man power. Beaver County Emergency Services likes to stay connected and involved with the community by attending events held throughout the county. However, our social media pages and emergency notifications are also a great way for the public to stay informed and prepared. Here at Beaver County Emergency Services, we have several social media pages including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram where emergency disaster updates and preparedness tips are posted in attempt to keep the open communication clear for all.

Additionally, Beaver County Emergency Services' mass notification system allows for all who are signed up with an account to receive emergency alerts about what is going on within the county. These notifications can be especially helpful in knowing when to stay indoors or avoid a closed road and also include specific updates about disaster emergencies, etc.

You can find the information below to follow us on our social media and get signed up for our mass notification messaging.

Social Media

- **Facebook:** Beaver County Emergency Services
- **Twitter:** Beaver Co. Emerg Svc
- **Instagram:** beavercounty911

Sign up for our mass notification and emergency alerts

Text: BC Alerts to 77295

Go to: beavercountypa.gov and scan the QR code on the home page

RADIOLOGICAL PROGRAM UPDATE

Doug Humble

As many reading this newsletter know, Beaver County has a nuclear power plant, Beaver Valley Power Station, within its borders, located in in Shippingport Borough.

What some may not know, is that by having a Nuclear Power Plant within the county, our community is required to complete numerous preparedness activities in case an emergency transpires. These requirements make counties with Nuclear Power Plants some of the best prepared areas in the country.

Preparedness is an ongoing effort. This year, so far, we have met with all of our transportation providers and given them training and information relative to their responsibilities. We have also offered and provided three Regional Fire Department training sessions throughout the county, have begun reviewing our emergency plans (a never ending task!) and have begun annual equipment calibrations and/or equipment replacement. This list is just a snap shot of the many items mandated by the radiological preparedness program.

We should mention that our next Beaver Valley Power Station Evaluated Exercise is scheduled for June 11, 2024. Any agency who is normally involved: please mark your calendar!

RADIO PROJECT UPDATE

Kevin Whipple

Bearcom has been busy installing mobiles and dropping off portables to departments over the last few months. If your department hasn't been contacted, they should be reaching out to you in the near future. We have a few departments who haven't paid. If you haven't received your invoice or need to send it in, please contact the Beaver County Commissioner's Office.

We've also been asked by departments if we, as the county, are programming radios. At this time we are not programming radios, and we also ask that you refrain from programming your own radios. Programming can be problematic when not done correctly. Changes to one parameter may have an unintended effect on another function of the radio. Programming of radios must be maintained and conducted exclusively by your vendor. Users should also refrain from using modified accessories and antennas as they may have a negative effect on the radio's ability to perform to specs. We will be putting out a radio fact sheet in the near future explaining what features will be required in each radio.

We are also in the process of upgrading our current radio sites to be digital ready, and we are adding four additional sites to enhance the network. Once that is completed, we will have the ability of switching to digital. During this process, we will have to take sites down a few hours at a time to swap out equipment.

NEWS & NOTES

Congratulations to those who recently completed their **PEMA Certifications**.

Pictured below left with Director Brewer:

- Jason Gallagher, County Staff Basic
- Callista Dodge, Municipal Staff Basic
- Kevin Whipple, County Deputy EMC Professional

Picture below right with Deputy Director Whipple:

- Joshua Curtaccio, Municipal Deputy EMC Advanced



Emergency Services welcomed the following **new staff members** since our last newsletter:

- Ron D'Alessandro, Part Time Radio Technician
- Casey Huff, Full Time Telecommunicator
- Stephanie Patton, Full Time Telecommunicator



You have been invited....

FREE BBQ Lunch

and Safe Storage Presentation
for firearm dealers,
trainers, and enthusiasts



August 17th, 2023

at 11am-1:30pm

Beaver County IU

147 Poplar Dr, Monaca, PA 15061

Registration is required as space is limited.

Please register at: <https://forms.gle/1PeY1p1Jfuyy6rpJ6>

or



Lunch Provided by Mission BBQ





EMERGENCY SERVICES

351 14th Street
Ambridge, PA 15003
724-775-1700

BEAVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DANIEL C. CAMP III, CHAIRMAN
JACK MANNING
TONY AMADIO

EMERGENCY SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION
ERIC BREWER, DIRECTOR
KEVIN WHIPPLE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BRIAN MURRAY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter
is created and published by the Beaver County
Emergency Services center.

Beaver County Emergency Services is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. Emergency Services manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery.

The Emergency Services center is also the home of the county's Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services. Emergency Services works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to Beaver County.

Want to contribute?

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