

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

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August 11, 2009

TO: Municipal Managers, Municipal EMC's, OEM Staff

FROM: Scott A. Mickalonis, Deputy Director- Emergency Management
THROUGH: Thomas M. Sullivan, Director of Public Safety

RE: Disaster Assistance Process 8/2/09 Flooding Event

On August 2, 2009, the southeastern and eastern areas of the County were affected by severe flash flooding. County and municipal EMC's worked tirelessly for several days to assess storm damage. As a result of this major effort, several procedures have been initiated that have put this County in a very strong position to request assistance through PEMA to the Small Business Administration.

Below is a timeline of events that occurred, which has brought us to the point of making the official request for assistance:

Sunday, August 2, 2009- The EOC Watchdesk was activated in response to the multiple events taking place in the southeastern and eastern portion of Montgomery County. The watchdesk staff assisted in providing resources to emergency responders, collecting and disseminating storm information, notifying PEMA and coordinating the damage assessment process. The watchdesk remained open until 6 pm when a request was transmitted to our local EMC's to begin to collect preliminary damage assessment and forward to DPS.

Monday, August 3, 2009- DPS- OEM Staff conducted initial damage assessment of the areas that were known to have damage that occurred related to the storm. This included the municipalities of Ambler, Hatboro, Horsham, Lower Merion, Plymouth, Upper Moreland, Upper Dublin and Whitemarsh. Information was collected and it was determined that there was an immediate need to establish an assistance center to collect damage estimate information from residents. Notification of the intent to establish the assistance center was transmitted to local EMC's at 4:20 pm, with a press release being issued on 8/4/09 at 10:54 am.

Tuesday, August 4, 2009- DPS was receiving damage assessment information from local municipalities. A press release establishing an assistance center for 8/5/09 was issued to municipal EMC's, Municipal Managers, local Legislators and County Officials.

Wednesday, August 5, 2009- The Department of Public Safety, along with PEMA, the Health Department, Human Services and SEPA VOAD staffed an assistance center at the Public Safety Training Campus, opening at 9 am and closing at 8 pm. The intent of the assistance center was to determine, through phone and personal survey interviews with residents, whether or not the county had met the minimum criteria (25 residents with > 40% uninsured loss), to request official review from a federal agency. The assistance center had 111 contacts and the criteria to move forward was achieved.

Thursday, August 6, 2009- The Department of Public Safety met with staff from PEMA Eastern Area Office to confirm the findings of the assistance center. At 12:00 pm on 8/6/09, the official request for assistance from the Small Business Administration was submitted to PEMA Headquarters. PEMA Headquarters received notification at 3:00 pm, that a review team from the Small Business Administration would arrive in Montgomery County at 1:00 pm on 8/10/09. Additionally, DPS, along with the County Human Services Department, assisted 9 displaced families in Upper Moreland Township with housing, after an established Red Cross shelter was closed, prior to their residence being deemed livable.

Monday, August 10, 2009- The Department of Public Safety, PEMA Eastern Area Office and the Small Business Administration toured the affected area along with several local EMC's. The team toured specific addresses based on the information that was collected at the assistance center and from damage assessment estimates that were submitted by local municipalities. By 7:00 pm, the team had reported that they were confident with the numbers that were submitted by this Department. A meeting was scheduled for 11:00 am with DPS Staff.

Tuesday, August 11, 2009- DPS Staff met with the SBA team. It was reported that the team will submit the required survey information to SBA Headquarters for approval. It should be noted that as of this time, we have not received an official declaration from the SBA.

If the Declaration is issued, assistance will be available in the form of loans to repair ANY storm related damage, regardless of amount, for homeowners, homeowners associations, businesses, property owners and non-profit organizations.

This assistance will NOT cover damages that occurred to public/ municipal property. The Department of Public Safety is finalizing an assessment of public damage submitted by local municipalities and will forward to PEMA as a separate request.

Specific details related to further developments will be forwarded by this department as they are received. Thank you for your assistance in the response to and recovery from this event.