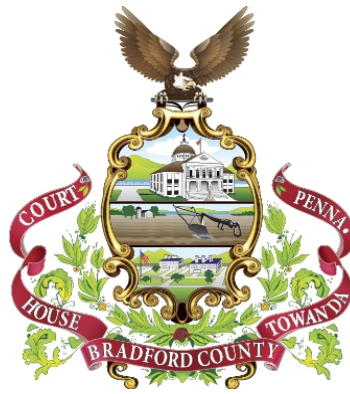


Mark W. Smith, Chairman
John Sullivan, Vice Chairman
Doug McLinko, Commissioner



Michelle L Shedden, Chief Clerk
Jonathan Foster, Solicitor

Bradford County Commissioners Office

PRESS RELEASE

Bradford County Emergency Operations Center held a press conference at 4:00 p.m. today at the Bradford County Courthouse. Representatives from several different agencies attended including: Bob Barnes, Bradford County Public Safety Director, Mark Smith and Doug Mclinko, Bradford County Commissioners, Jody Place, Public Information Officer for First Energy, Terry Sheets from the Fireman and Fire Chiefs Association, Jeff Russell, Gary Baker and Deb Martin from the Memorial Hospital, Chuck Bement from Regional Emergency Management Council, Tom Fairchild, Towanda Borough, and Sharon Lowry for the American Red Cross.

Commissioner Mark Smith thanked all those who have helped during flood by saying that “they have made such an incredible effort during this emergency. The teamwork and compassion shown across the county has been extraordinary. I would especially like to thank the many volunteers, firefighters, Emergency Management personnel, 911 dispatchers and law enforcement officers who have worked hard with great success during the difficult circumstances throughout this event”.

Bradford County Director of Public Safety Bob Barnes spoke about the initial actions during the disaster. There were 1,358 calls for emergency services on Wednesday, 1,649 on Thursday and 540 calls on Friday. Of those calls there were 56 rescues and 49 calls for water in the homes. There was one fatality reported on Friday. Flood conditions in Bradford County remain a serious threat to public safety. The Susquehanna River crested at 30.6 feet in Towanda and at 25.76 feet in Sayre. Sayre and Monroeton crested at record levels. Floodwaters are expected to remain at high levels for several days. Bradford County has one shelter established to serve people affected by flood waters at the Athens Township Fire Hall that is currently operational housing approximately 69 people.

The goal of the response teams is the safety of the residents. The Bradford County EOC will continue to assess the damages, assure that people have food and shelter, and provide information on the importance of staying healthy and having good hygiene during this cleanup process. With many households without water and situations of having to boiling water in different townships and boroughs in the county, we are distributing bottled water and gallon jugs of water out to those in need. Local officials at the borough, township, and county level have responded by declaring local emergency declarations in affected jurisdiction. These declarations allow the local government to better serve the residents by being able to limit access to particular areas and establish rules for safety measures. Additionally, Governor Tom Corbett has issued a State Declaration of Emergency for our area.

Memorial Hospital stated that they participate in emergency preparedness drills and training through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency several times during the year. These drills educate and prepare hospital personnel for disaster situations. On Wednesday Memorial Hospital implemented that disaster preparedness program. Deb Martin stated that “Physicians and healthcare personnel came together to assure quality patient care without interruptions. Emergency Planning is key to any disaster. Memorial Hospital’s personnel rose to the occasion as was expected. The Medical Services tem is ready to serve our patients and the community throughout this flooding disaster,” Like many other organizations and businesses throughout our area, our employees have been affected by the flooding. They came together to

take care of hospital patients and residents of the Personal Care Home and Skilled Nursing Unit, “ said Gary Baker, President and CEO for Memorial Hospital. The dedication and cooperation of our employees was exceptional and greatly appreciated.”

Towanda Borough The voluntary evacuation order for Towanda Borough has been lifted effective at 12:00 pm on 9/9/2011. Affected residents may return to their homes. Residents whose parking area is still in the affected area should park in an alternate location while cleanup is in progress. The emergency shelter at the Towanda Elementary School has been closed. All drivers are reminded that the Merrill Parkway from the Farley Connector to Mix Avenue is still closed to traffic. The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the cleanup from the flooding. Please do not drive around the barricades. Due to a water break in our main system in the South Branch and Brocktown areas between Monroeton Borough and New Albany Borough and some homes and businesses are without water or have dirty water. Customers are advised to boil all water for drinking, ice making, brushing teeth, washing dishes and cooking to a rolling boil for one minute and let it cool before consuming. All other residents using the Towanda Water System in Monroeton and Towanda Borough, Towanda Township and North Towanda Townships are requested to restrict their water usage to essential use only until further notice.

Guthrie Health opened the Incident Command Center at 12:26 p.m. on 9/7/11. Many of the Clinic sites have been closed since Thursday morning, including the Sayre campus offices. Robert Packer Hospital, Troy Community Hospital and Corning Hospital are open and fully functional. Robert Packer Hospital has canceled all elective procedures but has continued surgeries and procedures for inpatients. We are anticipating no supply or pharmaceutical issues.

Due to the boil water and the conservation notice in Sayre, we have created a water distribution center within Robert Packer Hospital and have distributed additional hand sanitizer. The Incident Command has also worked Bradford County EMA to obtain a tanker truck if the water conservation notice continues. We have heard from Aqua PA that the water is anticipated to be back online today and the boil water advisory could be lifted in Sayre in the next few days.

Guthrie is currently housing 80 residents from Ashton Healthcare within the hospital and in the Patterson Auditorium at the Patterson Building on the Sayre campus. The staff at Guthrie are working with Ashton Healthcare and the Department of Health in PA and NY to find long-term placement for the residents. We expect to resume normal activities at the Sayre campus on Monday, Sept. 12. and we are working to open all of our clinics as quickly as possible. The most current listing of all openings will be listed on www.guthrie.org. To serve patients immediately we are open our ACT Clinic at the Guthrie Clinic in Sayre, PA on Friday, Sept. 9 from 5 – 9 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The ACT Clinic will be on the first floor, red section of the Guthrie Clinic. The ACT Clinic should be used if you are unable to make it to your health care provider's office during regular business hours for your acute problem or your needs aren't urgent enough to justify emergency care.

Jody Place from First Energy spoke about the need for customers who have flooded homes, basements and or businesses to avoid downed electric lines and standing water because of “hot or live wires” could exist below the water line. If your home has sustained flood water damage and you can safely get to the main electrical breaker or fuse box, turn of the power. Do not turn off the power if you are wet or standing in water. Submerged fuse boxes and all of their contents should be inspected by an electrician before being re-energized .

Jared McMicken, Penn Dot Regional Manager said they “are currently working around the clock to open Rt. 6. - Route 220 is now open”. PennDot will continue to work on Route 6 this weekend. Next week they will begin to work on the other areas of the county that have received damage. They are currently receiving equipment from other areas.

“Please remind the citizens that they are working around the clock to get these roads fixed and their efforts are being hindered by the people who are disregarding the signs and driving through areas that are closed. Please stay off the roads that say they are closed so that our personnel can get their job done”.

