

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW & VISION

August 2023

Department:
Public Safety/Emergency
Management



Township Mission Statement:
*Suburban Serenity with Urban
Proximity*



- Increased call volume
- Larger demand on resources
- Growing population = more incidents
- Times are changing ! We must adapt.
- The lives of people depend on public safety professionals and their ability to respond to situations quickly, effectively, and accurately.



Benefits of a Public Safety Program

- A promotion of health and safety in their community
- A sense of community pride
- People and families to move to their community
- A demonstration that they can make difference at a local level
- Change perceptions
- An improvement in the quality of life for themselves and their community
- Lives saved
- A systematic approach and proven model to allow for emerging issues to be identified.

Emergency Management Program

- Pennsylvania's Emergency Management Services Code directs and authorizes every political subdivision to have an emergency management program that includes a trained Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and a functioning Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with a trained staff.
- Township Plans:
 - Comprehensive emergency management plan
 - Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
 - Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan
 - Continuity of Government (COG) plan
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Training on the plans, practicing for implementation.

Emergency Management Program

- The most important responsibility of municipal officials, and the municipal coordinator, is to coordinate disaster response efforts during the first 24 to 72 hours after any emergency.
- Helps the community and residents achieve the proper level of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities for whatever may affect the municipality.
- The municipal coordinator must create interest, motivate and involve the community in these activities and keep elected officials informed and involved with these preparations.

Public Safety Director Tasks

Develops and updates the Emergency Operations Plan and supporting documents

Recruits and develops Township Emergency Management Agency/EOC Emergency Operation's Center Personnel

Determines education requirements for Essential Support Function, Positions and Emergency Management Agency personnel

Activates and directs the emergency management activities of the Township

Ensures compliance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and federal laws pertaining to emergency management

Liaison to Cumberland County EMA, PEMA and FEMA to identify needs along with developing and implementing and responding to emergency procedures

Liaison/Administrator for Township Emergency Service providers

Compiles statistical data and operational monthly report for Board of Supervisors on all emergency service, EMA activities and conditions

Helps all emergency companies with requests and aids them when deemed necessary

Monitors news and severe weather situations to help determine if an emergency may be forthcoming. Provides updates to appropriate staff and public when situations arise.

Aids in the development of emergency response plans for schools, nursing homes and other business facilities

Provides for the review of land development and building plans to ensure Public Safety compliance.

Administers the Special Event permit process, Knox Box program, Functional Needs Registry, 911 Signage program, CodeRed, County NARM, and related programs.

Fire Scene Investigations, Fire Safety Inspections, Fire Prevention Activities

Coordinating with emergency response agencies to build a framework for the future

Public Safety ordinance enforcement

Fire/EMS Liaison

Approves Silver Spring Township emergency response box cards

Oversight of Fire/EMS organizations from Township level

Public Safety 2023 – Recap

- Adopted new Knox Box ordinance
- Implemented voluntary Fire Inspections program.
- Completed Code Enforcement Officer Certification.
- Completed Plans Examiner Certification, can be utilized as commercial plan reviewer.
- Numerous plans reviewed for Township development.
- Oversight of Township wide radio project preparations.
- Implemented fee for bon fire permit inspections.
- Implemented fees for fire inspections, fees are based off square footage of facilities.
- Implemented response manpower county policy for Fire Department responses.
- Fire Safety tours/inspections at numerous facilities
- Numerous address requests approved
- Corrected numerous 911 address issues (ongoing into 2024)
- Replaced many wrong lock cores on Knox Boxes
- Handled numerous burning complaints, bon-fire inspections.
- Installed numerous Knox Boxes
- Fire Steering meetings
- Received/responded/corrected numerous fire safety complaints.
- Expanded residential Knox Box program, many boxes installed on residential dwellings.
- All forms for Bon-fires, Special Needs Registry, Special Events updated and made more user friendly for residents.

Public Safety Initiatives 2024

Continue tracking of Knox Box Installations.

Audit all Knox Boxes for compliance for boxes already in use. (annual)

Expand Fire Inspections program.

Continue program tracking (Knox, Hydrant, CodeRed, Functional registry)

Complete outdated compliance of Emergency Plans for Daycares, Schools

Continue oversight and management of Radio Project through 2024

Research grants for Radio Project and additional Public Safety needs

Preplanning of commercial/industrial and multi residential properties for use during emergency situations.

Removal of Hydrant Flags from all Fire Hydrants for repair and repaint to improve visibility.

Analyze growth, review needs and prepare for the future

Analyze additional funding options for Fire/EMS agencies as we move to the future

Seek information regarding emergency services survey to plan for future needs

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Add Fire Hydrant markers to all hydrants within the Township, many are missing

Seek information regarding emergency services survey to plan for future needs

Working with property owners for additional Dry Hydrant installations (2 pending for 2024 so far)

Fire/EMS Funding

- Research potential for survey of Fire/EMS by an outside agency to analyze our needs and future goals. Many area municipalities are working through this process to make sure funding is going into needed resources.
- Analyze the Cap set on the Fire Tax in 2018.
- Fire Apparatus and equipment prices have climbed drastically over the last couple years, we need to look at the cost of operating vs. the amount of funds being distributed.
- Both Township Fire Agencies as well as Ambulance are combination departments employing career staff, this is an automatic cost to their annual income to pay these employees
- Look at the duplication of resources within Silver Spring Township (this would be a hot topic if a survey is completed)
- Research Fire Service billing options.
- Look at possibility of a Capital Purchase account
- Analyze call volume data to review incident locations, types and where growth will increase call volume in certain areas. We need to make sure we stay ahead of this to avoid gaps in service. Currently EMS only staff one 24-hour Ambulance, as we move forward there is a high probability of the need for two Ambulances staffed 24 hours a day.

Fire & EMS Survey

- A Fire/EMS Survey will provide a 3rd Party professional overview of our Emergency Services.
- Provides a detailed report of the required needs to provide adequate emergency services within a community.
- Reviews and reports duplication of services and the steps to remove or avoid this with future purchases.
- Numerous conversations have been had regarding the need for additional funding from the Fire Companies. I feel a very important first step is to have a survey completed to review our emergency services and there wants, needs, desires and future goals to provide future financial stability without an impact to the taxpayer.
- Silver Spring Township has one of the larger Fire Tax distributions locally, we need to analyze what is being funded out of the tax vs. the true needs.
- Numerous municipalities on both the East & West Shore of our local area are in the process or already completed a survey of there agencies for many of the same reasons as we are looking at. As more funds are requested, they are all researching the needs of there communities to make sure appropriate funding is in place for the required needs.
- Just like with any municipal budget in any department, when a large increase is asked for, we must take a very strong look at the department, analyze the needs, review possible solutions and make the best decision for the outcome of that department while still maintaining due regard for the taxpayer.
- The cost of the study has been researched and currently the pricing to have a complete study of all Fire/EMS agencies to review needs and provide a report outlining their findings would be approximately \$40,000.00.

Code/Plans Certification

- Code Officer certification provides me with much more in depth education of the how to handle code violations and enforcement for the ordinances overseen by the Public Safety Department.
- Ability to legally condemn/post properties due to fire or other emergency situations when needed.
- Provides the ability to assist as an additional option for a Code Officer during vacations, sick time or busy schedules.
- The Plans Examiner certification allows the Township the ability to save money by keeping some commercial plans in house for review rather than sending to ACS.
- Obviously due to my workload and being a single person department, it does not allow me to focus on plan reviews however for smaller plans or during slow periods, I will have the ability to assist with this to expedite the process and avoid the need to pay a 3rd party.
- Allows us to have at least one certified individual while reviewing plans at the Emergency Management level.

Summary

Our goals and objectives are ever changing. As our community continues to change, our safety practices, services provided, and needs will also continue to change.

We must make the Public Safety of our residents & visitors our most important goal !

This position has had the opportunity to have very close community involvement. Many positive reviews have been received as many residents/businesses are happy to see we are pursuing their safety as a top priority.

Questions ?