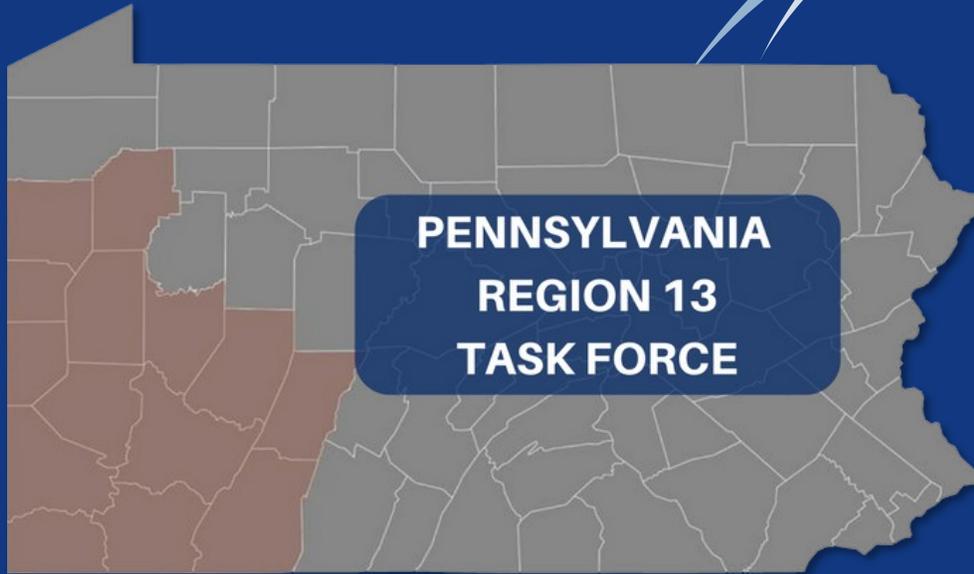


Pennsylvania Region 13 Task Force

Homeland Security: A Return on Our Investment



- Counties —
- Allegheny
 - Armstrong
 - Beaver
 - Butler
 - Cambria
 - Fayette
 - Greene
 - Indiana
 - Lawrence
 - Mercer
 - City of Pittsburgh
 - Somerset
 - Venango
 - Washington
 - Westmoreland

State-Level Coordination



PROTECTING PENNSYLVANIA

No one can do it alone. In Pennsylvania, multiple jurisdictions, agencies, and disciplines work together to strengthen our ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC) is managed by the Pennsylvania State Police and is the primary all-hazards fusion center comprised of analysts and subject matter experts from local, state, and federal agencies. In 2016, PaCIC fulfilled almost 40,000 requests for information and developed 57,434 products including briefs and alerts ranging from dirty bombs and the increased findings of Carfentanil in heroin, to attacks on natural gas facilities. In 2016, PaCIC completed 43 event assessments for emergency response, public sector and private sector partners.

Critical Partners

The private sector owns and operates an estimated **85%** of infrastructure and resources that are critical to our physical and economic security. GOHS has mapped over 30,000 sites in PA.



Duke Energy's gas-powered plant, Masontown, Pennsylvania.

Increased Demand, Decreased Funding

Homeland Security Grant Program Funding (HSGP) has dropped 48% since 2010. However, demand for services continues to increase. For example, in 2016, PaCIC received 993 reported cyber compromises, an increase of over 400 since 2015.



HSGP and UASI funds awarded to PA

How HSGP Funds Supports Agribusiness and Food Safety:

- Lab systems and equipment which are critical to the safety of **PA's food supply** and **agriculture systems**.
- Food safety **communications and inspection** system for approximately 130 local and state agency health jurisdictions with food safety responsibilities.
- Equipment to enhance **lab testing** for real-world food contamination incidents.
- PA is positioned to lessen the devastating effects of a disease outbreak on PA's poultry industry through **mapping and database investment**.

The **Governor's Office of Homeland Security (GOHS)** helps to secure Pennsylvania from acts of terrorism and reduce the vulnerability of PA's critical infrastructure. GOHS provides training, exercises, and learning opportunities not otherwise available to participants. Since 2012, GOHS has provided more than **30 training courses** to over 4000 public and private partners, **28 tabletop** prevention and protection exercises, and engaged over 7500 participants with **29 seminars**.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is the lead agency for the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR). The result is a comprehensive strategy for funding capability gaps at state and regional levels.

PEMA maintains deployable assets purchased using HSGP funds to support counties during disasters; such assets include trailer-mounted generators, bathroom shower trailers, light tower trailers, non-potable water trailers, and remotely operated camera trailers.



Vital Statistics

The Regional Task Force is a model for intergovernmental and multi-jurisdictional cooperation.

- Population: Over 3 Million
- Area: 10,233 Square Miles
- Municipalities: 737
- Fire Departments: 734
- Police Departments: 399
- Emergency Med Service Agencies: 210
- Hospitals: 67

Capabilities

The PA Region 13 Task Force has the following capabilities:

- Hazmat Teams: 15
- Bomb Disposal Teams: 2
- Explosive Detection K9 Teams: 16
- Water Response Teams: 27
- Urban Search and Rescue
- Western All Hazards Fusion Center
- Regional Communication Ntwk (ESInet)
- Regional 9-1-1
- Tactical (SWAT) Teams

Investment



Regional Coordination

PENNSYLVANIA REGION 13: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The Pennsylvania Region 13 Task Force has a history of coordinated planning and protection that started as the Urban Area Working Group in the 1990s. After the events of 9/11, leaders in the region recognized the strength in organizing and working together. The Pittsburgh Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) uses HSGP funding to support counter-terrorism, critical infrastructure, and weapons of mass destruction response capabilities. There are no individual county or city projects approved. All projects are regional.



High capacity pump drains a contaminated reservoir in Indiana County.

DEPTH OF CAPABILITIES

The Region 13 Task Force provides great depth in capabilities and is supported with Homeland Security funds:

- **Law Enforcement**— Training and equipment for Tactical Teams (SWAT), Explosive Ordnance Disposal, K9 Detection Teams.
- **Western Area All Hazards Fusion Center**— Specialized terrorism and cyber intelligence gathering to protect critical infrastructure such as the Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station, Marcellus Shale wells, and water treatment plants.
- **Fire and Hazardous Materials**—Equipment and training for some regional fire and hazmat activities.
- **Water Response and Safety**—Equipment, planning and training for water response teams within the region.
- **Incident Management Team**—Equipment and training to support coordinated statewide disasters.
- **Health and Medical**—Training, exercises and equipment for first responders.
- **Communications**—Regional Communications Network connects all counties in the region for coordination during response using interoperable voice and data communications as well as 9-1-1 traffic.

ALL-HAZARDS REGIONAL FUSION CENTER AND HOMELAND PROTECTION

The Task Force Law Enforcement Committee oversees the Western Pennsylvania All Hazards Fusion Center (WPAHFC). The WPAHFC is co-located with the FBI and has full time resources assigned by the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pittsburgh Police. Homeland Security funds are used to support critical infrastructure protection planners and intelligence analysts including salaries, training, and specialized office equipment.

A weekly intelligence product is produced and disseminated to all partners. Special intelligence products are produced as needed. Fusion Center personnel work closely with Department of Homeland Security personnel to conduct risk assessments and provide 3D digital mapping to critical infrastructure throughout the region, all of which is made possible through support provided by the HSGP.

Significant Activity Reported	Total
Bomb Squad Response	26
Bomb Threat	34
Police Special Response	50
Hazardous Materials Incident	65
Special Event*	19
Natural Hazard	84
Total	278
*Planned event requiring special resources deployment	

In one five-month timespan, the Task Force tracked and responded to almost 300 significant events in the region, a capability made possible by funding from the HSGP.

"The bomb squad determined there were contents that resembled an explosive, and the area was evacuated...The competition resumed after the bomb squad used a robot to disable the device and the area was cleared..."



Pittsburgh Marathon Course Altered by Bomb Scare

Published May 02, 2010

Fox News

PITTSBURGH -- A suspicious device near the finish line of the Pittsburgh Marathon on Sunday prompted police to briefly stop the race after it had begun. The device was disabled and police said it was not believed to have been an actual explosive.

The device, in a small microwave oven, was spotted Sunday morning on the sidewalk next to the Greyhound bus station after the race leaders had finished the course, police Lt. Kevin Kraus said.

The bomb squad determined there were contents that resembled an explosive, and the area was evacuated, Kraus said. He declined to describe the materials that concerned authorities pending a further evaluation.

The Task Force supports local tactical teams with training including 7 different courses during the first two quarters of 2017. Explosive ordnance disposal teams are equipped with EOD suits, multiple types and sizes of robots and accessories, and training materials. Two EOD teams (Pittsburgh and Allegheny County) respond to incidents in all jurisdictions within the region. The region's local SWAT and tactical teams are equipped with body armor, radios, headsets, radio accessories, tactical ladders, and optics including robots. Skills are honed through specialized training. These trainings include, but are not limited to, FBI Hazardous Device School and Advance Ordnance Recognition.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The **Fire and Hazardous Materials Committee** coordinates regional fire and hazmat activities, which includes providing state-of-the-art detection equipment, personal protective equipment, and foam trailers. The Task Force currently has an equipment life-cycle plan in place for high end detection replacement, and the HSGP grant funding to support detection devices with maintenance contracts for repair, replacement, and calibration.

According to Southwest Fusion Center analysts, four meth lab incidents in the region were reported in 2017. Meth lab incidents can be complex responses due to the cause of the discovery of the lab, and can involve decontaminating the individuals possibly exposed, handling extremely hazardous substances, and mitigating contaminated locations.

Explosion at the Suspected Meth Lab in Connellsville

Source: Action News, Trib Live

On May 21, firefighters responded to a call regarding an explosion at a duplex in Connellsville. The blast blew out a window in the house and injured three people. The Connellsville police observed several items in the home that indicated that the explosion was related to a suspected meth manufacturing operating inside the home. The Fayette County Hazmat team responded as well.



Communications

Communications is the backbone of the Task Force. The Communications and Technology Committee oversees the procurement of radios, accessories, command posts with satellite uplinks, and emergency operations center technology upgrades. The most important project to be implemented under the Communications and Technology Committee is the Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network (ESInet). This communications network links every county and the City of Pittsburgh, and allows the region to share 9-1-1 system resources, resulting in operational efficiencies and cost savings. The counties within the Task Force currently share a 9-1-1 phone system and other applications. Some counties within the region are beginning to share computer aided dispatch systems using ESInet.

Health and Medical

Health and Medical capabilities are supported through the HSGP. This support includes training and exercises related to Mass Prophylaxis, training and exercises supporting EMS Strike Teams which provide overflow capabilities for hospitals, the procurement and maintenance of a regional pharmaceutical cache for responders and their families, and the procurement and maintenance of mobile oxygen modules for use in a mobile hospital setting.

INVESTMENT ENABLES COUNTY AND REGIONAL CAPABILITIES



The 16 **Explosive Detection K9 Teams** respond within the region on a regular basis. They have been deployed to a **Major League Baseball All-Star Game, the G20 Summit, and the Papal visit to Philadelphia**. On the same day, they may respond to various bomb threats or monitor visits to the area by dignitaries.

The Task Force currently has 27 **water response teams**. These teams deploy throughout the region and state. During Hurricane Sandy, Tropical Storm Lee and Tropical Storm Irene, the Task Force deployed numerous water response teams to the eastern side of the state.

Incident Management Teams are essential for management of, and response to, local, regional, and national emergencies. HSGP funds are used to properly train and equip the Task Force IMT. Equipment needed includes tents, generators, personal protection, position ID vests, hand tools, and office supplies and equipment.

The **Search, Collapse, and Trench Rescue Teams** are supported through trainings and exercises on a regional basis. HSGP funds support critical equipment purchase and maintenance, including shoring systems, electric tools, high end listening devices for victim location, and collapse rescue trailers.



Bomb robot inspects a suspicious device in Pittsburgh.

The **Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team** was recently deployed to a flooding incident near one of the dams south of Pittsburgh. A church in the Connellsville area was damaged as a result of the flooding. The USAR Team assessed the damage, shored up the building, and prevented loss of property and a danger to the community. Equipment and training were supported by HSGP funds.

EQUIPPED, TRAINED, READY

It is not enough to just have equipment and training.

The Region 13 Task Force USAR Team (PA Strike Team 1) is a highly skilled resource and ready to deploy for even the most complicated missions. In July 2017, a three-story brick building in Washington, PA collapsed, trapping a woman beneath two floors of rubble and thousands of pounds of debris. The complex rescue required the Strike Team to install emergency shoring to stabilize the building and prevent secondary collapse. In order to reach the victim, they breached the wall of an adjacent building, and then provided advanced medical care to the patient to combat crush syndrome. USAR team members and responders painstakingly removed debris and carefully lifted portions of rubble during the process. After 9 hours, they were able to safely extricate the patient without causing further collapse or danger to the rescuers. The HSGP supports the capabilities, skilled training, and operational readiness of the Task Force.



Nate Guidry/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

