



Pennsylvania
Emergency Management Agency

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE:

March 18, 2026

TO:

The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

FROM:

Randy Padfield
Director, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)

TIME PERIOD:

This report covers the period from 0600 hours, March 17, through 0600 hours, March 18, 2026.

STATUS REPORT: (as of 0600 hours)

THREAT STATUS:

National Terrorism Advisory System:

None

Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) Status:

Normal Operations

Commonwealth Watch and Warning Center (CWWC) Status:

Normal Operations

County EOC Activations:

None

Municipal EOC Activations:

None

CAPABILITIES STATUS:

PA All-Hazards Type-3 Incident Management / Team:

Mission Capable

PA-Task Force 1 (PA-TF1):

Mission Capable

INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS:

Major Road Closures:

I-80 in Jefferson County

Power Outage Reports:

As of 0530 hours, 8,126 customers

Telephone Outage Reports: None

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

OPEN:

ROAD CLOSURE – Jefferson County, 3/18/26 – An accident involving two commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) on I-80 westbound at mile marker 72.4 in Union Township closed the roadway at Exit 73 (Corsica). There was no trapped queue. One CMV was hauling alcohol-based fragrance (UN 1197), and the other contents are not known. Neither load was breached. Approximately 10 gallons of fuel and oil spilled and was contained to the roadway. PennDOT was requested to respond with sand to assist in cleanup of the fluids. Two patients were transported to the hospital with unknown injuries.

FIRE POLICE LINE OF DUTY DEATH (LODD) – Bucks County, 3/10/26 – A fire police officer with the Richlandtown Fire Company suffered a medical emergency while responding to a traffic accident in Richland Township on 3/9/26. He was transported to a local hospital in cardiac arrest and died on 3/11/26. A visitation will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 1000 hours until the time of service at 1100 hours at the Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 102 North Hellertown Avenue, Quakertown.

ADVERSE WEATHER 3/16/26 – Statewide, 3/15/26 – A strong low-pressure system produced widespread high winds and severe weather across the Commonwealth, resulting in numerous roadway closures, vehicle crashes, utility disruptions, and scattered property damage. The Commonwealth Watch and Warning Center (CWWC) operated at an Enhanced Watch to monitor conditions and potential state response needs. Adams, Delaware, Luzerne, Montgomery, and York Counties activated their Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) to monitor conditions but have all returned to normal operations. Severe weather earlier in the day prompted Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Tornado Watches across the state, which later transitioned to Winter Weather Advisories in western and central regions. A Winter Storm Warning remains in effect for Erie County until 3/18/26, with up to nine inches of snow forecast. Multiple interstate incidents occurred, including closures on I-376 in Allegheny and Beaver Counties, and I-80 in Mercer and Venango Counties. The Venango County incident involved a PennDOT vehicle with no employee injuries. These roadways are now open. Downed trees, poles, and wires caused closures on PA-309 in Lehigh County, US-1 in Delaware County, and US-222 in Berks County. A tree fell in West Caln Township, Chester County, knocking over a 500-gallon propane tank and causing a controlled leak of approximately 20-40 gallons, with no evacuations or injuries reported. In Westmoreland County, a tree fell on a residence in Ligonier Township, causing it to collapse. No injuries were reported. Power outages peaked at over 136,000 customers during the height of the storm in the late evening hours and have since declined. Speed and vehicle restrictions were placed on several major interstates statewide. On 3/17/26, speed and vehicle restrictions were lifted in the late morning hours. US-1 in Delaware County, and PA-309 in Lehigh County reopened after repairs were made. At 1200 hours, the CWWC returned to normal operations. PennDOT reinstated 45 MPH speed restrictions on I-86 and I-90 after winter weather conditions caused travel conditions to deteriorate. Several multi-car crashes on both eastbound and westbound lanes of I-90 in Erie County prompted the roadway to be closed between Exit 24 (US-19/Peach Street/Waterford) to the New York State Line. Several minor injuries were reported. The roadway reopened in just over three hours. All restrictions have been lifted. Three public safety communication tower sites in Northampton County, one in Williams Township, one in Bethlehem City and the other in Upper Mount Bethel Township, experienced a loss of commercial power. The Williams Township tower site is back on commercial power. There was no degradation of service reported.

ADVERSE WEATHER (HIGH WINDS) – Statewide, 3/13/26 – High winds gusted through the Commonwealth, impacting primarily the western and central regions, where High Wind Watches and Warnings were issued. Numerous local and state roadways were closed for downed trees and power lines. Power outages peaked at around 320,000 customers and have been rising and falling throughout the night. Washington County 911, their main data stream, and four tower sites are on generator power, with no estimated time of restoration available. Westmoreland County 911 is also operating on backup power. Westmoreland County's EOC was activated to Enhanced to support weather-related incidents including a structure fire on Country Club Road in Monongahela City caused by downed utility lines, a large brush fire on Grant Road in Carroll Township, and a structure fire on Country View Court in Washington Township with a Sunoco gas line possibly exposed. They have since deactivated. In Cambria County, eight Penelec utility poles fell onto PA-53 in Cresson Borough. Six of the transformers blew, leaking approximately 25 gallons of oil. Penelec is sending an environmental team to assess the damage and conduct cleanup. In Centre County, the Harris Township tower site is operating on generator power. Their Benner and Boggs Township towers were also without power, but they have since been restored. Additionally, the Toftree Resort in Patton Township is without power, and their generators are not working. Their maintenance was unable to fix the problem, and there are no working fire alarms. Centre Region EMA (COGEMA) and Centre Region Codes responded and have since cleared. There are 100 rooms booked with an unknown number of guests. Resort staff are conducting fire watch until all guests have checked out. Temporary lighting has been provided for the stairwells. The current plan is to provide fire watch on all floors until power is restored. In Fayette County, Mulligan Manor, a low-income public housing building in Brownsville Borough, is without power due to the storms. An unknown number of residents are affected, and EMS was dispatched to assist those in need of supplementary oxygen. Housing Authority personnel are on scene. On 3/14/26, in Westmoreland County, the West Newton Sewage Treatment Plant and both the New Alexandria and Donegal radio towers were on generator power, but all facilities have since been restored to commercial power. In Centre County, power has been restored to all tower sites. In Fayette County, Mulligan Manor has been restored to commercial power. In Beaver County, PA-18 was reopened, and the Beaver Valley Power Station the temporary evacuation route is no longer in effect. First Energy submitted a letter requesting authorization for Canadian electrical workers to enter the country to assist with restoration efforts. As of 3/17/26, all roadways that were closed on this incident have reopened, except for PA-351 in Lawrence County.

FATAL PSP INVOLVED SHOOTING – Chester County, 3/8/26 – A Pennsylvania State Police Trooper, from Embreeville Barracks, was fatally wounded during a traffic stop on Michael Road in West Caln Township. The Trooper was transported by ground to Paoli Hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries. Governor Shapiro ordered flags at half-staff in his honor, until the date of his interment. The actor was pronounced dead at the scene. PA-10 was closed in both directions between Lammey and Hill Roads during the investigation, and it has since reopened. On 3/12/26, the funeral arrangements for the fallen trooper are as follow: Services will be held at Saint Joseph Parish, located at 338 Manor Avenue in Downingtown. Public viewing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th, from 1630 hours to 2000 hours. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 18th at 1100 hours, however this service will be closed to the public. Commonwealth Media Services will provide a livestream of Wednesday's funeral service. On 3/14/25, a resource request was made from PSP for a one-ton pickup truck capable of towing a 7,000-pound trailer. The PEMA IMT will fulfill the request.

COMMERCIAL FIRE AND HAZMAT – York County, 2/25/26 – Emergency crews responded to a fire at the J and K Salvage Yard, located at 1099 Kings Mill Road in Spring Garden Township. Initial reports included at least one building and multiple tractor trailers on

fire, which was placed under control in just over three hours. York County HAZMAT team, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responded to address containment and mitigation of hazardous materials released due to the fire. A boom trailer was deployed to assist with containment and the safe drinking water program made all downstream notifications along the Codorus Creek. County, DEP, and EPA representatives remain engaged in mitigation and cleanup efforts. As of 2/26/26, this incident was reopened by the county due to a sheen and product spotted downstream from the scene. The County HAZMAT team, PA DEP, and EPA remain involved in remediation efforts and are continuing to work on cleanup. On 2/27/26, the EPA called in additional resources to assist with an unknown quantity of lithium-ion batteries. This is currently their top concern, due to the risk of a rekindle. As of 2/28/26, the batteries have been removed from the site. As of 3/01/26, EPA has elevated this to a major incident and the unified command group is meeting daily to establish priorities and update on progress. Incident Management Teams (IMTs) from both the EPA and the South-Central Task Force have been requested, and air monitoring operations have been expanded with assistance from the United States Coast Guard (USCG). PA Fish and Boat Commission and the PA Game Commission are monitoring potential wildlife effects and will engage with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, if necessary. On 3/6/26, heavy rains washed away the booms and underflow dam on the tributary of the Codorus Creek, and work is underway to replace them. The booms along the Codorus Creek were checked as well. The heavy rains caused the site access road to become impassable from mud. A plan is being developed to improve the access.

HIGH OCCUPANCY FIRE – Northampton County, 2/20/26 – Emergency crews responded to a basement fire in the Hotel Hampton located at 462 Northampton Street, Easton City. The fire was upgraded to third alarm for personnel. Individuals were evacuated from the Hotel Hampton and two other structures 466 and 472 Northampton Street. Power was shut off city-wide after initial attempts to shut power off to the specific units were unsuccessful, resulting in 3506 customers without power. A total of 79 units from six structures (450 - 472 Northampton Street) were impacted by the fire. The American Red Cross (ARC) established a shelter at the Paxinosa Elementary School located at 1221 Northampton Street. 45 individuals were transported to the shelter. During a news conference on 2/21/26, county emergency management related that they are working with the city to gather preliminary information related to a potential Small Business Administration (SBA) declaration. The shelter was moved yesterday to the Northampton Community College, located at 3835 Green Pond Road, with the assistance of a bus from the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA). Demolition was halted and excavation equipment removed from the site due to the formation of sinkholes in the basements of 462 and possibly 466 Northampton Street. The county coroner will be on site during demolition due to the lack of documentation of occupants. A firefighter from Wilson Fire Department was injured during the fire, and transported to Saint Lukes Hospital – Anderson Campus, with serious injuries. Staff from ARC successfully transitioned to the Northampton Community College. Shower trailers are being considered for the new shelter due to the distance to showers from the shelter site. The City of Easton Fire Chief and local emergency management are working with the city codes office on inspections of the other buildings to determine the extent of damage due to the fire and sinkholes. On 2/20/26, the City of Easton enacted a disaster declaration. A Multi-Agency Resource Coordination Center (MARC) was held on 2/27/26 and 2/28/26 at the State Theatre Center for the Arts. Ongoing coordination meetings are occurring to determine future sheltering, if needed, as well as long-term recovery needs. On 3/6/26, the SBA approved Governor Shapiro’s request for financial aid to individuals and families affected by the fire at the Hotel Hampton and surrounding properties. Additionally, the administration has activated the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Assistance Program (DRAP) which provides grants to individuals and families through PEMA. As of 3/7/26, the Bartlett House, located at 10 South Fifth Street in Easton City, was given approval by city

codes to reopen on 3/6/26, and allow tenants to move back in. Residents at the shelter who resided there were transported back. There is an agreement that the remaining residents without housing will be transported to Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) at 400 West Berwick Street. The City of Easton, along with ARC and other partners, are working on filling logistical needs to allow the residents to stay at the church for 30 more days. Twelve residents still without housing who are seniors have been added to the wait list for the Easton Housing Authority (EHA). Many of the residents have been prioritized on the wait list. EHA is working on making more units available and is hopeful to offer additional housing in the next few months. On 3/8/26, ARC reported that 19 persons stayed at their shelter last night. The remaining persons at the shelter were transported to CUMC, the shelter at the community college will be demobilized, and ARC sheltering operations have been terminated. SBA Declarations 21452 and 21453 were authorized last week, and an SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) opened on 3/7/26 at Easton City Hall, located at 123 South Third Street. The DLOC plans to be open six days a week for two weeks. The PEMA DRAP was authorized for those who resided in the Hotel Hampton. The DRAP will start accepting applications on 3/10/26. As of 3/9/26, the current number of residents being sheltered is 16.

MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION – Northumberland County, 2/12/26 – A Mandatory Water Conservation Notice was issued by the Aqua PA Roaring Creek Division due to dry weather conditions. The system uses surface water sources and provides service to the following areas: Coal Township, Ralpho Township, Zerbe Township, and Mount Carmel Township in Northumberland County; Conyngham Township, and Centralia Borough in Columbia County; Butler Township, Gordon Borough, and Girardville Borough in Schuylkill County. The notice affects approximately 26,000 service connections.

COUNTY PRISON HEAT LOSS - Carbon County, 1/29/26 - The Carbon County Correctional Facility at 331 Broad Street in Nesquehoning Borough lost heat to one side of their facility. They have two separate HVAC systems for the facility, with the system in one wing down. A resource request has been submitted by Carbon EMA for a for an HVAC trailer, which was filled by the Eastern PA EMS Council. On 1/30/26, the required part for repair was ordered. As of 2/13/26, work on the system continues. The Eastern Pennsylvania EMS Council heater trailer remains on site. As of 2/19/26, the heating system is still down, and the EMS Council heat trailer is still on site. As of 3/2/26, the Carbon County Commissioners have made the decision to repair the existing system, rather than replacing it. Repairs are expected to be completed by the end of the month, at which time, the HVAC trailer can be returned. As of 3/17/26, the HVAC system has been repaired. The HVAC trailer will remain on site for an additional 24-48 hours in case additional issues arise.

BOIL WATER ADVISORY (BWA) – Butler County, 12/23/25 – A Boil Water Advisory has been issued for Quality Life Services – Sarver, a nursing home located at 126 Iron Bridge Road in Winfield Township. The facility obtained a bulk water hauling permit and will be receiving water from a chloramine treated source. The BWA will remain in place for as long as they are hauling water into the facility.

SINKHOLE – Fayette County, 12/17/25 – The 200 block of Lynn Road in Brownsville Township will be closed indefinitely due to the discovery of a 20-foot by 30-foot sinkhole. There are no impacts to utilities, and the residences are still accessible. On 12/18/25, Brownsville Township issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency for this incident.

MISSING ENDANGERED PERSON ADVISORY (MEPA) - Centre County, 8/27/25 – A MEPA was issued by the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), Rockview Station, who is searching for a 48-year-old white male, five feet five inches tall, weighing 160 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. He is operating a 2016 Subaru Outback, navy blue in color, bearing a

Pennsylvania registration. He was last seen near Nilson Road, Benner Township, on 08/20/25 at 1200 hours. Police believe this person may be at special risk of harm or injury or may be confused.

MISSING PERSON – Clearfield County, 7/4/25 – The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) are searching for a 72-year-old male who has been missing from his residence on Anderson Creek Road in Union Township since 7/1/25. Local fire and a search and rescue team assisted. Clearfield County contacted PEMA operations to request a cell phone ping through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC). The latest ping result was on 7/1/25. Search teams were able to locate the missing person's vehicle. The cell phone was not inside. The search was called off for the night and resumed in the morning. On 7/5/25, crews returned to the scene and expanded the search area. An underwater drone was used in the creek with negative results. PSP Aviation joined the search with no success. As of 7/6/25, search efforts concluded for the day and will resume 7/7/25. On 7/7/25, PSP turned the search over to the PA Game Commission. As of 7/21/25, the PA Game Commission reported that this individual is still missing. The case remains open, but there are no active searches being conducted.

MISSING ENDANGERED PERSON ADVISORY (MEPA) – Dauphin County, 8/10/24 - A MEPA was issued by the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) who are searching for a 76-year-old male who was last seen near Pheasant Road in West Hanover Township on 08/10/24 at 0810 hours. He was wearing a yellow shirt, black shorts, and white sneakers. Police believe this person may be at special risk of harm or injury or may be confused. On 8/16/24, PSP updated the clothing description of the missing individual as wearing a white shirt, black shorts, and navy-blue shoes with white soles.

CLOSED:

SCHOOL EVACUATION – Bucks County, 3/17/26 – A furnace backfire created fumes, and prompted the evacuation of approximately 225 staff and students from the Upper Bucks Tech School, located at 3115 Ridge Street in Bedminster Township. The students were bused back to their home schools, and the tech school was closed for the remainder of the day. No injuries were reported.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) ACTIVATION – Adams County, 3/17/26 – The Adams County EOC was activated to an Enhanced level at 0700 hours to maintain situational awareness for a special election that was held for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives 193rd Legislative District. They deactivated at 1600 hours with no significant events reported.

FATAL TRAIN ACCIDENT – Erie County, 3/17/26 – A male was struck by a CSX freight train and sustained fatal injuries near the Downing Street crossing in the City of Erie. Rail traffic was stopped in the area, which is part of the CSX Erie West Subdivision, a main line. Traffic resumed about an hour and a half later. No hazardous materials or other injuries were reported.

MISSING ENDANGERED PERSON ADVISORY (MEPA) – Berks County, 3/16/25 – A MEPA was issued by the Pennsylvania State Police, Hamburg Station, who was searching for a 14-year-old male who was last seen near Pine Street, Shoemakersville Borough, on 3/16/25 at 1230 hours. He was located safe, and the MEPA was canceled.

DISASTER DECLARATIONS:

2/22/26 – The U.S. Small Business Administration issued SBA disaster declaration #20028 due to the fire at the Hotel Hampton and surrounding properties in the City of Easton, Northampton County. The following Pennsylvania areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster: the county of Northampton and the contiguous counties of Bucks, Carbon, Lehigh, and Monroe. This also includes the contiguous New Jersey county of Warren. The Physical Loan Damage Application deadline date is 5/4/2026 and the Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application deadline date expires on 12/4/26.

2/22/26 – The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bucks, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties, and 22 municipalities have issued Declarations of Disaster Emergency in response to Winter Storm Hernando.

11/8/24 - A Federal Register Notice (FRN) designated the following counties for Public Assistance under Tropical Storm Debby: Cambria, Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Indiana, Lycoming, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, and Wyoming. Union County was added to the FRN on 11/14/24.

9/11/24 - A Major Disaster Declaration was declared on 9/11/24 to supplement recovery operations in areas affected by Tropical Storm Debby on August 9-10. Individual Assistance was approved for Lycoming, Potter, Tioga, and Union Counties. The designation is FEMA-4815-DR.

8/9/24 - Governor Josh Shapiro issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for Adams, Bedford, Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Fulton, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Pike, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties, due to the impacts of the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby, which caused dangerous conditions, including flash and riverine flooding across the named counties. Lycoming County issued a county Declaration of Disaster due to adverse weather. The following municipalities in Lycoming County have issued Declarations of Disaster: Anthony Township, Gamble Township, Hepburn Township, Lewis Township, Lycoming Township, McIntyre Township, Mifflin Township, Nippenose Township, Old Lycoming Township, Pine Township, Salladasburg Borough, South Williamsport Borough, and Woodward Township. The following municipalities in Susquehanna County have issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather: Choconut Township, Liberty Township, Middletown Township, and Susquehanna Depot Borough. Clymer Borough and Green Township in Indiana County have issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather. Penbrook Borough and Reed Township in Dauphin County have issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency due to adverse weather.

9/10/21 - The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requested a major disaster declaration from the President through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide additional support for state, county and municipal governments, and individuals affected by the remnants of Hurricane IDA between 8/31/21 and 9/5/21. The declaration includes Individual Assistance to individuals and households in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia, and York Counties, and assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in all areas of the Commonwealth. Public Assistance is under review. The President approved the declaration on 9/10/21 under Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-4618-DR. 9/24/21 – Amendment No. 1 designates Bedford and Northampton Counties for Individual Assistance. 10/8/21 – Amendment No. 2 designates Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery Counties for Public Assistance (already designated for Individual Assistance). 10/14/21 – Amendment No. 3 designates Bedford, Philadelphia, and York Counties for Public Assistance (already designated for Individual Assistance). In addition, Fulton, Huntingdon, Luzerne, and Schuylkill Counties for Public Assistance. 10/20/21 –

Amendment No. 4 designates Delaware County for Public Assistance (already designated for Individual Assistance), and Dauphin County for Public Assistance.

3/30/20 - Governor Tom Wolf requested a major disaster declaration from the President through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide additional support for state, county and municipal governments and certain nonprofits, as well as individuals who are struggling during the COVID-19 outbreak. The request for a major disaster declaration will provide the same emergency protective measures available under the nationwide emergency proclamation; the following Individual Assistance programs: Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Community Disaster Loans, and the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Program; and Statewide Hazard Mitigation. The President approved the declaration on 3/30/20 under Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-4506-DR.

11/27/18 - A Major Disaster Declaration was declared on 11/27/18 for severe storms and flooding that occurred 8/10/18 – 8/15/18. Public Assistance (Cat A-G) was approved for Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Lycoming, Montour, Northampton, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming Counties. In addition, all areas in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The designation is FEMA-4408-DR.

CONTIGUOUS STATE EVENTS OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO PENNSYLVANIA:

Delaware:	Enhanced Watch (Severe Weather)
Maryland:	Partial Activation (Repatriation Activities)
New Jersey:	Normal Operations
New York:	Level 3 Enhanced (Repatriation Activities)
Ohio:	Normal Operations
West Virginia:	Normal Operations

24-Hour Projected Weather Statewide:

National Weather Service, 0415 hours, 3/18/26

Today will be partly to mostly sunny, with abundant thin high-altitude clouds overhead. High temperatures will range through the 30s, coolest in the mountains north of Williamsport, with readings closer to 40 degrees in Gettysburg and Philadelphia. Clouds will thicken tonight, with a dusting of snow possible along the US-219 corridor. Overnight lows Wednesday night will be in the 20s for most areas, with temperatures closer to 32 degrees south and west of Pittsburgh. Cloud cover will be more prevalent Thursday and Thursday night, with light rain possible mainly across the northwestern half of the Commonwealth. Thursday highs will range from around 40 degrees in Mansfield to just above 50 degrees in Washington. Temperatures will continue to warm and rise above normal on Friday, especially in the west, with highs reaching the upper 40s to upper 50s. Rain showers are expected to move across the state late Friday into Friday night, with a few thunderstorms possible in the southwest.

WATCHES AND WARNINGS:

None



Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

■ Small Craft Advisory



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