

...EXERCISE...EXERCISE...EXERCISE...

Scenario #3: Major Bridge Collapse on Interstate 80 in Northumberland County

Situation:

During the morning commute hours, heavily traveled Interstate 80 eastbound bridge in Northumberland County between exits 210 and 212 suffers a catastrophic collapse, causing multiple vehicles, including a tanker truck, to plunge into the icy West Branch Susquehanna River below. The incident results in numerous fatalities and injuries, but exact numbers are unknown currently. The collapse also severs a critical transportation link, causing major traffic disruptions as debris from the bridge forces the closure of the westbound bridge as well.

Emergency response is complicated by a semi-remote location and a severe cold snap with snowfall, making access and rescue efforts more difficult. Unified command is established to coordinate search and rescue, manage hazardous materials, and communicate effectively with the public.

Primary Messaging Concerns by Agency:

1. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)

- **Traffic Management & Detours:**
- **Infrastructure & Safety Assurance**
- **Long-Term Recovery Planning**

2. Unified Incident Command (Warrior Run Fire Department and Watsonstown Borough Police)

- **Rescue & Recovery Operations**
- **Public Safety & Evacuation Orders**
- **Misinformation Management**

3. Northumberland County Department of Public Safety

- **Community Support & Sheltering**
- **Public Alerting & Information Coordination**
- **Reunification**

Target:

Effective crisis communication from these agencies ensures public safety, prevents misinformation, and provides critical support to those affected. By maintaining transparency and coordination, officials can help the community navigate this devastating incident.

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