

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

Scenario #4: Overnight Dam Failure and Flash Flood in a in Luzerne County

Situation:

In the pre-dawn hours of a September Tuesday morning, the Francis E. Walter Dam catastrophically fails after weeks of heavy rainfall. A surge of water rushes down the Lehigh River, picking up debris along the way, before crashing into the small riverside borough of White Haven (population 985). The sudden flash flood impacts 25% of the borough, washing away homes and businesses, infrastructure including the PA Route 940 bridge, and leaving many residents stranded. Communications with borough officials have been lost, and search and rescue operations are underway with limited resources.

With injuries and potential fatalities unknown, neighboring Foster Township steps in to provide leadership through an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the borough. Unified command is established to coordinate emergency response, and the Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency mobilizes resources.

Primary Messaging Concerns by Agency:

1. Foster Township Leadership (Interim Borough Support)

- **Public Reassurance & Leadership**
- **Family Reunification & Welfare Checks**
- **Community Support & Relief Efforts**

2. Unified Incident Command (White Haven Fire Company & White Haven Police)

- **Search & Rescue Operations**
- **Hazardous Conditions & Public Safety**
- **Evacuation & Restricted Areas**

3. Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency

- **Multi-Agency Coordination**
- **Resource Deployment & Public Aid**
- **Public Alerting & Information Management**

Target:

With the borough government officials unaccounted for, Foster Township, unified command, and Luzerne County Emergency Management must work together to fill the leadership gap, provide critical updates, and ensure residents receive the help they need. Clear and compassionate communication is key to maintaining order and supporting recovery efforts.

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