A Gas Company in The Community

Permit Notification
Will local emergency responders be notified when the state DEC issues drilling permits? Will the DEC share the list of chemical additives used in the hydraulic fracturing process with emergency responders so they can properly prepare?

Emergency Contacts
What are the emergency contact numbers for company personnel if the company handles on-site fires and explosions internally? Should emergency responders create a list of who to contact in what emergency? Can all parts of the county access remote communications? Are other technologies needed in "dead zones"?

Communication Across Counties
Who will handle inter-agency communication? Who will handle inter-municipal communication?

Incident Action Plan (IAP)
Will an IAP be required? Will communication procedure and contact list be part of IAP? Who will it be distributed to?

Locating Well Site and Access to Well Site Will well site provide both 911 street address and GPS coordinates? How will emergency vehicles access site? Should EMS visit the site to make sure emergency vehicles have clear access? Will access routes be pre-determined? Should a well site visit and verification of access road be part of the IAP?

On Site
What can first responders expect at a site? What types of equipment are there? What are the hazards? Where is a source of water?

Suggested First Responder Reading

---. Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Roundup. Potter County Gas Task Force Sept 2010 www.pottercountypa.net/natural_gas/DevelopmentsSeptember2010.pdf

Brown, Keri. Natural gas accidents posing challenges for emergency responders. WV Public Broadcasting. Aug 16, 2010. http://www.wvpubcast.org/newsarticle.aspx?id=16106

DEP Press Release. DEP Says Specialized Natural Gas Emergency Responders Locating in PA, Improving Response Times. Recent Industry Accidents Underscore Need for Quicker Response. Aug 9, 2010. http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/14287?id=13407&typeid=1

Dziak, Eugene, EMC Coordinator. The Local Impacts of Marcellus Shale Drilling in Wyoming County PA. Testimony. Jan 26, 2011.

Gillooly, Amanda. Emergency responders simulate Marcellus drill site rescue. Post Gazette. October 21, 2010 http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10294/1096774-55.stm

New Mexico Gas Company. For Emergency Responders. http://www.nmgco.com/Emergency Responders.aspx

Oklahoma State University. Emergency Plan for Natural Gas Pipeline Incidents. http://ehs.okstate.edu/manuals/Gas_plan.htm

Team 4 Investigation. Marcellus Shale Emergency Plans. Nov 17, 2010. http://www.wtae.com/r/25829869/detail.html

Wadas, Amy. Natural Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting Held for Local Emergency Responders. State Journal. Jan 27, 2011 http://statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=93389

Weigle, Jason L. Marcellus Shale and Main Street, PA: Impacts and Opportunities. Penn State University. http://www.ncentral.com/uploads/CommDevlp/Presentations/Jason%20Weigle%20MS%20impacts.pdf

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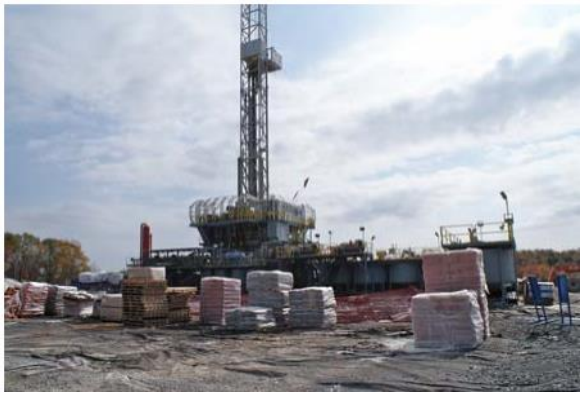
Concerned? Get involved!
Find your local grassroots action group at
www.DamascusCitizens.org

EMS
FIREFIGHTERS
POLICE

Questions for first responders in gas drilling areas



Leaks
Explosions
Long shifts
Oversized trucks
Secret chemicals
Flooding disasters
Evacuation plans

Is your community
ready for
gas industry emergencies?

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

EMS Calls and Runs
Is there a plan for increased EMS staffing needs? Can EMS cover the entire county or are there gaps in coverage? How will a shortage of volunteers affect response ability? Is there an opportunity to work with other coverage areas or municipalities? Is a MOU needed for shared services?

EMS Training
Will EMS need special training? Who will teach this? Who will pay for this? When will training occur? Who should be responsible? Should all EMS staff be trained, or only a few specialized professionals?

Additional Equipment Needs
Will specialized equipment be needed? Will training on how to use it be provided? Who will identify what is needed, and at what cost? Should this be discussed at a meeting with the gas company before drilling begins?

Additional Emergency Responders
What happens if there's a lack of community volunteers? Will taxpayers fund a paid response team or will the gas companies? Where should it be located?

On Site Injury
What happens when a person is injured on the site? Who is in charge -company personnel or EMS/Fire personnel? How will EMS get into the site? How will the injured be extricated to safety? What happens if the clothing of the injured is contaminated? Will emergency equipment need to be decontaminated?

Gas Lines
Where are they buried? What condition are they in? How close are they to residential areas?

FIRE

Fire and Safety Plans
Are they legal? Can they be a condition of a permit?

Evacuation Plans and Routes
Are evacuation plans, especially for school districts and other sites with high populations, in place? Are they updated? Are detour signs available marking changing traffic patterns? Are contiguous counties aware of these emergency routes? Are they prepared if necessary?

Explosion Response
How is this response provided for on the IAP? What's expected of local EMS providers? Do they become involved or simply keep the scene clear and direct traffic? How will nearby property owners be notified?

Flooding
Is there a floodplain contingency plan? Is it addressed in the IAP? How will hazardous material be handled? What precautions are taken to prevent chemical leakage and flowback pit overflow? Are hazardous chemicals stored outside the floodplain?

Chemicals Involved
How will EMS folks know what chemicals are involved and their hauling, usage, and storage locations? Will drilling companies be required to provide this information? Will MSDS sheets be available to local EMS providers for all chemicals used, transported or stored? Or will a single statement of emergency treatment for the entire mix be provided? Will an analysis and up-to-date treatment of wastewater be available?

Emergency Notification
Is there a way to notify residents in an emergency? Is Reverse 911 or NY Alert system in place? Is it tested regularly? What are the numbers for the local radio and TV stations for emergency broadcast?

POLICE

Increase in 9-1-1 Calls
Is the call center prepared? Is dispatch ready?

Traffic: Accidents and Traffic Jams
How will municipalities deal with the increased traffic? Are there roads that need the traffic patterns changed because they can become easily congested? Are there alternative routes for emergency vehicles? Is there an opportunity to make suggestions as to changing traffic patterns?

Potential for Increased Crime
How can EMS providers plan for the anticipated increase in criminal mischief, theft, traffic accidents, drug usage and rape?

Ground Rules for Employees and Subcontractors
Is a municipality able to set ground rules such as no alcoholic beverages or weapons on site; drivers fired upon 3rd traffic ticket? Can these ground ruled be discussed at a pre-drilling meeting with the company and subcontractors?

Law Enforcement
Is there a jurisdictional gap between village, municipal and county law enforcement? If so where is the explanation found? What can be done to strengthen local codes to bolster police power? Is backup available if needed? Do municipalities need to allow within the law for county sheriff enforcement of local ordinances? Are there curfew laws? Could bar hours be enforced? Are there any other laws to be enforced such as noise ordinances or light ordinances?

DA's Office and Court System
How will the DA office and court system plan for the increase in cases? How will backlogs be handled? Is there enough physical space to handle the anticipated increase in activity?