

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN DURYEA BOROUGH

The Emergency Action Plan for Duryea Borough encompasses the entire length of the Lackawanna River from the Old Forge Borough line to the confluence with the Susquehanna River. The mean distance is some 2 miles in length.

The following text outlines the duties of all Duryea Borough personnel during an emergency or natural disaster in Duryea Borough.

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Notification Flowchart

When an occurrence is declared either through the Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency or an unusual occurrence is noted or detected by an official from Duryea Borough, the Duryea Emergency Services volunteers should immediately be contacted for an investigation. Investigation of the Lackawanna River Levee system will be done to insure the compliance of the Flood Protection Plan.

Once initiated, the Emergency Services Volunteers will report their findings to the Luzerne County Emergency Management Director, who will record these findings and advise or direct the local level coordinator.

The Duryea Borough Officials will then be placed on notice of impending actions to be followed, if any and the expected damages that could be expected.

Emergency Services will also be placed on notice if they had not been previously advised. This will only be an advisory notice, unless their assistance is deemed necessary.

Duryea Borough Emergency Services normally monitors the Lackawanna River during periods of heavy rainfall, abnormally heavy snow packs, or tropical storms. A useful tool for this monitoring is the Automatic River Gage located in Wilkes-Barre, Old Forge Borough or reports from the National Weather Service located in Binghamton, New York. Local emergency management officials also monitor a river level gauge at the Coxton Bridge in Duryea Borough.

Project Description

The project description is the length of the Lackawanna River Levee system from the Old Forge Line, the 900 block of Main St, to the Susquehanna River confluence some 2(two) miles downstream. The Levee system is largely rock and earthen barrier. A small portion is composed of a concrete barrier at the Stephenson St. Bridge and another concrete barrier, about 2,000 feet downstream. There is also a flood gate at the Stephenson St. Bridge that can be erected to preclude flooding from the bridge surface, should it become necessary.

There are also flood flap gates that are strategically placed to permit a natural flow of storm water from the street storm drains. These gates need to be periodically checked and properly maintained by Duryea Borough Street Department to insure their reliability in the event of flood water back-up. The proper maintenance of the flap gates is a visual inspection plus the greasing of the lubrication points of the hinge mechanisms. Dirt and debris also needs to be removed to insure that the flap gates open to allow the flow of effluent water from the storm system and to preclude the gate from closing, should the river level increase. These inspections are conducted on a monthly basis and records are maintained by the Duryea Borough Street Department. Flood gate bolts should be removed and maintained once a month to insure the installation of the Stephenson Street flood gate works properly in an emergency.

The levee itself should be cleaned monthly of any debris such as weeds, trees and garbage that is sometimes deposited. The maintenance of the levee is the responsibility of the Duryea Borough Street Department.

Riding or parking of any unauthorized motor vehicle should be noted and the offender be penalized to the fullest extent of the law for these infractions. Such behavior jeopardizes the integrity of the levee system and further jeopardizes the health and welfare of all Duryea Residents.

General Responsibilities

A. Duryea Flood Protection Project Sponsor

Duryea Borough including all offices and office holders are sponsors of this program in its entirety.

B. Notification

Duryea Borough shall be notified of any impending flood dangers, either through the Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency, National Weather advisories or upon notification by the Local Emergency Management Coordinator.

C. Direction and Control

Direction and control of the unusual event or emergency shall be done through the office of the Mayor of Duryea Borough, Duryea Borough Council President or Vice President. Advice and direction shall be passed along to the Emergency Management Coordinator or his/her representative, the Fire Departments, EMS Captain and the Duryea Police Department.

D. Public Alert and Evacuation

Public alert and warning will be in the form of a public announcement via radio and television, or by the sounding of the Sirens at both the Borough Building or at the Germania Hose Company. New ways of contacting residents, possibly through e-mails and cell phones are being considered.

Residents will be notified of river levels beginning at 33 feet as per the Wilkes-Barre gauge. Residents will be told to evacuate at 35 feet. The warning will come from Duryea Hose companies, police department, fire police, national guard or possible military police.

The following procedure will be followed based on the height of the river as per the Wilkes-Barre gauge:

27 feet- Key flood level. John's Service is flooded and JVA De-Icing (salt shed) is 3 feet under water.

Evacuate Coxtton residents. This is a voluntary evacuation. Residents who do not evacuate will have to sign a waiver stating that they voluntarily choose not to evacuate.

29 feet- Activate the Emergency Operation Command Center. The Emergency Operation Command Center will be located in the first floor of the Duryea Borough Building. Radio system, additional phone lines and internet will be located in the meeting room on the first floor. An alternate command center would be the Germania Hose Company.

1000 sandbags should be ready to be placed in locations when and where needed. First area to sandbag will be from the Stephenson Street bridge towards Lackawanna Avenue. The Duryea Street Department and volunteers will sandbag as necessary.

Extra police will be called out at this time.

31 feet- Monitor storm drains for sewer back up in the lower area of Duryea.

Place sandbags where needed.

Partially close the flood gate at the Stephenson Street Bridge. Three panels will be left open at this time so residents from Coxtton can use Swamp Road.

33 feet- Two large diameter pumps should be in place- (1) end of Major Lane and Chittenden Street and (2) Watt Street

Notify residents of the river level.

Duryea Sewer Authority valve at the end of Chittenden Street shall be closed by the Duryea Sewer Authority.

The LLVSA gate valve will be closed by the Duryea Borough Sewer Authority.

Locate pumps and generators that will be needed.

35 feet- Evacuate River, Watt, Dickson, Pettebone, Swetland, Stephenson to Main Street, Bennett, Church, Short, Lackawanna, Elm, Chittenden, and Main Street up to Nanny Rose. Residents who choose not to evacuate will have to sign a waiver stating they voluntarily choose not to evacuate their property.

Evacuate the borough building and move command center to Germania Hose Company only if necessary.

Call extra police and then national guard to help with evacuation.

Close the entire gate at the Stephenson Street Bridge.

EVACUATION CENTER- Evacuation centers will be set up at Germania Hose Company and Nativity of Our Lord Hall.

E. Fuel, Resources and Police

Fuel- Mayor will secure fuel resources as needed during the emergency. Fuel will be contained in one place- parking lot of the Holy Rosary Church. Hose companies will drop off empty fuel cans at Holy Rosary parking lot and Street Department will transport fuel as needed to fire companies. A fuel truck will be located on site. Diesel fuel will be available through local supplier- Mecadon, Superior, Leah. If necessary, an alternative location will be determined.

Resources- Mayor will secure heavy equipment.

Bulldozer- John Cremard – 983-7024
Robert Bejeski- 760-0588

Backhoe- Robert Bejeski- 760-0588
Bill Balchune- 237-6037

Dirt and Sand- Borough will have dirt and sand on hand.

Hazmat- call Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency. Any environmental services, such as Teem Environmental should be called by Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency.

Portable Barriers

To purchase barriers, call Bassler Equipment 288-6638
5 ft. long, 42 in. high \$325.00 each depending on quantity. Does not rent.

Suppliers of Light Towers and generators

Grand Rental Station- 654-6941 emergency # 840-3310
Light Tower
Gas Generators
Cleveland Brothers 883-1044
Tow behind Generator
Portable Lights

Medico Industries 825-7711, ext. 234 7:00a.m.-3:30p.m.
Light Tower

Does not rent generators
Powell's Rental 586-1107 after hours 878-0459
See attached list

Borough Pumps- Duryea Borough has one 6" pump and one double 4" pump. The pumps are stored at the borough garage and should be routinely maintained by the Duryea Borough Street Department.

Mass Transit- See attached Mass Casualty Box

Handicap Transportation- Residents who are handicap will be transported by:
TransMed – 283-2444
Lackawanna Ambulance – 558-4011

Cots- Responders need to rest. Cots are available from the American Red Cross. Call the Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency to report the need for cots and they will contact the American Red Cross.

Portable Toilets- Biros- 1-800-823-7781

Street Department- The Duryea Borough Street Department will be available for all duties necessary during an emergency.

Police- Police will be available during an emergency. PA speakers on the police cars will be used to warn and update residents in the emergency areas. Police will be responsible to secure the emergency areas.

F. Security, Termination and Follow-up

Security of the general public will be the prime duty of the Duryea Police Department. They will act under the direct control of the Mayor and Duryea Chief of Police and enforce restrictions to certain areas should these areas be considered off-limits to trespassing. Additional coverage including the National Guard, may become necessary if the conditions warrant their need.

Termination of the event will be done once it is deemed safe by the Incident Commander and Emergency Management Coordinator or his representative, or the Luzerne County Emergency Management Director and the event has diminished to a very safe level.

A follow-up to this event will take place soon after the event activity has subsided and all representatives of Duryea Borough can meet to discuss and iron out any abnormalities that may have occurred. Formal minutes of this session shall take place to officially record the events, findings, corrective action and disposition.

This revised action plan was approved by Duryea Borough Council at the Duryea Borough Council meeting held on June 12, 2012.

Audrey Marcinko, Council President

Lois Morreale, Borough Manager