

Upper Uwchlan Township (UUT) Emergency Management Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 16, 2025

The meeting was held at Upper Uwchlan Twp., 140 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, PA

I. Call to Order

Byron Nickerson called the Emergency Management Commission (EMPC) meeting to order at 6:05 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following members were in attendance: Byron Nickerson, Steve Hirsh, Jeff Churchvara, Cathy Tomlinson, Chief Tom Jones and Jamie Goncharoff.

Also, in attendance were Kathi McGrath, EMPC Secretary, Mark Bowen, Resident and Jeff Benach, Ludwigs Corner Fire Co./resident.

II. Approval of the May Meeting Minutes

- Steve Hirsh made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes and Cathy Tomlinson seconded the motion with all in favor. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. Chairperson/EMC Report

- Byron introduced Mark Bowen to the commission members. Mark is interested in joining the EMPC when an opening is available. He is a Civil Engineer and feels he can add to the commission with his professional background.
- Bryon and Steve Hirsh participate this summer in the Junior Police Academy and would like to do something more organized next year.
- Byron asked Steve to reach out to Dan Saunders at the County to inquire into applications for the RAD funding. He mentioned possibly obtaining a new radiation detector local.
- Byron reviewed with the group the EMPC recent, ongoing and planned activities that he presented to the Boards and Commissions workshop.
- The Limerick Drill will be on November 18, 2025.

IV. Committee Status Reports

A. Community Awareness and Preparedness: (Jamie G & Jeff C)

- Jeff mentioned he received the updated HOA directory from Kathi and will reach out and try to schedule an awareness class.

B. Emergency Services: (Kevin C)

- Nothing to report – Kevin was not present for the meeting.

C. Operations, Block Party and Pipeline Committee: (Steve H)

- Steve mentioned the KEMA Conference is coming up and he and Byron will be attending that in Altoona, PA.
- Steve noted on September 22, the Exton Library will be hosting a Pipeline Incident Plan event from 5-7 PM.

D. Police Update: (Chief Jones)

- Chief Jones noted Dexter, K-9 is in full service with the Police Department. K-9 Dexter is a great resource for missing people; article searches and guns.
- He discussed vehicle intrusion at the Upland Farms Barn township property for events. The need for the use of bollards and natural barriers such as large rocks/boulders is being discussed.
- Cathy Tomlinson suggested putting parking on Darrell Drive, mid-block, facing the cars west bound on the street.
- Chief noted that the Township Administration office is expected to be relocating operations and staff to a newly acquired building on Byers Road in March or April 2026. The Police Department will then occupy the entire building currently located at 140 Pottstown Pike. This move is due to the increase in police officers and the growth of residents in Upper Uwchlan.
- The PD will be hosting with Park and Recreation Board the annual Trunk or Treat event on October 25th. The event will be held in the Township parking lot and Pickering Valley Elementary parking lot. The EMPC Trailer will need to be decorated and manned for the event, volunteers are encouraged to participate.
- St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church held a very large funeral with approximately 3,000 people in attendance. During the funeral, the Limerick Power Plant Alarm broke (stuck on) in the Township (Rotary Siren) and Chief said he and his department were fully prepared with potential social media posts and coordinated support from the County on realizing the alarm was the only one broken all while managing traffic for this event. There were no other incidents related to the funeral that day.
- Block Party wrap up was discussed. Chief said there were issues with the Radio channel used during the event (emergency vs. non-emergency chatter) and will be addressed and changed for next year's event. One child was lost but reunited with his family, and the weather was a small issue for the fireworks and drones. The County drone was able to continue due to not being impacted by weather.

E. Flooding and Power Surge Committee: (Cathy T)

- Cathy said PECO stepped up the services on the other side of the lake.
- There were no problems with flooding this summer due to the lack of rainfall.
- Byron mentioned he revised the flooding annex/roadway checklist. The next step is to give to Police Dept., Public Works, Twp. Mgr. and Rhys Lloyd (Stormwater) for their records and use.
- Byron noted the PD personnel and DPW go around and clean out problematic catch basins in the township.
- Jamie Goncharoff made a motion to approve the flooding annex and Cathy Tomlinson seconded the motion, all were in favor, so motion passed unanimously.
- Byron said thank you to Cathy Tomlinson, Steve Hirsh and Jeff B. for all their work on this checklist.
- Byron will email the checklist to Mark Bowen, he volunteered to help create the plan.

F. Community Emergency Assistance Trailer Committee: (Jamie G & Jeff B)

- Jamie mentioned there were issues with the generator while in the secured box. Jeff and Jamie created a tube to replace the CO2 possibly put a vent on the roof in the near future, with the help of township Public Works staff.
- The next goal is to fundraise and purchase totes and put supplies in the totes. First item includes PPE.
- Jamie mentioned the importance of anyone that moves the trailer to be made aware to put the steps up and of the turning radius especially with the propane tank and generator. There was prior damage to the trailer while moving and maneuvering it and suggested only those with experience handling trailers to move it in the future to avoid possible damage again.
- Byron complimented Jamie and Jeff for their work, "Great job!"

VII. Old Business

- Nothing to report

VIII. New Business

- Byron said the township is working on updating the current website and it will have a designated RED button for Emergency Management on the front screen. It will be a more functional list of information for the residents.
- Chief said he could help Byron with creating facts on the red button spot.

IX. Notable Action Items

- Byron to email flooding annex to Mark Bowen for review and input.
- Steve will email Dan Saunders regarding county applications for RAD \$
- Jeff will schedule a meeting with HOA residents for the community awareness committee
- Jamie and Jeff are working on the trailer and fixing the generator storage box issue.
- Byron to fundraise to obtain supplies.

X. Sync & Share

- Steve said he was glad summer was over.
- Chief suggested keeping Tony's old office vacant to use as a functional use with EOC space.

Jamie Goncharoff made a motion to end the meeting, and Cathy Tomlinson seconded the motion. All members were enthusiastically in favor of the motion. There were no dissenting votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary