The Gloucester County Department of Health & Human Services

Robert Damminger
Freeholder Director

Giuseppe (Joe) Chila
Deputy Freeholder Director

Jim Jefferson
Freeholder Liaison
East Jefferson Street Bridge Train Derailment
Paulsboro NJ
November 30, 2012 – December 18, 2012

Carla Kephart, CHES, ACSM SPT
Health Educator
Paulsboro NJ

- An industrial town located on the Delaware River across from Philadelphia
- It is bound by the Delaware River on the north, the Mantua Creek & West Deptford Twp on the east & Greenwich Township on the west and south
- Railroad entered Paulsboro 1876
Demographics

• 2.604 sq. miles
• Population: 6,113
  – White: 54.5%
  – Black: 36.7%
  – Hispanic or Latino: 8.09%
• High School Graduate or higher: 82.6%
• Bachelors Degree or higher: 11.5 %
East Jefferson Street Bridge Derailment Nov. 30th, 2012 Paulsboro, N.J.
Paulsboro children walking to school
November 30, 2012
Unified Command

Members of the Unified Command

• U.S. Coast Guard
• N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
• N.J. Office of Emergency Management
• Paulsboro Fire Department
• Conrail
Federal Agencies/Resources

- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Coast Guard
- NOAA – National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
- Federal Railroad Administration
- American Red Cross
- CDC – Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR)
State/Allied Agencies/Resources

- NJSP Office of Emergency Management
- NJSP Emergency Response Bureau - South
- NJSP Hazardous Material Response Unit
- NJSP Incident Management Unit
- New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey Department of Health
- USCG Atlantic Strike Team
- NJ PIES Poison Information & Education System
County/Local Agencies/Resources

- Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management
- Gloucester County Haz-Mat
- Gloucester County EMS
- Gloucester County Health
- Gloucester County Neptune Task Force
- Gloucester County Prosecutor’s Office
- Paulsboro Police Department
- Paulsboro Fire Department
Private Agencies/Resources

- Conrail
- CSX Rail
- CTEH (Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health)
What is vinyl chloride?

• A colorless gas used in the manufacturing process for PVC, which is used in a variety of plastic products, including pipes, wire and cable coatings, furniture and packaging materials.
Vinyl Chloride Health Effects

• Acute exposure at very high levels affects CNS
  – dizziness, nausea, headache, ataxia, drowsiness, loss or coordination, disorientation, numbness, burning and tingling of the extremities, visual & auditory disturbances
  – longer periods can cause coma and death

• Chronic exposure can cause
  – permanent liver injury and liver cancer, can be delayed a few days after exposure
  – neurologic or behavioral symptoms
  – changes to the skin (scleroderma like or Raynaud’s) and bones of the hand (dissolve) acroosteolysis
Should I be worried about health impacts from vinyl chloride?

• The highest concentrations of vinyl chloride detected are hundreds of times lower than the concentrations that would produce symptoms from the short-term exposures that may have occurred.
Gloucester County Department of Health Response Efforts

- Risk Communication
  - assisted in the creation of talking points
  - assisted in Unified Command
  - electronic Website Q/A
    - assisted in the response efforts to questions and concerns sent to us via our internet portal
Community Meetings

- Community open house at the Nehaunsey Middle School in Gibbstown, Dec. 5, 2012.
Website

- [www.paulsbororesponse.com](http://www.paulsbororesponse.com)

- live on Dec. 6th... one week from Nov. 30th
Community Meetings

- Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. in the Paulsboro High School auditorium, 670 N. Delaware St., Paulsboro.
Communication Strengths

• Specialty unit within the US Coast Guard - trained to work within any level of Risk Communication no matter what the incident
• Coast Guard also has local response team - individuals have local connections to the media
• Empathy Statements
• Smart Phone usage/technology
Communication Challenges

- Multiple Agency Response
- Federal, State and Local representatives
- Lack of website for a full week
- Lack of understanding regarding “shelter in place” and evacuation
- Disconnect with the public
Gloucester County Department of Health Response Efforts

• Activated MRC
  – assisted the CDC with the Evacuee Health Assessments
  – assisted OEM by provided educational material to those outside of evacuation area

• Mental Health
  – Counseling & support services
Clean up
Aerial shot of 150-ton crane
After Actions?

• Community education has been provided on “Shelter in Place”
  – American Red Cross has provided two trainings for residents on sheltering in place

• NJDOH & CDC following health of residents
Community Resources

• **Media Hotline:**
  (703) 861-9101

• **Public Assistance Center will remain open as long as residents need it**
  541A Mantua Ave.
  Paulsboro, NJ 08066
  (856) 599-1657 (appts)
  – Hours:
    Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

• *For assistance including lodging, clothing, food (groceries and area restaurants), gasoline, childcare, laundry services, pharmacy services, provisions for pets and other services for evacuees. Special needs transportation and services are also available*
Pearls

• Be prepared
  – Know hazardous materials transported in your area
  – weather conditions affect situation & response
  – Stay uphill, upwind, upstream, appropriate PPE
  – NEVER proceed towards or through a vapor cloud – if you are in your car and cannot get away stop car turn off engine close all windows and shelter in place in your car
  – Establish & follow incident command
  – Know your role
  – Know your contacts & resources
    • OEM, DHS, TSA, OSHA, EPA, DEQ/DEP, DOT/FRA, USCG, State & Local Police, the list goes on & on
  – Community notification as quickly as possible for safety
    • Who, what, where when, why, HOW
    • clean up will take time
Protect

- Self/People
- Property
- Environment
Questions

- Carla Kephart, CHES, ACSM SPT
  Health Educator
  Gloucester County Department of Health & Human Services
  856-218-4135
  ckephart@co.gloucester.nj.us
East Jefferson Street Bridge Today