



pennsylvania
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Testimony for the Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness

Committee

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Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency

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Chairman Vulakovich, Chairman Costa, and members of the Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committees, I am Tony Camillocci, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's (PEMA) Eastern Area Office Director, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the role of PEMA in the 2014 Eric Frein Manhunt.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) helps communities and citizens mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other human-made disasters. PEMA supports county Emergency Management agencies by coordinating and engaging the whole community, including federal and state partners, volunteer organizations involved in disasters, private sector businesses and citizens.

PEMA's role is to coordinate the state response to a disaster by assigning missions to our partner state agencies to delegate their resources based upon requests from counties or from PEMA, if it is an emerging event.

During the manhunt, PEMA supported the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), who was the lead state agency during this incident, and engaged with the county emergency management agencies in Monroe and Pike counties.

Initially, PEMA was contacted by PSP to assess the availability of the Pennsylvania Incident Management Team's (PA IMT) equipment to deploy to northeastern Pennsylvania to assist the

operation, if necessary. The PA IMT offered to provide any assistance that we could to support PSP operations. A few days into the operation, PEMA received a call from PSP requesting assistance with the incident command organization at the Blooming Grove Barracks. PEMA then deployed a member of the PA IMT to assist them with the incident.

The member of the PA IMT spent a few days with PSP command from the Blooming Grove Barracks through the transition of the Command Post to the Pike County Emergency Services Building. Once command moved to the Pike County Building, PA IMT offered additional support to PSP operations. PEMA worked with the PA IMT staff to identify personnel that were available to support the incident. Additional members of the PA IMT went to Pike County and assisted PSP with operations at the staging area at the Barrett Township Fire Company.

The PA IMT mainly provided support with equipment and personnel tracking at the Command Post and staging area. As the incident continued and the demands on the staging area increased, PEMA leadership decided that they would supplement PA IMT personnel with PEMA personnel. There was a mix of PA IMT trained staff and PEMA staff at the command post and the staging area. PEMA also provided logistical support with scheduling.

As the incident progressed, PSP set up a tactical operations center at an abandoned home with an airstrip. To support this operation, PEMA provided generators, restroom trailers, tents, and personnel. When that operation was shut down and moved to an elementary school, PEMA

continued to support the operation with electronics and light towers. PEMA/PA IMT personnel were used throughout the operation to complete briefing packets and logistical support at the Command Post, Elementary School, PEMA's Emergency Operations Center, and field operations.

Following the incident, PEMA worked with Monroe and Pike counties to determine eligibility for financial assistance for economic injury disaster loans (EIDL) through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). A minimum of 5 businesses must demonstrate Substantial economic injury for a request to be made. Substantial economic injury means the business is unable to meet its obligations and to pay its ordinary and necessary operating expenses. EIDLs provide the necessary working capital to help small businesses survive until normal operations resume after a disaster. PEMA coordinated efforts with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Pocono Alliance to invite businesses to report their losses. The businesses that were surveyed showed that the event did not meet the federally required threshold to eligible for the SBA EIDL program.

Each operation that PEMA is involved in provides us with an opportunity to improve emergency response in the Commonwealth. I would like to thank all members of the emergency response community that came together to provide resources, personnel, and equipment during this operation. A lesson learned during this incident was the experience of long term resource management in a potentially hostile environment. Resources provided by PEMA needed regular replenishment, refueling, or maintenance, which needed to be performed in coordination with law

enforcement activity. This proved to be a challenge based on the incident, but allowed PEMA staff to learn new skills that were brought back and implemented in future trainings and plans.

On behalf of Governor Wolf and Director Flinn, I would like to thank you Chairman Vulakovich, Chairman Costa, and members of the Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee for your continued support of PEMA and our partners in public safety across the state. I appreciate the opportunity to appear here today and I will try to answer any questions you might have.