

# THE GOVERNOR

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

### Governor's Fire and Emergency Services Task Force; Executive Order 2002-9

August 27, 2002

*Whereas*, Pennsylvania's fire and emergency service organizations and their members provide the backbone for a community's response to emergencies and disasters; and

*Whereas*, responsibility for fire and emergency service protection within a community rests with local government and local government support of community-based volunteer fire and emergency responder organizations is critical; and

*Whereas*, the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute estimates that volunteer fire and emergency responders annually provide more than six billion dollars in services to the public, saving local governments billions of dollars that would have to be raised through state and local taxes if the cost of these services were borne directly by Pennsylvania taxpayers; and

*Whereas*, recruiting and retaining volunteer fire and emergency responders is a serious challenge to effective community response; and

*Whereas*, the safety of more than 100,000 volunteer firefighters and emergency responders is dependent upon proper training and preparedness; and

*Whereas*, fire safety education of the public is important and has led to dramatic reductions in the number of lives lost to fire over the past decade; and

*Whereas*, fire prevention, including smoke detectors and residential sprinkler systems, reduce the potential for property loss, injury, and loss of life due to fire; and

*Whereas*, community fire and emergency service organizations are encouraged, where possible, to consider consolidation or merger with nearby organizations in order to maximize the availability and use of public safety equipment and personnel; and

*Whereas*, the Commonwealth, through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, provides training, guidance, and leadership to ensure the maximum effectiveness of community-based emergency service preparedness and response; and

*Whereas*, the General Assembly, through Section 31.2 of the Act of June 29, 2002 (Act 89), has directed the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to conduct a study of the manner in which funding sources may be established to improve the delivery of services provided by volunteer fire companies and volunteer emergency services in the Commonwealth; and

*Whereas*, the General Assembly has directed in Act 89 that the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency provide to the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Communications and High Technology in the Senate of Pennsylvania, no later than September 30, 2002, a report making recommendations regarding the amount of funding necessary and the scope of services required to meet the needs of volunteer fire companies and volunteer emergency services for the delivery of essential services to the people and communities of this Commonwealth.

*Now, Therefore*, I, Mark S. Schweiker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do formally create the

Governor's Fire and Emergency Services Task Force (hereinafter referred to as Task Force) and do order and direct as follows:



Governor

**Fiscal Note:** GOV 02-10. No fiscal impact; (8) recommends adoption.

1. *Mission.* The mission of the Task Force is to:

a. Advise the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) as it prepares the report required by Act 89;

b. Review and evaluate potential funding sources that could be used to improve the delivery of services provided by fire companies and emergency service providers;

c. Review and evaluate opportunities that are available to improve the delivery of services provided by fire companies and emergency service providers; and

d. Review and evaluate the funding requirements to address these opportunities to improve the delivery of services provided by fire companies and emergency service providers.

2. *Composition of the Task Force.* The Task Force shall consist of the following members, each of whom shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor:

a. Director of PEMA, who shall serve as Chairman.

b. One representative from each of the following agencies and organizations:

(1) Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania.

(2) Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council.

(3) Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute.

(4) Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania.

(5) Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association.

(6) Fireman's Legislative Federation of Pennsylvania.

(7) Office of the State Fire Commissioner.

(8) Governor's Policy Office.

(9) Department of Community and Economic Development.

(10) Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

(11) Department of Environmental Protection.

(12) Department of Health.

3. *Responsibilities of the Task Force.*

a. The Task Force shall provide advice and assistance to PEMA as the agency prepares the report required by Section 31.2 of Act 89.

b. The Task Force shall focus on addressing three specific goals:

(1) Identification of funding sources;

(2) Identification of opportunities available to improve the delivery of services provided by fire companies and emergency service providers; and

(3) Identification of the amount of funding necessary to address these opportunities to improve the delivery of services that are provided by fire companies and emergency service providers.

4. *Responsibilities of the Chairman and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.*

a. The Chairman and PEMA shall prepare the report required by Section 31.2 of Act 89.

b. The Chairman and PEMA shall convene the Task Force meetings, as necessary, and maintain a record of the actions taken or recommendations made by the Task Force.

c. The Chairman and PEMA shall make available to Task Force members copies of PA Burning, Supporting Volunteer Fire Services in Pennsylvania, and other documents identifying potential funding sources, opportunities to improve the delivery of services, and the amount of funding necessary to address those opportunities.

5. *Compensation.* Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for their services, except that such members may be reimbursed for actual travel and related expenses in accordance with Commonwealth policy.

6. *Meetings.* Task Force meetings shall be held at least once prior to September 30, 2002, and shall be open to the public as required by law.

7. *Effective Date.* This order shall take effect immediately.

8. *Termination Date.* This order shall continue in effect until October 1, 2002, or until the report required by Section 31.2 of Act 89 has been provided to the legislature.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 02-1627. Filed for public inspection September 20, 2002, 9:00 a.m.]

## Amendment to Proclamation

September 5, 2002

*Whereas*, on February 12, 2002, I declared a state of drought and water shortage emergency in twenty-four counties of the Commonwealth due to a long and continuing period of rainfall deficits and a lack of winter snow accumulation which resulted in abnormally low stream flows, reduced groundwater levels and water supply shortages within those counties; and

*Whereas*, on May 7, 2002 and August 9, 2002, I renewed the Declaration of Drought Emergency for ninety days in several counties of the Commonwealth due to insufficient amounts of rainfall to replenish the groundwater levels or return overall water supplies to their normal levels within those several counties; and

*Whereas*, since the August 9, 2002, renewal of the Declaration of Drought Emergency in fourteen counties of the Commonwealth, there have been insufficient amounts of rainfall in Bucks, Dauphin, Montgomery, Perry and Philadelphia Counties to replenish the groundwater levels or return overall water supplies to their normal levels within those five counties; and

*Whereas*, the present drought and water shortage conditions are expected to continue or worsen within all or most of those five counties during the next sixty to ninety day period of time; and

*Whereas*, there is an immediate need to place Bucks, Dauphin, Montgomery, Perry and Philadelphia Counties in a state of drought and water shortage emergency.

*Now Therefore*, I, Mark S. Schweiker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 7301(c) of the Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. Section 7101 et seq.), do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. The Counties of Bucks, Dauphin, Montgomery, Perry and Philadelphia are added to the designated drought emergency area that was renewed on August 9, 2002.

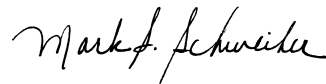
2. The designated drought emergency area now includes the following counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin,

Delaware, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill and York.

3. All of the authorized actions by state agencies and departments, regulations, water-use restrictions and other terms, conditions, and provisions of the February 12, 2002, Declaration of Drought Emergency shall be placed into full force and effect in the designated drought emergency area until either rescinded by me or terminated by law.

4. This Proclamation amendment shall take effect immediately.

*Given under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the city of Harrisburg, this 5th day of September in the year of our Lord, two thousand and two and of the Commonwealth, the two hundred and twenty-seventh.*



*Governor*

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 02-1628. Filed for public inspection September 20, 2002, 9:00 a.m.]

## Amendment to Proclamation of Disaster Emergency

September 4, 2002

*Whereas*, on May 20, 2002, I extended the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency that was issued on September 11, 2001, in response to the acts of terrorism in New York City, New York, Washington, D.C., and Somerset County, Pennsylvania; and

*Whereas*, there continues to be a need for the Commonwealth to provide supplementary personnel and other resources at critical facilities in Pennsylvania, such as airports and nuclear power plants, in order to provide additional security, monitoring and other measures to protect the safety and well-being of the citizens of Pennsylvania; and

*Whereas*, the Federal government, through the Office of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice, has asked all state and municipal governments to commit additional resources, in the form of National Guard and law enforcement personnel, urban search and rescue and hazardous materials response teams and other resources, in order to provide additional emergency response, security and law enforcement resources in the ongoing fight against terrorism; and

*Whereas*, in response to the request from the Federal government to provide law enforcement, security and other forms of assistance at critical facilities and other locations in Pennsylvania and because there is a need to provide such assistance in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Pennsylvania from possible future acts of terrorism.

*Now Therefore*, I, Mark Schweiker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution, the Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa.C.S. Section 7101 et seq., as amended, and other laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby amend the Proclamation of September 11, 2001, as follows;

1. The period of the state of disaster emergency is extended from September 6, 2002 through December 4, 2002.

2. I hereby transfer an additional \$300,000.00 in unused appropriated funds to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. The aforementioned funds shall be used for disaster-related expenses incurred by various state agencies and departments. These funds shall be credited to a special

account established by the Office of the Budget. All Commonwealth agencies purchasing supplies or services in response to this emergency are authorized to utilize the emergency procurement procedures set forth in Section 516 of the Commonwealth Procurement Code, 62 Pa.C.S. Section 516. This Proclamation shall serve as the written determination of the basis for the emergency under Section 516.

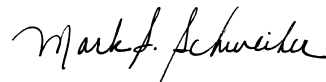
3. I hereby authorize the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania to place on state active duty for the duration of the emergency such individuals and units of the Pennsylvania National Guard as may be needed to provide security and other public safety measures at critical facilities in Pennsylvania and to alleviate the danger to public health and safety caused by the aforementioned emergency.

4. I hereby authorize the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police to use all available equipment, resources and personnel of the Department, in whatever manner he deems necessary, to ensure that the public health, safety and welfare of the Commonwealth's citizens are protected at this time of emergency.

5. I hereby direct that the other operational provisions of the September 11, 2001, Proclamation that remain applicable to the current emergency circumstances in Pennsylvania shall continue in full force and effect.

6. This Proclamation amendment shall take effect immediately from the date of this amendment.

*Given under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the city of Harrisburg, this 4th day of September in the year of our Lord, two thousand and two and of the Commonwealth, the two hundred and twenty-seventh.*



*Governor*

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 02-1629. Filed for public inspection September 20, 2002, 9:00 a.m.]