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Asset Inventory And Regional Assessment

January 2017

Seven Mountains EMS Council is one of fourteen (14) currently recognized organizations which hold a grant with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health. The grant is to assist the Department, through the Bureau of EMS, in coordinating the emergency medical service (EMS) efforts within the Central Pennsylvania counties of Center, Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union into a unified regional emergency medical services system which is consistent with the Commonwealth's EMS system. The Council specifically assists the Bureau with EMS system planning, development, maintenance, expansion, and improvements by assisting with the implementation of the EMS Systems Act (Act 37) as well as providing a forum for feedback from regional agencies, providers and stakeholders on the status of our Regional EMS service delivery.

This asset inventory is one of the tools used in the development and expansion of the regional EMS system. It will serve as a benchmark for current EMS service delivery and be referenced during discussions of service expansion and/or improvement. As with any other inventory, this is a "snapshot" of the current system; system status is ever evolving with some significant changes occurring over just the past few months.

Seven Mountains EMS Council delegates – appointed by the Board of Directors – are currently in discussions with neighboring regions to brainstorm ideas of mutual benefit to the regional EMS systems and Commonwealth system as a whole. Discussions include bulk purchasing and resource/personnel sharing through to a complete merger of the organizations.

Agencies:

There are currently eighty-two (82) licensed EMS agencies operating out of the nine counties comprising the Seven Mountains EMS Council region – See appendix A. All but two (Danville EMS & EMTs) are headquartered within the Region, EHSF & LTS are the home regions for those two agencies respectively. As would probably be expected, 78% (64) of the regional EMS agencies provide service at the BLS level. While a majority of the population is covered by first-line ALS; a majority of the land-area is provided ALS services through a squad/ALS-intercept provision model. This model has proven beneficial throughout the region, both through personnel/supplies/equipment cost savings and ALS provider proficiency (frequency of encountering patients needing specific treatment). Appendix B are "drive time" maps for the nine counties; BLS maps are designed for a ten minute drive time radius of Agency stations (QRS are yellow, BLS is Red) and ALS maps are based on twenty minute drive times. As noticeable on the maps, a majority of the land area and a large majority of the population base has EMS response available within ten minutes. The maps are "county" based representations and don't show significant response overlap in several areas throughout the Region. Juniata County is the only one of our counties that do not use QRS agencies as a part of their EMS response plan.

As demonstrated by these maps, licensed EMS agencies isn't as much as concern within the Region as is active providers. Currently there seems to be sufficient transport agency coverage, other than maybe the southern portion of Columbia County, but there are areas that would benefit from additional licensed QRS agencies for initial patient stabilization.

Vehicles:

There are currently 204 EMS vehicles used by regional agencies to provide emergency medical service care throughout the Region. Sixty-five percent (133 vehicles) of the licensed vehicles are at the basic life support (BLS) level with sixty-seven percent (90 vehicles) of those being transport vehicles. Though a considerable amount of ALS care is provided through "ALS rendezvous" with a local BLS agency, there are only thirteen (13) ALS Squad vehicle within the Region; regional agencies prefer providing care using Mobile Intensive Care Units (MICUs) allowing them transport capabilities should the need arise.

Of the 204 vehicles, all are ground except eight (8) helicopters operated by Geisinger Life Flight in Danville PA (Montour County). Geisinger has multiple sub-stations throughout the Commonwealth used to forward deploy assets, two of which are within the Region - Geisinger Medical Center in Danville (Corporate & primary headquarters) and University Park Airport (Centre County).

Personnel:

Registry records show Seven Mountains EMS Council region as having 1,849 EMS providers residing within the regional boundaries – a number that has historically been decreasing for several years. Approximately 83% of those providers are certified at the BLS level (1,550). Though accurate, these numbers are misleading at best. There are individuals functioning throughout the region who are residents of another EMS council as well as individuals living within our boundaries who either function within another region; don't function within the EMS system at all; or no longer reside within the area but haven't notified the Council to update their record to reflect their current address. Currently there are a total of 84 EMS providers whom are also EMS-Instructors residing within the Region.

To get a better idea of the true regional EMS workforce, in 2015¹ staff looked at the personnel rosters submitted by the licensed agencies. Compiling this information we find that there are 1796 individuals listed on ambulance and 223 on QRS agency applications. Sorting to remove duplicates, we end up with 1390 unique individuals identified as providing EMS care within the region. Using these numbers, we find that our regional EMS workforce is roughly 78% BLS with the ALS providers composed of 250 paramedics; 48 pre-hospital nurses; and 5 pre-hospital physicians. Of the approximate 400 duplicates removed, it was fairly well balanced between BLS and ALS providers with ALS having a small majority; but, the interesting thing was that most of the duplicates were a single person listed with three or four transport agencies rather than a single provider rostered with both a transport and QRS agency.

This does bring up two areas that staff consider important issues that Council will be looking into over the next several years. First is the issue of the decreasing EMS provider workforce. A noticeable decline in new providers – both applications for employment/membership within EMS agencies and individuals participating in basic EMS training programs – has been declining or several years now. Council has identified the issue and have been brain-storming ideas to halt and/or reverse this trend; have tried several programs/initiatives with minimal to no noticeable improvement; and, though committed to continuing these programs as best we can, feel that allocating additional resources to new, unproven projects is not the best use of Commonwealth funds allocated to us for system development and expansion. The second is better use of the EMS data collected within the Region to benchmark our Region with the Commonwealth and our individual agencies with similar agencies. Council has committed significant resources to PCR data collection with very little system development and/or quality improvement benefit being gained. One obstacle has been the inability of us to be able to compare data from all regional agencies – two of the larger agencies don't use the regionally provided PCR vendor and, although they submit their data on a timely basis, we have no data system available that would allow us to review and analyze that information.

¹ This review was done in 2015 and hasn't been repeated since; but, we have no indication of any change nor any reason to believe that the numbers would be significantly different today.

Preparedness

There are considerable assets available within the Seven Mountains EMS Council region to assist our agencies in preparing for and responding to mass casualty events whether natural, man-made, planned (Special Event) or emergent. The Board of Directors have also authorized staff to deploy, upon request, to assist in the preparation/planning for or response to an EMS involved event. To allow for that deployment, Council maintains three vehicles – a pickup, an SUV, and a car. Depending on the situation, and what equipment is needed, staff can deploy with the appropriate equipment and supplies to assist as needed. Council maintains both Commonwealth owned and Council owned preparedness assets with the PEMA “Unmet Needs” process used for requesting either type.

Commonwealth Preparedness Assets include:

- Mobile Medical Support System (MMSS) – located in Snow Shoe, Centre County
- Medical Supply Equipment Cache (MSEC) – one located in Bellefonte, Centre County
one located in Selinsgrove, Snyder County
- Casualty Collection Point (CCP) – located in Selinsgrove, Snyder County
- 14ft. enclosed trailer - empty
- Generator on trailer
- Light Tower

Council Preparedness Assets include:

- Kubota RTV 1140 with MedBed or tow behind, stokes basket patient transport system
- Shower Trailer with clothes washer/dryer area (3 of each)
- 14ft. incident support/command trailer
- 8ft enclosed trailer with MCI, patient care supplies – one in Pleasant Gap, Centre County
one in Mifflintown, Juniata County
- 14ft Strike Team trailer with team supplies and equipment
- Communications Pack – one in Milesburg, Centre County
one in Selinsgrove, Snyder County
- Radio Cache – Strike team radios – located in Milesburg, Centre County
- Radio Cache – VHF portables & mobile for base operations – Milesburg, Centre County
- Various shelters, heaters/air conditioners, generators and other equipment and supplies used to assist in response to MCI incidents – mostly located in Milesburg, Centre County

Other Preparedness Assets that Council can assist in securing:

- 8ft enclosed trailer with MCI, patient care supplies – one in Lewistown, Mifflin County
one in Selinsgrove, Snyder County
- Enclosed trailer with MCI, patient care supplies (100 Patients) – Lock Haven, Clinton County
- Enclosed trailer with MCI, patient care supplies – Lewisburg, Union County

Strike Teams

Seven Mountains EMS Council maintain a complement of EMS agencies who have committed to participating in Strike Team deployments both within and outside the Commonwealth as needed, when available. Overall we have a fairly good track record of being able to muster these agencies when requested; but, a lack of “strike team” activities over recent months may cause some confusion and/or delay until procedures are clarified and expectations are understood.

Upon our Preparedness Coordinator’s departure, we had signed grant agreements with the following agencies:

Americus Hose Co. Amb.	Northumberland
AREA Services	Northumberland
Berwick EMS	Columbia
Centre LifeLink EMS	Centre
Central Juniata EMS	Juniata
Danville EMS	Montour
McVeytown EMS	Mifflin
Moshannon Valley EMS	Centre
Snow Shoe EMS	Centre

Three additional regional EMS Agencies have been active within the Strike Team program – including multiple deployments & training activities – but don’t have current, signed agreements. They are:

Bellefonte EMS	Centre
FAME EMS	Mifflin
Lock Haven EMS	Clinton

All three have been active enough that it would be in the program’s best interest to discuss their continued involvement with organizational leadership.

EMS Rehabilitation Services

Responder safety and rehabilitation services, provided by EMS agencies, at fire and other extended emergency operation scenes is expanding throughout the Region; but, there is still a lot of room for expansion and/or improvement. Most of our EMS agencies offer some type of “responder” rehabilitation but those offerings vary greatly between agencies. Some of this variation is due to the EMS agencies not knowing about, or being interested in providing, responder rehab. but a considerable amount of the lack of availability is also due to a lack of support by agency leadership not supporting the concept and/or enforcing rehabilitation guidelines on their membership. This is not an all-inclusive list; but, the following EMS agencies are familiar with and provide rehab. services at extended incidents:

Americus Hose EMS	Northumberland
Elysburg Fire Co. EMS	Northumberland
Lock Haven EMS	Clinton
FAME EMS	Mifflin

Bariatric Transport

Several years ago, subsequent to an identified regional need and verbal request from BEMS, Council polled regional EMS agencies to identify bariatric services currently available and to determine if additional assets were required to meet the perceived need. Through that process, four EMS agencies committed (one in each of our member counties) to providing bariatric services within the Region in exchange for assistance in acquiring needed equipment and vehicle modifications. With the merging of the former Susquehanna EHS Council counties, the Licensure Coordinator contacted the EMS agencies within those counties to 1) determine bariatric services being provided and 2) if there was a need to establish such services as had been done previously. Survey results showed that those services were already being provided and no Council intervention was needed. Council staff have received no complaints and/or concerns involving the transportation of bariatric patients for several years.

STEMI Identification and Transport

All regional ALS agencies are currently able to record and transmit 12-Lead EKGs to assure appropriate identification and transportation of and care for patients suffering from ST elevation myocardial infarction. Recent discussions have found that EKG transmission is being handled differently throughout the Region – most agencies transmit the EKG directly from the monitor to the receiving facility while others take photos of the paper tracing and e-mail them to the facility. A suggestion was made at one of the previous Council meetings to send this situation back to the Regional MAC for input into the appropriateness of either or both methods.

CISM Services

Seven Mountains EMS Council along with the LTS EMS Council maintain a critical incident stress management (CISM) team offering CISM intervention services. Our main catchment area is the eleven counties encompassing the Seven Mountains region and Lycoming & Sullivan Counties but our team has, as requested, responded to other areas of the Commonwealth. The team, coordinated by a licensed psychologist and lead through a nine-member “Team Leader” design, include members with experience in various disciplines including EMS, fire, police, EMA, coroner, hospital, and ministerial with a majority having taken multiple recognized training courses.

Some members have experience working national events and we have one current trainer along with another individual working toward his instructor credentials. Team deployments are initiated through the Mifflin or Lycoming County Emergency Communications Center(s) (PSAP).

Appendix A

VEHICLE INVENTORY

CENTRE COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Centre LifeLink	4		3	1	8
Penns Valley	3				3
Bellefonte	3				3
Mountain Top	2				2
Pleasant Gap	3				3
Port Matilda	2				2
University	2				2
Snow Shoe	2				2
Moshannon Valley			4	1	5
Howard QRS		2			2
Mt. Nittany MC			2	3	5
Citizens Hose- Milesburg		4			4
Seven Mts. EMS Council		1			1
Miles Twp. Fire Co.		1			1
Pine Glen Fire Co.		2			2
TOTAL VEHICLES					45

CLINTON COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Beech Creek	2				2
Goodwill Hose			2		2
Lock Haven			3		3
Bucktail MC MTU	1				1
Dunnstown		1			1
Haneyville		1			1
NittanyValley		1			1
Renovo Fire Dept.	2	1			3
Woolrich		1			1
Sugar Valley		1			1
Citizens Hose Co. #5		1			1

Hope Hose Co. # 2		1			1
TOTAL VEHICLES					18

COLUMBIA COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Aristes		1			1
Benton	2				2
Berwick	2		2	1	5
Bloomsburg	2		1		3
Greater Columbia	1		2		3
Millville	2				2
Sugarloaf	1				1
Roaring Creek Valley		1			1
Buckhorn QRS		1			1
Montour Twp. Fire Co.		2			2
TOTAL VEHICLES					21

JUNIATA COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Fayette Twp	2				2
Central Juniata	2				2
Port Royal			2	1	3
Richfield	2				2
Thompsontown	2				2
Lack-Tuscarora	2				2
TOTAL VEHICLES					13

MIFFLIN COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Big Valley	2				2
Fame	2		4	1	7
McVeytown	2				2
Milroy	2				2
Allensville QRS		1			1

Newton-Hamilton		1			1
Standard Steel		None			0
TOTAL VEHICLES					15

MONTOUR COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Danville	4		3	1	8
Washingtonville QRS		2			2
Life Flight	2			8 Rotorcraft	10
TOTAL VEHICLES					20

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
AREA	9		3	1	13
Elysburg			2	1	3
Lower Augusta QRS		1			1
Milton			2		2
Mt. Carmel QRS		2			2
Northumberland Fire		2			2
Shamokin		1			1
Trevorton	1				1
Tuckahoe QRS		2			2
Warrior Run	2		2		4
Americus	2		4	1	7
TOTAL VEHICLES					38

SNYDER COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Beaver Springs	1				1
DH & L	2		3		5
EMTs Corp	2				2
Freeburg QRS		1			1

Freemont QRS		1		1
Kratzerville QRS		2		2
Kreamer Fire Co.	1	1		2
Penns Creek	1			1
Reliance Hose Co.	1	2		3
Rescue Hose Co.	1			1

TOTAL VEHICLES 19

UNION COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Evangelical				2	2
Mifflinburg	1		2		3
New Berlin	1				1
Union County West End	2				2
Union Twp. QRS		2			2
White Deer Twp	2				2
William Cameron	3				3

TOTAL VEHICLES 15

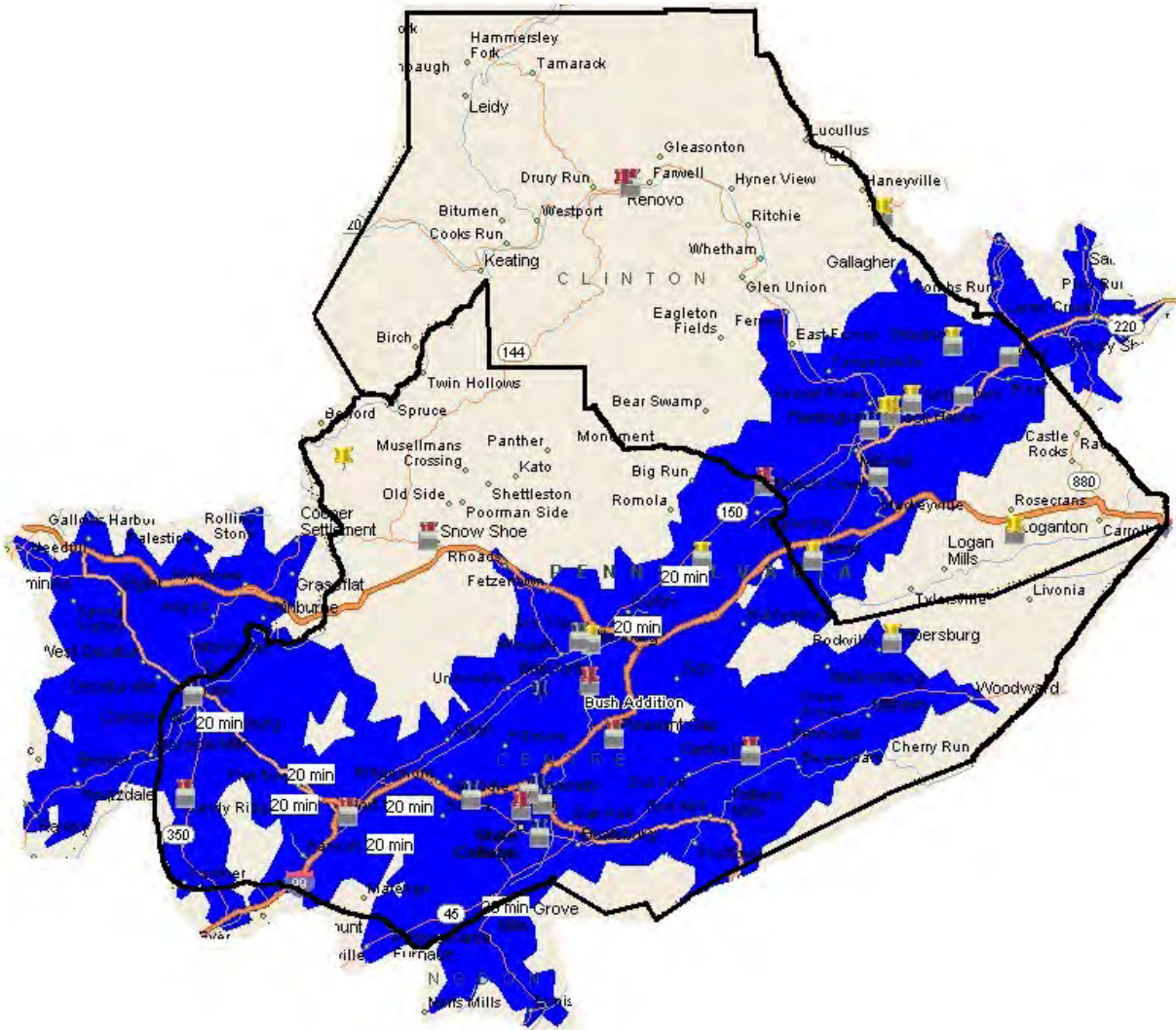
CENTRE COUNTY 45
CLINTON COUNTY 18
COLUMBIA COUNTY 21
JUNIATA COUNTY 13
MIFFLIN COUNTY 15
MONTOUR COUNTY 20
NORTHUMBERLAND 38
SNYDER COUNTY 19
UNION COUNTY 15

BLS-90
ALS-63
QRS-43

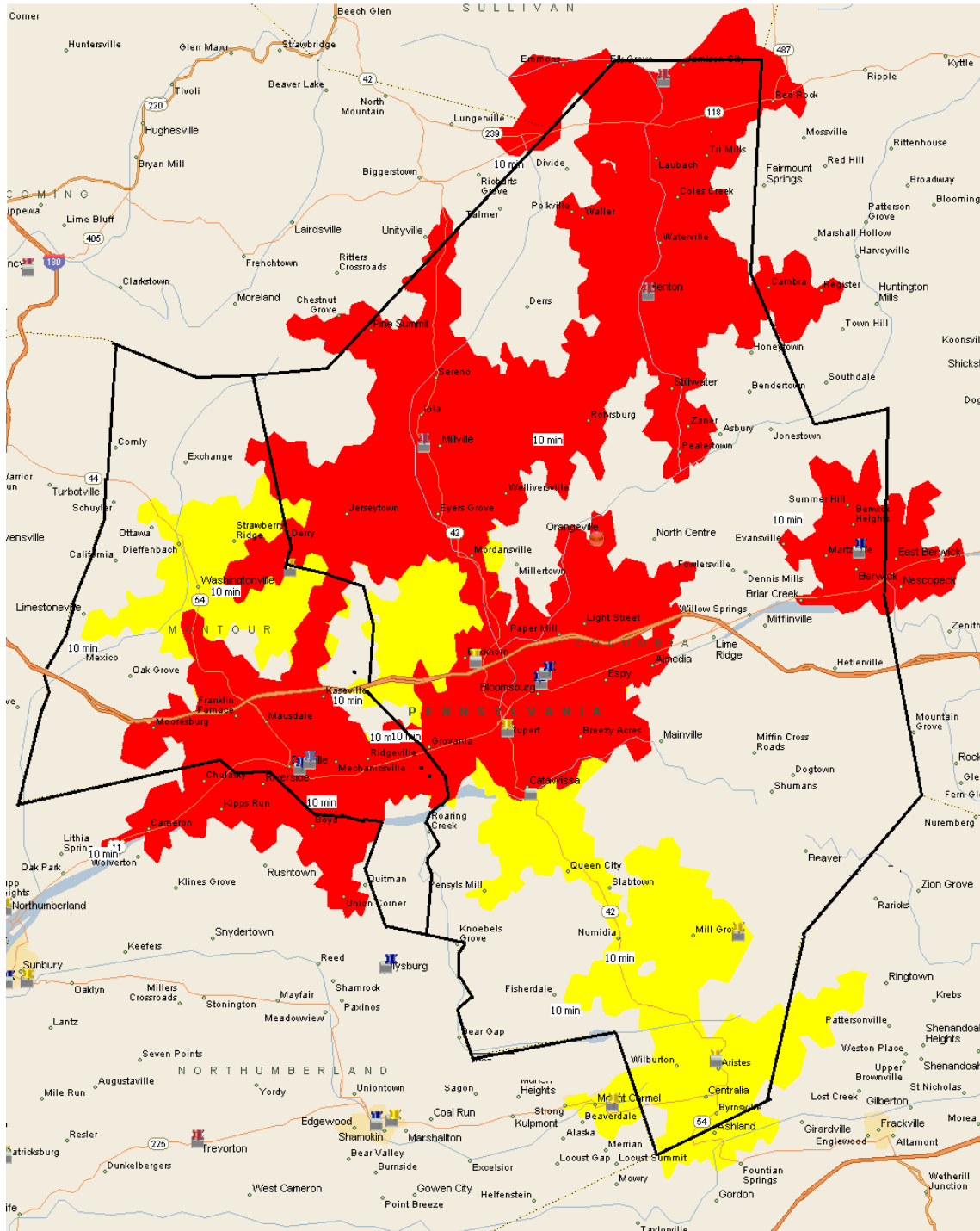
GROUND-196
AIR-8

REGION TOTAL 204
12/31/2016

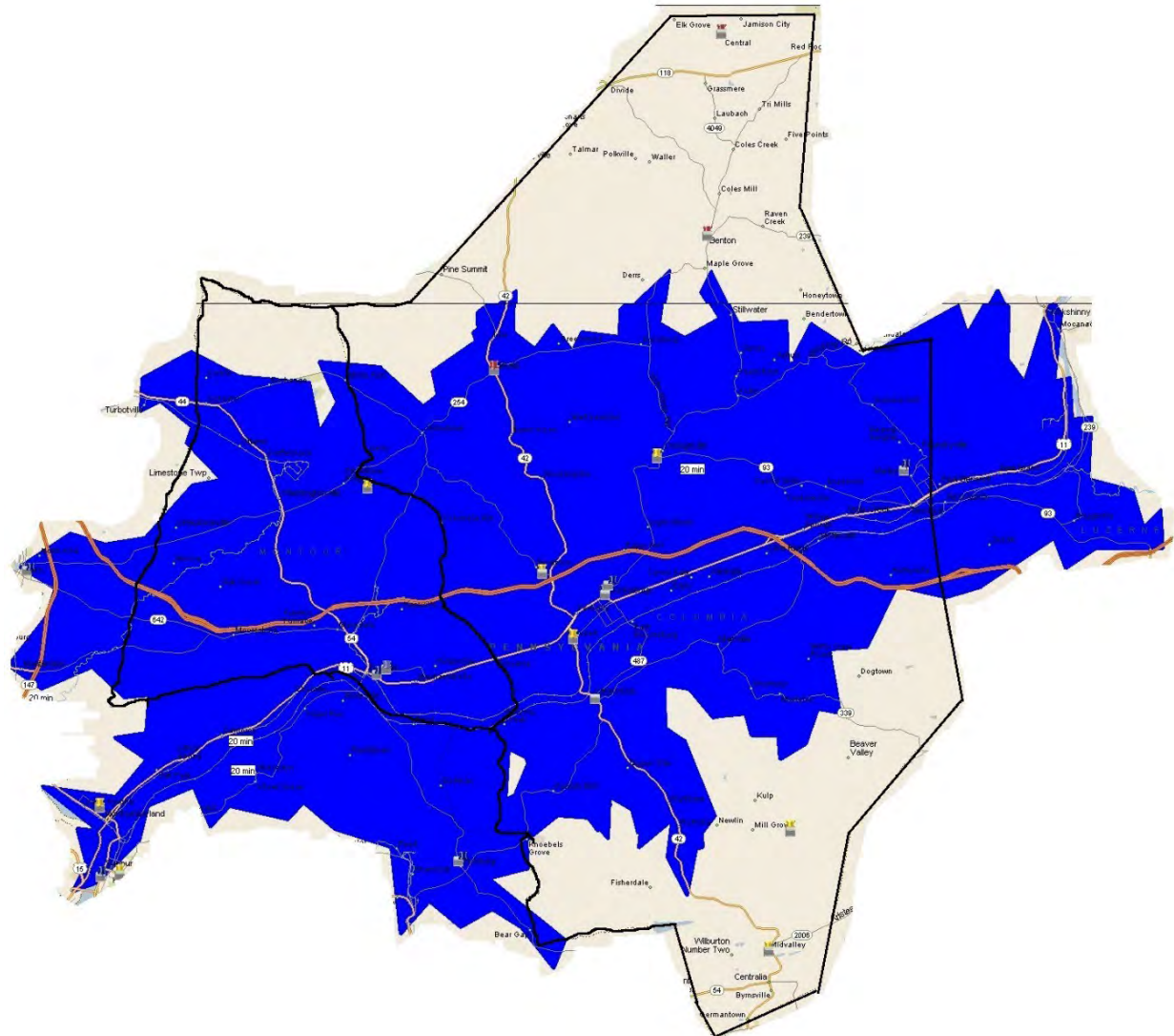
Appendix B



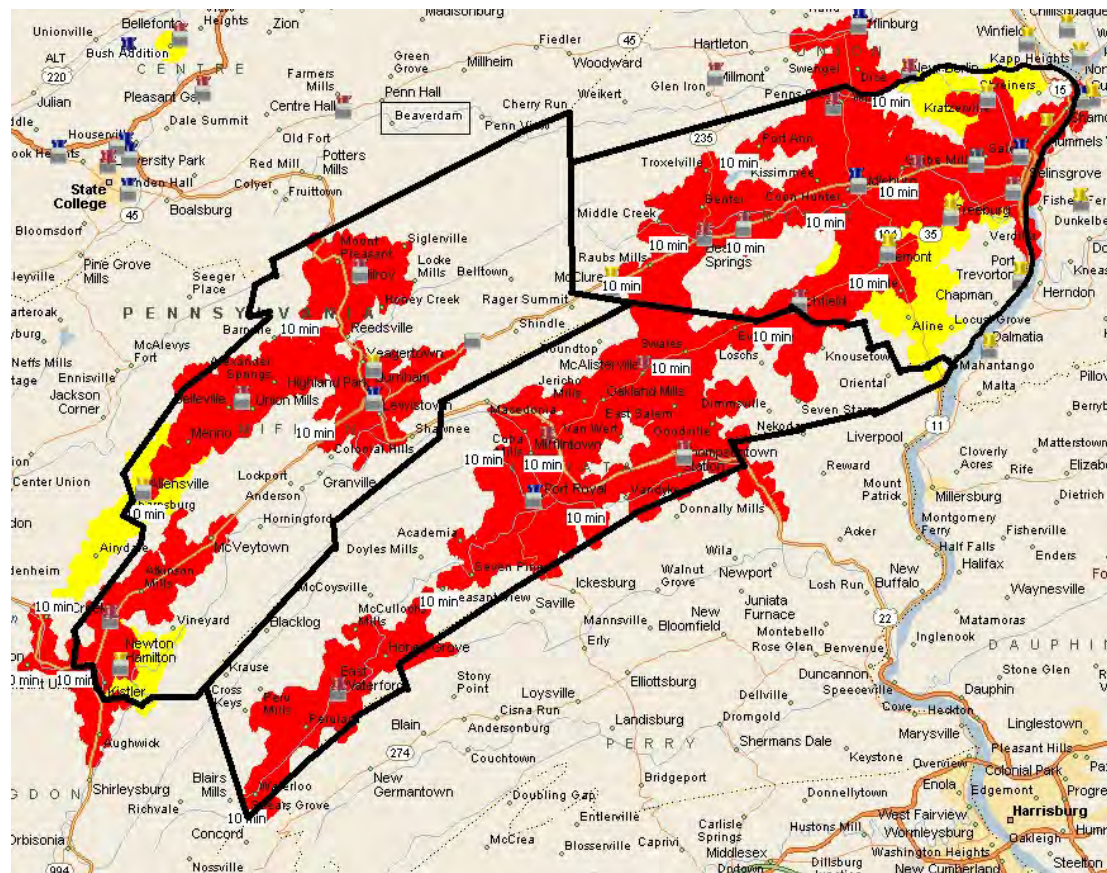
Centre & Clinton Counties ALS Areas



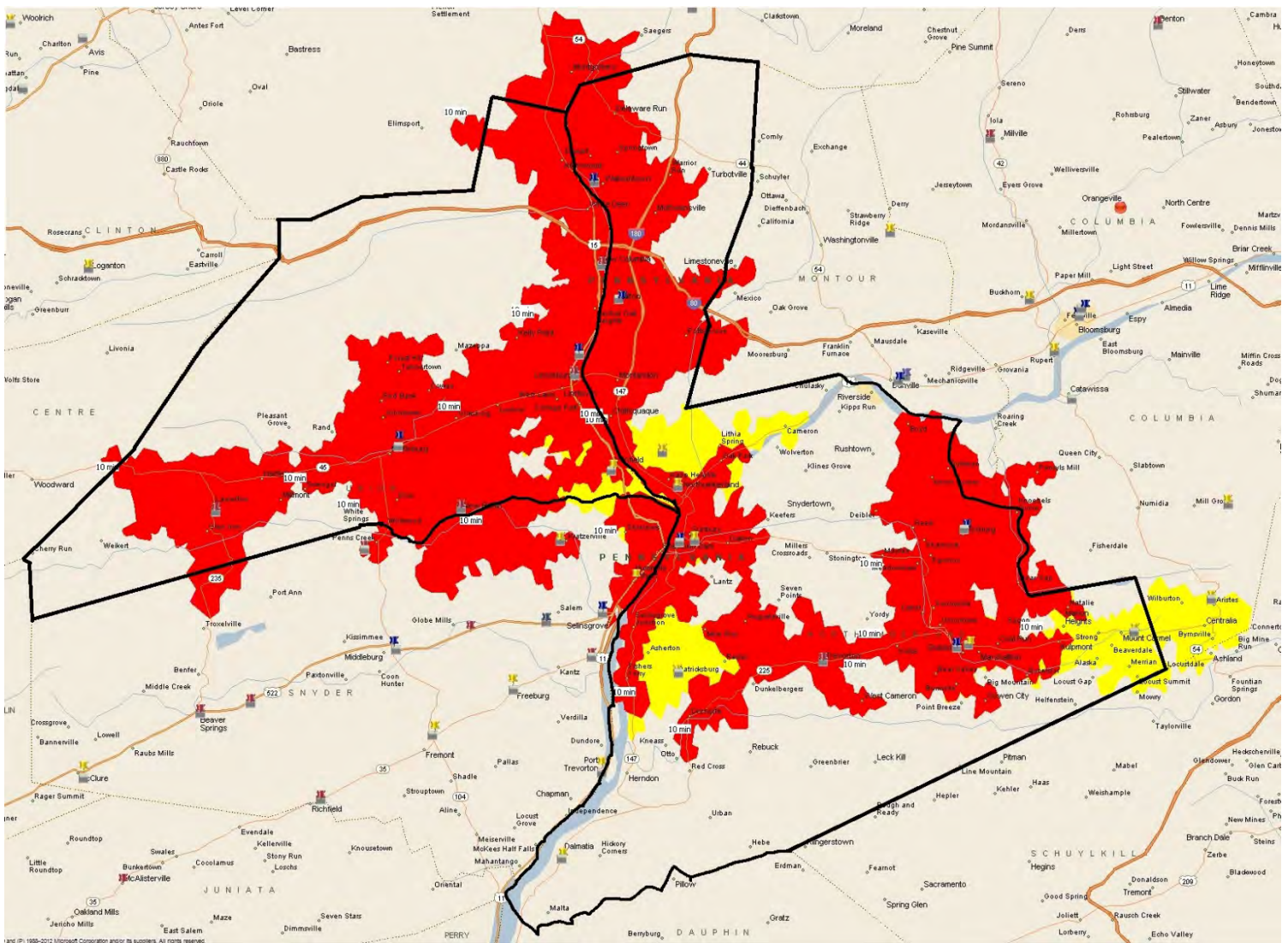
Columbia & Montour Counties BLS Areas



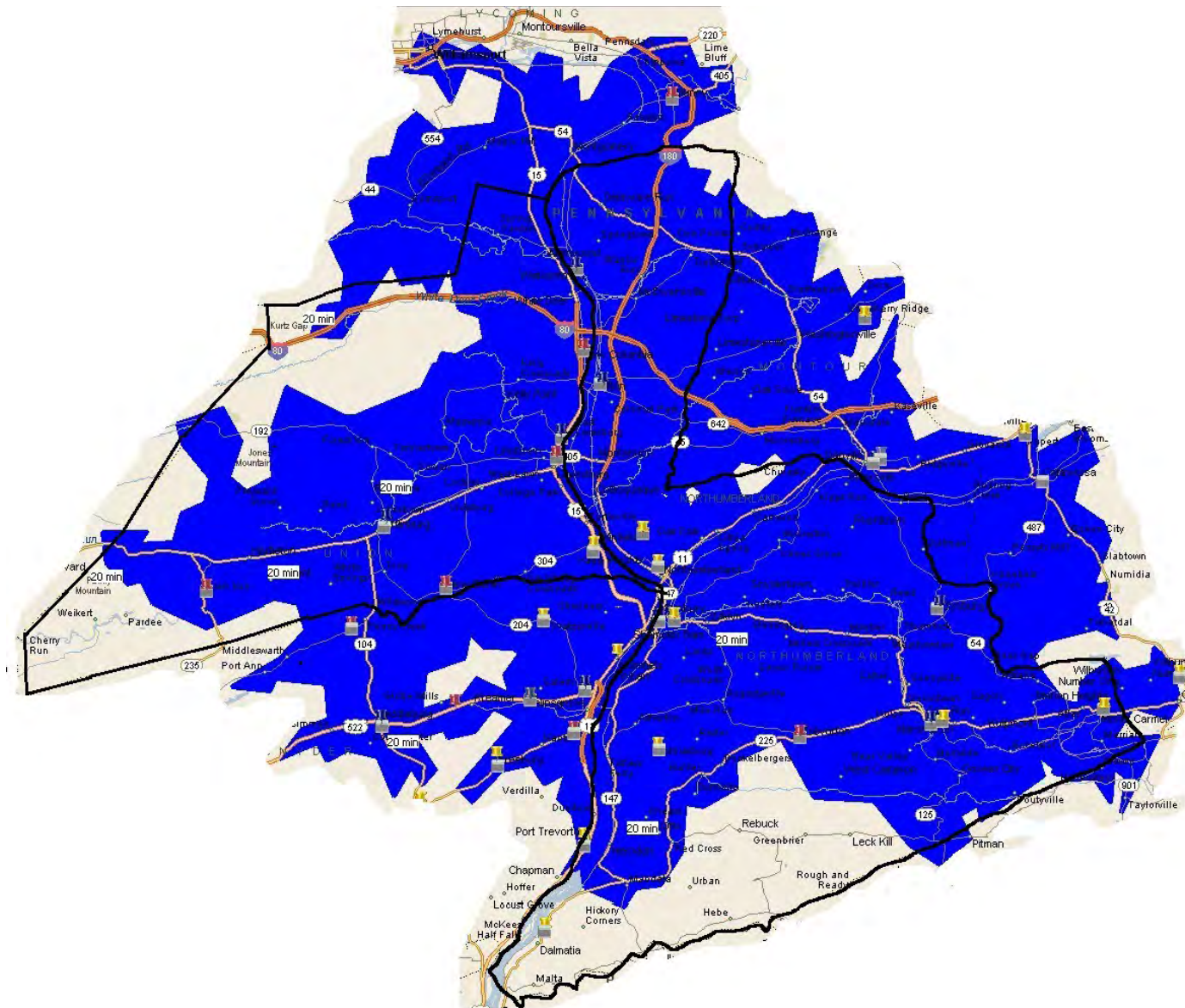
Columbia & Montour Counties ALS Areas



Juniata, Mifflin & Snyder Counties BLS Areas



Northumberland & Union Counties BLS Areas



Northumberland & Union Counties ALS Areas

Appendix C



Region	County	First Responder	EMT	Para	PHRN	Phys	Total	Instructor*
08 Seven Mountains EMS Council, Inc.								
	Centre	48	320	60	5	7	440	28
	Clinton	20	122	12	2	0	156	1
	Columbia	22	158	30	13	5	228	7
	Juniata	9	81	15	2	0	107	6
	Mifflin	43	132	16	2	0	193	7
	Montour	11	35	8	4	14	72	6
	Northumberland	37	203	51	12	2	307	15
	Snyder	25	138	15	3	0	182	5
	Union	20	126	15	3	0	164	9
	Subtotal:	235	1,315	222	46	28	1,849	84
Grand Total:								
		235	1,315	222	46	28	1,849	84

* Instructors are included with EMTs & ALS providers counts.