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Asset Inventory And Regional Assessment

January 2018

Seven Mountains EMS Council is one of thirteen (13) organizations which currently hold a grant with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health to act on their behalf as a Regional EMS Council. 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 of 2009) 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.

Agencies:

There are currently eighty-four (84) organizations licensed by the Department of Health of provide EMS services within the nine counties comprising the Seven Mountains EMS Council region – See appendix A. All but one (Danville EMS) are headquartered within the Region, EHSF is the home regions for Danville EMS. 75% (63) of the regional EMS agencies provide service at the BLS level. Of those 63 agencies, 31 provide BLS transport capabilities while the other 32 are licensed as QRS. While the population is covered by front-line ALS; a large portion of the region is provided ALS services through a squad/ALS-intercept 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; Primary EMS maps are designed for a ten minute drive time radius of Agency stations (QRS are yellow, transport is Blue) and ALS coverage maps are based on twenty minute drive times. As noticeable on the maps, a substantial portion of the land area and a large majority of the population base has EMS response available within twelve minutes (figuring a two minute staffing/response interval). The maps don't adequately 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. Two additional notes for the maps:

- The Primary EMS areas maps include both BLS & ALS coverage – both indicated in blue shading – there is no designation between the two.
- On all maps – Each agency has a unique border color (per map). Some of the agency borders overlap service areas and this doesn't show well with layering. **THIS WAS DONE ARBITRARILY (to show land/population coverage) AND DOESN'T DESIGNATE PRIMARY RESPONSE AREAS FOR ANY OF THE INDIVIDUAL ALS AGENCIES.**

As shown on these maps, lack of licensed EMS agencies isn't as much as concern within the Region as is active providers staffing those vehicles/agencies. Though there are some noticeable gaps, currently there seems to be sufficient transport agency coverage – with a lack of "primary" ALS coverage within Northern Clinton County. Snyder County did a push last year to have all the fire companies within the County designated as QRS Agencies.

Vehicles:

There are currently 223 EMS vehicles used by regional agencies to provide emergency medical service care throughout the Region – a roughly 1% increase since last year. Sixty-five percent (145 vehicles) of the licensed vehicles are at the basic life support (BLS) level with sixty-three percent (92 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 sixteen (16) ALS Squad vehicle within the Region; regional agencies seem to prefer providing care using Mobile Intensive Care Units (MICUs) allowing them transport capabilities should the need arise.

Of the 223 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). Not all licensed aircraft are in-service, especially within the Region, during any single time period.

Personnel:

Registry records show Seven Mountains EMS Council region as having 1,850 EMS providers residing within the regional boundaries – an 8% decrease since January 2016. Approximately 84% of those providers are certified at the BLS level (1,562). Though accurate, these numbers are misleading if used to show regional EMS system manpower. 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.

Emergency Medical Responder saw the biggest decrease in providers since 2016, decreasing from 247 to 215; with Paramedics following second – 256 to 236. Though Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is the largest provider group and seems to be remaining consistent at around 1350 providers, regional EMS agencies are experiencing (with a few exceptions) staffing shortages. Seven Mountains (through the Education Coordinator) has been working with the EMS agencies and partner training institutes to make sure adequate training programs are offered and final practical examinations held to help alleviate some the shortage. Though more training programs are being offered, we are not currently experiencing the benefit of additional providers assisting within the regional system.

The EMS registry system shows that there are currently 1047 individuals certified at the emergency vehicle operator (EMSVO) level with 44 of those being stand-alone EMSVO certified.

Receiving Facilities

There are currently ten (10) receiving facilities within the Seven Mountains region (Appendix C). Nine of the ten are also medical command facilities with Bucktail Medical Center being the only non-command facility. Bucktail Medical Center (Renovo) is one of 15 critical access hospitals within the Commonwealth. Critical access hospitals are rural hospitals that provide 24-hour emergency services with average daily census of 25 patients or less. Though Bucktail provides 24-hour emergency services, they don't have a command physician on duty 24/7/365, hence the lack of medical command accreditation. Geisinger (Danville) is the only accredited trauma center within the Region. They are a Level I Adult & Level II Pediatric trauma center being accredited through the PA Trauma Systems Foundation. Mt. Nittany Medical Center (Centre); Geisinger Medical Center (Montour); and Evangelical Hospital (Union) are all three accredited by the PA Department of Health as Primary Stroke Centers.

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 and Council owned preparedness assets, using the PEMA “Unmet Needs” process for requesting assistance.

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
- 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
- Portable Wi-Fi setup & I-Pads that can assist with patient tracking efforts/activities.
- Miscellaneous soft supplies including triage tags & Patient Tracking wristbands.

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

Blood Glucose Monitoring

Within the 2016-17 grant, BLS providers were granted legal authority to conduct blood draws for glucose monitoring as long as they were properly training, the agency medical director authorized program participation, and the EMS Agency was authorized to participate within the program through the Bureau. Twelve EMS agencies have completed the process and are approved to carry Blood Glucose monitoring equipment/supplies and conduct blood glucose testing. Of those agencies, two (indicated by an asterisk) are ALS agencies who completed the process to allow their BLS providers to participate.

Bellefonte EMS	Centre County
Benton Vol. Fire Co. Amb.	Columbia County
Centre LifeLink EMS*	Centre County
EMTs	Snyder County
FAME EMS*	Mifflin County
Lack Tuscarora EMS	Juniata County
McVeytown EMS	Mifflin County
Millville Vol. Fire Co. Amb.	Columbia County
Milroy EMS	Mifflin County
Penns Valley EMS	Centre County
University Ambulance Service	Centre County
William Cameron Engine Co.	Union County

Naloxone Administration

Another initiative brought on with the passage of Act 139 in 2014 is the Naloxone administration by emergency response providers program. Police, Fire, & EMS agencies who choose to participate can be approved to administer Naloxone to individuals who are thought to be experiencing an opioid overdose. Council has been supportive of the initiative and assisted response agencies in properly initiating Naloxone programs throughout the Region; but, we don't currently have a complete listing of police or fire agencies who have chosen to participate. We do know the EMS agencies whose BLS providers are authorized to administer Naloxone, they are:

QRS Agencies

Hope Hose Co. #2	Clinton County
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Transport Agencies

Elysburg Fire Co. EMS	Northumberland County
Penns Valley EMS	Centre County
Snow Shoe Amb.	Centre County
William Cameron Engine Co.	Union County

Strike Teams

Seven Mountains EMS Council maintained 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 preparedness activities & coordination at the Regional & Commonwealth level have probably strained that relationship. Relationships need to be re-established and understanding re-negotiated for the program to be anywhere near as prepared as we were several years ago.

In 2015, we had signed grant agreements with the following agencies. Preparedness support hasn't been provided; Consequently, I am not sure which still consider themselves active.

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

EMS Rehabilitation Services

Responder safety and rehabilitation services, provided by EMS agencies, at fire and other extended emergency operation scenes is occurring throughout the Region; but, there is still a lot of room for expansion and/or improvement. Service offerings vary throughout the Region due to factors such as 1) Leadership support in enforcing responder rehab. efforts 2) Funding available to support the efforts and 3) EMS provider buy-in for both training in & staffing of rehab. operations. 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.

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).

Active Threat Preparedness

Council has been actively involved, along with the SouthCentral Mountains Task Force, in trying to prepare our EMS agencies for the effective, safe response to Active Threat incidents. The Task Force is conducting “Rescue Team” training to interested EMS providers; then following-up by providing equipment (vests/plates, response kits) to those EMS agencies who meet the minimum training requirement. Council adopted their training requirements to help provide some equipment to EMS agencies, within our Region but outside the SouthCentral Mountains Task Force, using 2016-17 grant funds. We also put Active Threat kits together. These kits include tourniquets, “Z” fold bandage, Chest Seals, and other first aid supplies that may be needed during a major incident. The kits will be available to regional EMS agencies for loan during high risk/special events being conducted within their coverage area and/or at the time of an actual event. Council is also trying to promote the “Stop the Bleed” program to both regional EMS agencies & other organizations operating within the Region who may benefit from such training.

STROKE Preparedness

Council, through the Regional MAC, has started supporting and encouraging better stroke recognition & response throughout the Region. We are supporting BEMS efforts to promote M-RACE training and working with regional medical command and receiving facilities in coordinating stroke center designation(s) and care of stroke patients’ protocols with Regional EMS practitioners. As mentioned earlier, we currently have three primary stroke centers within the Region – Mt. Nittany, Evangelical & Geisinger.

Appendix A

VEHICLE INVENTORY

CENTRE COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Centre LifeLink	5	1	3	1	10
Penns Valley	2				2
Bellefonte	3				3
Mountain Top	2				2
Pleasant Gap	3				3
Port Matilda	2				2
University	3				3
Snow Shoe	2				2
Moshannon Valley			4	1	5
Howard QRS		2			2
Mt. Nittany MC			2	3	5
Seven Mts. EMS Council		1			1
Miles Twp. Fire Co.		1			1
Pine Glen Fire Co.		2			2
TOTAL VEHICLES					43

CLINTON COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Beech Creek	1	1			2
Goodwill Hose	1		2	1	4
Lock Haven			3		3
Bucktail MC MTU	1				1
Haneyville		1			1
NittanyValley		1			1
Renovo Fire Dept.	2	1			3
Sugar Valley		1			1
Citizens Hose Co. #5		1			1
Hope Hose Co. #2		2			2
TOTAL VEHICLES					19

COLUMBIA COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Aristes		1			1
Benton	2				2
Berwick	3		4	1	8
Bloomsburg	1		2		3
Greater Columbia			2		2
Millville	2				2
Sugarloaf	1				1
Roaring Creek Valley		1			1
Buckhorn QRS		1			1
Montour Twp. Fire Co.		2			2
TOTAL VEHICLES					23

JUNIATA COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Fayette Twp	2				2
Central Juniata	3				3
Port Royal			2	1	3
Richfield	2				2
Thompsontown	2				2
Lack-Tuscarora	2				2
TOTAL VEHICLES					14

MIFFLIN COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Big Valley	2				2
Fame	2		6	1	9
McVeytown	3				3
Milroy	2				2
Allensville QRS		1			1
Newton-Hamilton		1			1
Standard Steel		1			1
TOTAL VEHICLES					19

MONTOUR COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Danville	6		3	1	10
Washingtonville QRS		2			2
Life Flight	1		1	8 Rotorcraft	10

TOTAL VEHICLES 22

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
AREA	8		4	1	13
Elysburg			2	1	3
Lower Augusta QRS		1			1
Milton			2		2
Mt. Carmel QRS		2			2
Northumberland Fire		3			3
Shamokin		2			2
Trevorton	2	1			3
Tuckahoe QRS		2			2
Warrior Run	1		2		3
Americus	2		3	2	7
Point Township		1			1

TOTAL VEHICLES 42

SNYDER COUNTY

SERVICE	BLS	QRS	MICU	SQUAD	TOTAL
Bannerville		1			1
Beaver Springs	1				1
DH & L			3		3
EMTs Corp	3				3
Freeburg QRS		1			1
Freemont QRS		1			1
Hummels Wharf QRS		1			1
Kratzerville QRS		2			2
Kreamer	1	1			2

McClure ORS		1			1
Penns Creek	1				1
Port Trevorton		2			2
Reliance Hose Co.	1		2		3
Rescue Hose Co.	1				1
Shamokin Dam		1			1

TOTAL VEHICLES 24

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		1			1
White Deer Twp	2				2
William Cameron	2	4			6

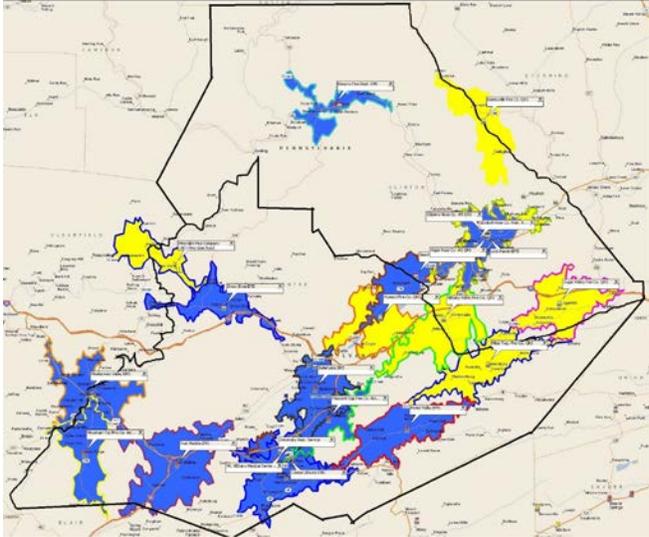
TOTAL VEHICLES 17

CENTRE COUNTY	43	
CLINTON COUNTY	19	BLS-92
COLUMBIA COUNTY	23	ALS-70
JUNIATA COUNTY	14	QRS-53
MIFFLIN COUNTY	19	
MONTOUR COUNTY	22	
NORTHUMBERLAND	42	GROUND-215
SNYDER COUNTY	24	AIR-8
UNION COUNTY	17	

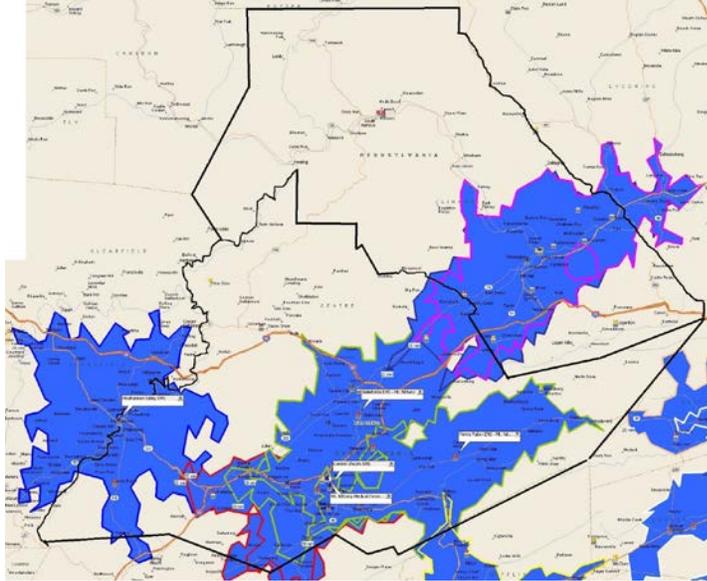
REGION TOTAL 223

12/31/2017

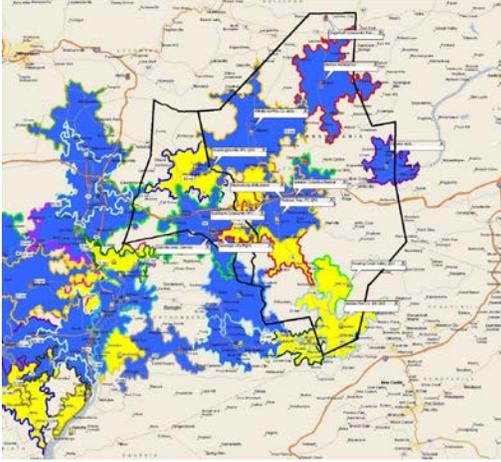
Appendix B



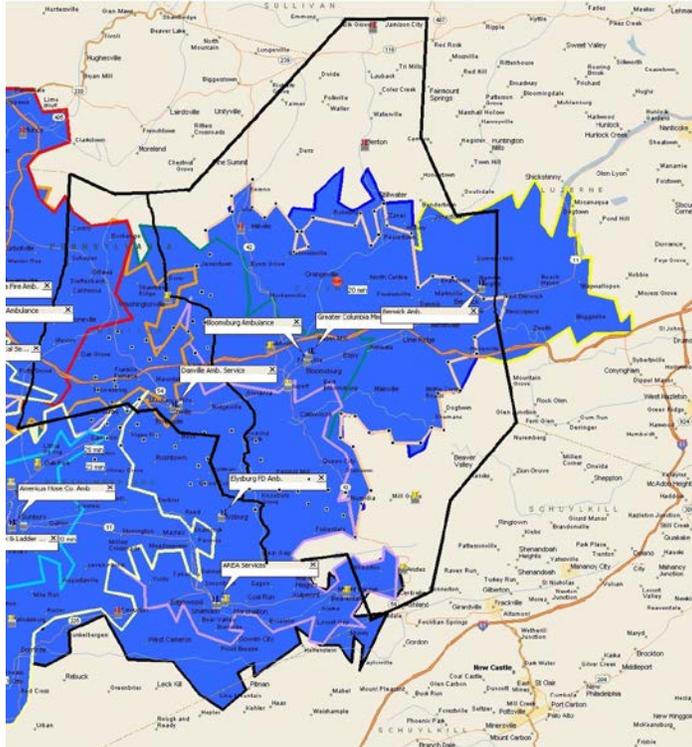
Centre & Clinton Counties Primary EMS Response



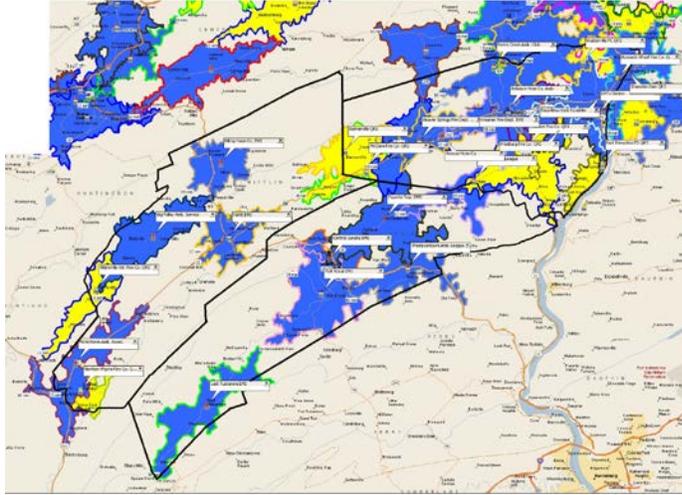
Centre & Clinton Counties ALS Areas



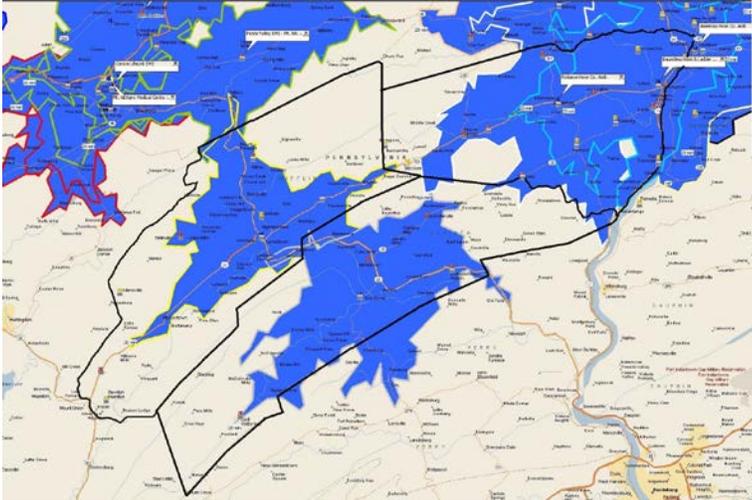
Columbia & Montour Counties Primary EMS Response



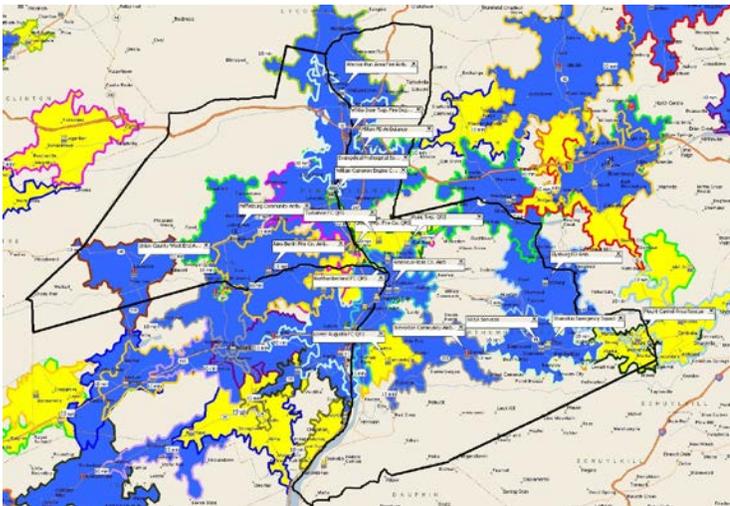
Columbia & Montour Counties ALS Areas



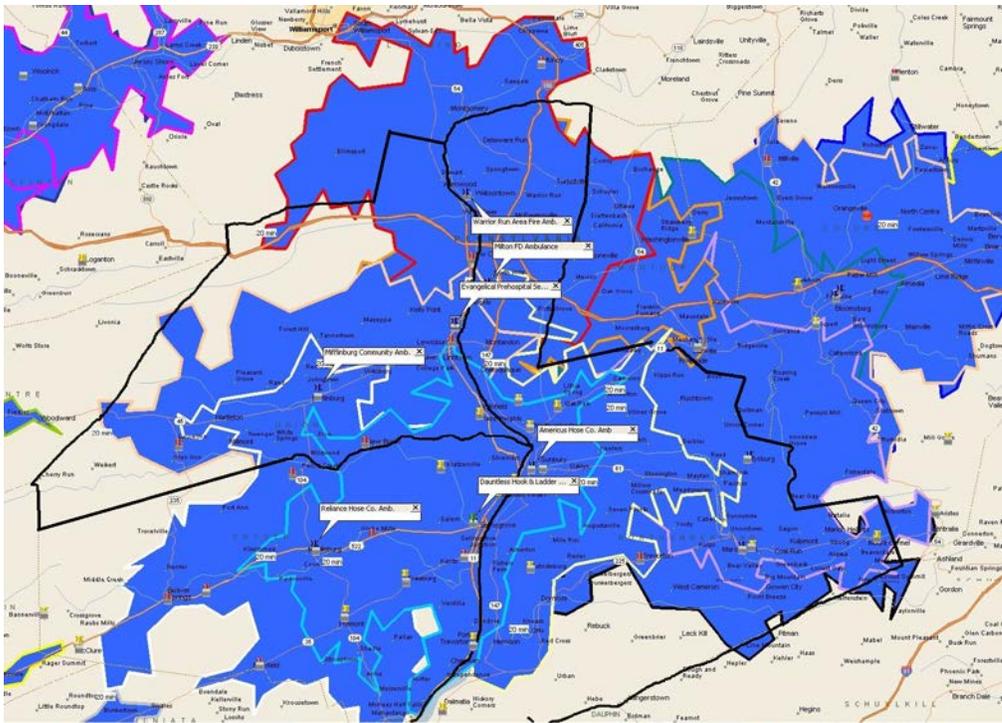
**Juniata, Mifflin & Snyder
Counties Primary EMS
Response**



Juniata, Mifflin & Snyder
Counties ALS Areas



Northumberland & Union Counties Primary EMS Response



Northumberland & Union Counties ALS Areas

Appendix C

