

# Marcellus Shale

## Public Safety Aspects



# Considerations-FIRE

- Hazmat incidents
- High Angle Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Fires/Explosions
- Access/location issues



# HAZMAT

- Broome County is fortunate to have two well equipped and trained Hazardous Materials Response Teams at the county and city level that have a combined resource of several vehicles and approximately 75 certified personnel that train together and plan together on a regular basis.



# HazMat con't

- Broome County Emergency Services has conducted an initial review of chemicals on natural gas industry websites.
- These chemicals, although shipped to site in concentrated site and definitely an environmental hazard if spilled, do not constitute a life safety hazard any greater than chemicals moving through Broome County daily



# HazMat Con't

- Planning and training on specific response and mitigation procedures is essential
- Firefighting personnel who are trained at the operational level need to be trained as well.



# High-Angle rescue

- Accidents, although rare, do occur on drilling rigs.
- Sometimes involve elevated and complicated rescue techniques called “High-Angle Rescue”, defined as:
  - Technical rescue that involves the use of specialized ropes, anchoring and belaying devices, friction rappel devices, devices for mechanical advantage and hauling systems to reach victims and safely recover them.



# High-Angle Rescue Resources

- Currently there are limited training and resources for HA Rescue (Career depts only) but we do have these resources available today.
  - City of Binghamton
  - Endicott
  - Johnson City



# Confined Space/trench Rescue

- Three teams currently certified in career departments.
- Adequate resources for confined space for starters
- Mutual Aid issue with Binghamton University for trench rescue unit
- West Windsor FD has trench rescue equipment, working on training





# Fires/Explosions

- Sometimes well fires do occur.
- Are plugged/extinguished by gas company response personnel
- Fire Dept priorities are life rescue, confinement, secure scene, and water supply



# Access Issues

- Well sites are generally dead end access
- Emergency routes need to be planned
- Road conditions can be very poor
- GIS addressing maintenance is essential early in development for 911 location purposes and tracking. Coordination with GIS for a standardized 911 addressing protocol in regards to these well sites is in process.



# Considerations-EMS

- Blunt force trauma injuries and burns are commonly found in accidents
- Vehicle access can be an issue.
- Medivac resources should be utilized for burns and serious trauma. Preplanning landing zone locations with local first responders will help expedite response coordination.



# EMS Resources

- Good EMS resources locally, especially out of metro area
- Wilson Regional Trauma Center
- Two medivac services w/in 30 min ETA
  - Sidney
  - Sayre
- Burn Center at Syracuse-Upstate Medical
- Mass Casualty Incident supply trailer



# Considerations-Law Enforcement

- Temporary residents
- Perception of some workers being associated with rowdiness, substance abuse, and minor crimes.
- Some companies have good reputation of strict policies and self-policing.



# Planning

- Incident Action Plans critical for each development
- Landing zones planning.
- Coordination with GIS
- Site visits for preplanning
- Meetings with gas companies essential



# Training

- Third Party specialized training
- Gas Company awareness training
- Site visits
- Senator Libous grant for training.
- Specialized team training as well as general first responder training.

