

**TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH WHITEHALL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

March 14, 2024

A Public Meeting of the South Whitehall Township Emergency Management was held on the above date in the Joint Operations Center located at 4300 Broadway, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Members attending were:

Jeff Kelly, Coordinator
Herb Bender, Public Works Deputy
Oliver Dokes, Dorney Park Public Safety
Patrick Eisenhard, Deputy Coordinator
John Frantz, Fire Marshal & Deputy Coordinator
Carrie Frey, Medical/Mortuary & Cetronia Ambulance Representative
Sandi Herman, Planning Deputy
Max Paine, Deputy Communications Officer
Tom Petrucci, Township Manager

Others attending were:

Kristin Ardizoni, Dorney Park Operations Director
Monica Hodges, Township Commissioner
Joseph Light, Lehigh County EMA
Chris Peischl, Township Commissioner
Shawn Peischl, Greenawalds Fire Company

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #1 – GOOGLE MAP EOC EVENTS LOGGING

The way in which we envisioned using Google Maps to document EMA incidents violates the Google Maps Term of Service Agreement. A different mapping application to track the incidents will need to be explored.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – DORNEY PARK UPDATES

A new gate map has been developed and will be disseminated to emergency services personnel. Park personnel will also meet directly with Cetronia Ambulance personnel to discuss access avenues into the park. The map is included as an attachment to these minutes.

The construction of the new coaster attraction is proceeding. The Park will set up a future training related to guest evacuation from the ride. The primary evacuation will be performed by Park personnel. The guests will need to wear safety belts for an evacuation.

The next meeting will be held on March 20, 2024 for the upcoming Mass Casualty drill. Training with the fire departments will also be scheduled this year.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – LEHIGH COUNTY WEB CAD FOR EOC

The computers in the EOC contain the login criteria for the Web EOC and Parkland School District Navigate programs.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – CETRONIA AMBULANCE UPDATES

Director Frey highlighted the first quarter report for the Cetronia Ambulance Corps. The report is included as an attachment to these minutes.

The recent Mass Casualty Incident in Upper Macungie Township went well, even without the services formerly provided by Med Com. It rose to a Level 3 incident. Patients arrived for EMS evaluations in a staggered timeframe.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – SPRING WEATHER 2024 UPDATE

The weather outlook for 2024 was distributed. It is included as an attachment to these minutes. The ground is currently saturated, any rainfall will lead to increased runoff and flooding.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – OPEN DISCUSSION

The 2024 Lehigh Valley Emergency Management Conference will be held April 5–7, 2024 at Desales University. There are twenty to twenty-five vendors and sponsors with one hundred and forty people currently registered.

The contents of the emergency management trailer and other supplies stored at the Joint Operations Center have been inventoried. Public Works employees assisted with this process. The data will be placed into a spreadsheet. Supplies stored on shelves are being better protected from environmental damage.

Park Perimeter Gates



Gate 1- (3830 Dorney Park Rd) Associate entrance, Accessible from Dorney Park Rd. Leads to back areas- Administration & Maintenance offices. Associate parking, warehouse, and maintenance shops. Also is access to lower end of the park.

Gate 4- (3699 Union St.) Accessible from Union Street, leads to back side of Parkside Pavilion, access to the service road that is behind the Wave Pool and where WWK first aid is located.

Gate 7-Accessible from Hamilton Blvd. Is the same entry as pick up drop off. Provides access to midway of WWK closest to Patriots plunge water slides.

Gate 8- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd. Is the same entry as pick up drop off. Provides access to the back side of the 2nd wave pool called the Cove.

Gate 9- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd and Lincoln Ave. Gate is located next to the Good Time theater. This is the Recommended pick-up location for Ambulance patient pick from the Main First Aid Building in Theme Park.

Gate 14- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd and Lincoln Ave. (Recommend Lincoln) Provides access to the lower end of the park and would be the recommended location for Emergency vehicles.

Gate 16- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd and Lincoln Ave

Gate 17- Accessible from Lincoln Ave. Gate enters under Iron Menace and is access to the lower end of the park but requires coordination with Rides to assure rides are not in motion.

Gates 3,5,6,10,11,12,15,18 & 19- These gates are not recommended for use unless directed in specific situations.

Gate 1- (3830 Dorney Park Rd) AKA Associate entrance, Accessible from Dorney Park Rd. Leads to back areas- Administration & Maintenance offices. Associate parking, warehouse, and maintenance shops. Also is access to lower end of the park.

Gate 2- Adjacent to Gate 1 primarily used as an exit from the lower end of the park.

Gate 3- Accessible from Haines Mill Rd between the pump station and 110. This is not a recommended entry for vehicles- This access is all grass.

Gate 4- (3699 Union St.) Accessible from Union Street, leads to back side of Parkside Pavilion, access to the back road that is behind the Wave Pool and where WWK First Aid is located.

Gate 5- Accessible from Haines Mill Rd. Gate is located between the houses and is not recommended for vehicle access. Gate opens to a grass berm.

Gate 6- Not Accessible- gate is there but its overgrown and takes you to nowhere.

Gate 7- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd. Is the same entry as pick up drop off. Provides access to midway of WWK closest to Patriots plunge water slides.

Gate 8- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd. Is the same entry as pick up drop off. Provides access to the back side of the 2nd wave pool called the Cove.

Gate 9- Accessible from both Hamilton Blvd and Lincoln Ave. Gate is located next to the Good Time theater. This is the Recommended pick up location for Ambulance patient pick from the Main First Aid Building in the Theme park.

Gate 10, 11&12- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd and Lincoln Ave. All 3 gates surround the Food fest picnic area.

Gate 13- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd and Lincoln Ave. Gate is at the food storage area for Food fest picnic area.

Gate 14- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd and Lincoln Ave. (Recommend Lincoln) Provides access to the lower end of the park and would be the recommended location for Emergency vehicles.

Gate 15- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd and Lincoln Ave. (Recommend Lincoln) Is access to the Zepher track and should only be used if necessary.

Gate 16- Accessible from Hamilton Blvd and Lincoln Ave **Gate 17-** (Recommend Lincoln) Gate is between Possessed and Iron Menace is a good access to the lower area of the park but requires coordination with Rides to assure rides are not in motion.

Gate 17- (4000 Dorney Park Rd.) Accessible from Lincoln Ave. Gate enters under Iron Menace and is access to the lower end of the park but requires coordination with Rides to assure rides are not in motion.

Gate 18- Accessible from Lincoln Ave. Provides access to lower end of the park near Steel force. This is the area where fireworks are fired from. While this is accessible for vehicles, if the area is wet larger vehicles may have difficulty. Gravel then to grass.

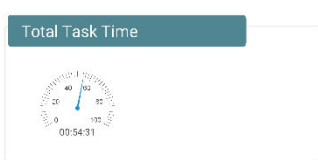
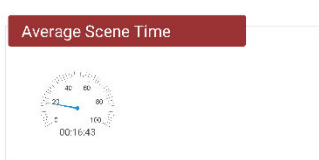
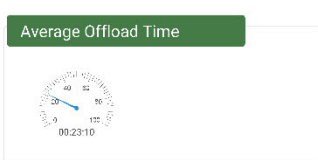
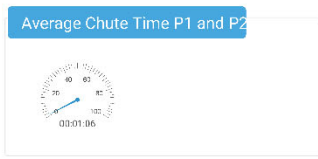
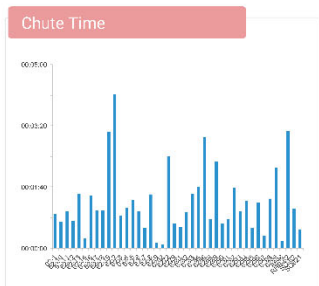
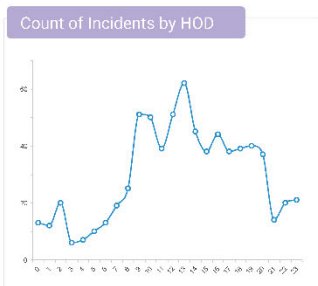
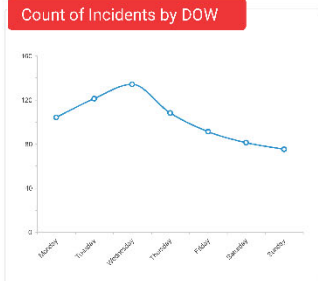
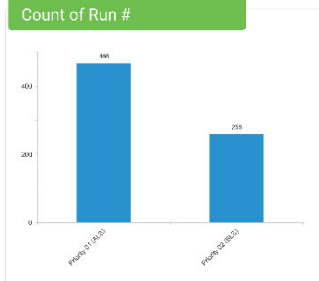
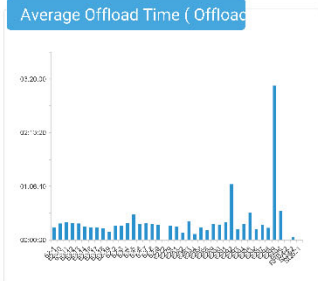
Gate 19- Accessible from Dorney Park Rd. This the back of the property behind where the old Dinos area was. This area is wooded and not easily accessible for vehicles.

Gate 20- Accessible from Walnut St. This gate takes you to the cell tower behind the maintenance building.

Gate 21- Accessible from Walnut St. This takes you to behind the warehouse and is a grass area.

Gate 22- Accessible from Walnut St. This takes you to the warehouse.

Distinct # of Incidents Received		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
MONDAY		2	7	7	10	3	7	3	3	7	15	5	9	12	3	5	6	5	5	5	6	6	6	3	6	6	
TUESDAY		2	5	2	7	1	2	3	1	5	8	15	5	9	12	3	5	6	5	5	5	11	3	4	5	5	
WEDNESDAY		6	2	1	6	1	1	1	0	0	11	6	10	14	5	13	9	8	13	5	4	6	6	4	7	5	
THURSDAY		1	1	2	7	1	1	3	5	3	5	7	8	11	7	5	9	8	5	5	9	7	2	3	1	1	
FRIDAY		0	7	3	0	7	7	7	4	3	5	7	1	9	3	4	9	17	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	
SATURDAY		5	3	2	7	2	1	0	5	7	4	7	4	9	6	7	5	4	4	7	5	5	2	2	5	5	
SUNDAY		4	3	4	5	3	2	1	1	0	7	5	1	3	7	4	5	4	3	6	2	0	3	3	4	4	



Count of Run # **724**

Count Distinct of Incident # **676**

Late For Pick Up **0**



Applied filters:

- Area Name
 - SOUTH WHITEHALL
- Priority
 - Priority 01 (ALS)
 - Priority 02 (BLS)
 - Priority 02 (EMS Emerg B)
 - Priority 03 (EMS Emerg A)

Weather Nerd Alert: El Nino Collapse...Super La Nina Coming?*

El Nino has been the dominate global pattern over the last 6 months, but in recent weeks the warm waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean have cooled quickly. Computer modeling has been showing a quick end to the El Nino by late winter to early spring and sure enough we are seeing that now. The Climate Prediction Center says there is a 79% chance of a neutral season from April to June. There is a 55% chance of a La Nina from June to August. Based on the new data, it appears the odds are much higher for a La Nina by mid to late summer into this fall. La Nina is likely for next winter. There is high uncertainty on how strong the La Nina will become. There is a huge spread on the computer model plots below. Keep in mind a La Nina with a water temperature of -1.5C or lower is considered a strong La Nina. -2C is the record strongest La Nina on record since 1950...or perhaps you could call it a "super La Nina".

So there is a lot to watch and track, but here is what we know...1) A major global pattern shift is coming and the changes are quickly occurring 2) This could lead to a very strong Atlantic hurricane season. The water temperatures were already warm. A strong El Nino has helped lead to more warming, and a La Nina season promotes more storms developing. More storms with more fuel could be a terrible combo by September. 3) We will not repeat this El Nino season next winter. Strong La Nina's are generally very active with lots of storms and above average temperatures and above average precipitation (snow can go either way). Neutral seasons are generally our coldest winters, and strong El Nino's (like 2023-24) are generally our warmest winters. That is about all we can say given the info we have right now. 4) La Ninas and El Ninos don't have a major impact during the summer season, but if this does influence the storm season, it may prolong the stormy season later into the summer.

Going from a strong El Nino to a strong La Nina happens about once a decade roughly.

Pattern:

OVERVIEW: We continue to expect an overall milder than average look through just before the equinox, sans a near to slightly below average period between March 9th-11th. There is expected to be rather strong ridging moving into the region next week in the mid-late week period that will allow temperatures to soar into the mid to upper 60s...perhaps reaching 70° in spots by the end of next week. Approaching the Spring equinox (March 19th at 11:06pm) temperatures will turn cooler relative to average due to stratospheric changes that occurred during the first week of the month and blocking (see below) which will likely carry into at least the first half of April. The month of March was adjusted slightly this week to well above average (+3.0°F to +5.0°F) with the overall milder temperatures expected through just past mid-month. March is likely to turn cooler relative to average just before the equinox, and continues that way through the end of the month. The month of April was also adjusted slightly this week for a near to slightly below average (0.0°F to -2.0°F) temperature departure for the month as whole, using longer term ensembles and global observation trends. The thinking is that although April starts off cooler than average in the first 2-3 weeks of the month, it balances out somewhat with a milder turn for the remainder of April in weeks 4 and beyond.

The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is currently in phase 4 in the Maritime Continent this morning. Tropical forcing moving through the Maritime Continent is a milder phase, and from there it is expected to move through phase 5, then 6 and 7 in the Western Pacific through the end of this month. The Pacific pattern has been rather hostile and inhospitable to snow lovers, as the collapse of the blocking over Greenland and no help from the MJO currently is leading to an unabated Pacific-dominated pattern that sees warmer anomalies maintain through just past mid-March. It is unlikely that any snow occurs during this time frame, and the pattern will be similar to what was seen in the late January and early February period. Stratospheric changes with sudden warming over the polar regions and a complete zonal wind reversal at 10 hPa did in fact occur earlier this week, and will likely promote the return of a blocking pattern over Greenland, and this time it will be sustainable. This will result in cooler temperatures relative to average moving during the 2nd half of month and the first two to three weeks of April. It should be noted that normal highs at that time are solidly in the 50s in late March, and even lower 60s heading toward mid-April, and slightly below average temperatures will be relative to those "normal" temperatures at that time. Timing will be more critical to any snow that may occur at that time, will favor interior locations, and will have to occur overnight when it is colder. Not impossible, but the prospects for additional snow are not that great, especially for areas near and SE of the I-95 corridor. We talk about thread-the-needle a lot, but any opportunities would be thread-the-needle amplified.

Average high temperatures are currently in the 45-50°F range from north to south across our coverage region, which is about 2 degrees higher than at this time last week. Temperatures will continue to climb at about the same pace through March, and becomes a 3° increase per week in April and beyond. Any above or below average stretches listed in the outlook will be relative to seasonal norms at that time, and it is important to note that cooler/warmer periods will be relative to the time of year we are talking about. For example, the slightly below to below average temperatures listed between March 18th-21st generally features highs in the lower to middle 40s across the region, coming at a time when average highs are in the lower 50s across much of the region. Use the average highs/lows chart below that provides a point of reference for what average is for each corresponding date, with the examples used for the Philadelphia region, which is one of our warmest climate sites.

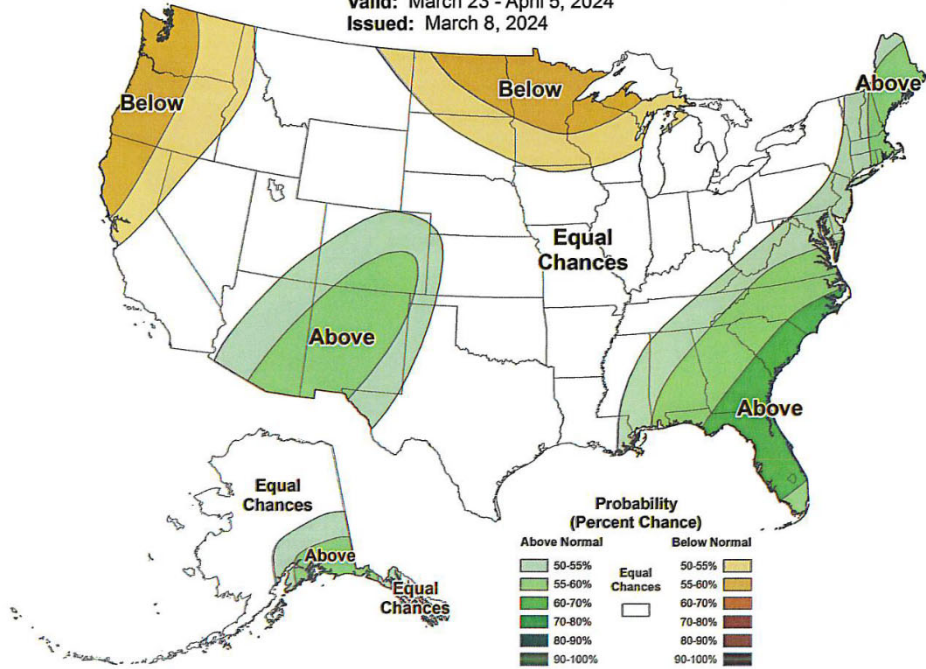
Our projection for the month of March was slightly adjusted this week to a well above average (+3.0°F to +5.0°F) temperature departure, which is largely due to the Pacific-dominated pattern and milder temps (overall) through just past mid-month. Cooler temperatures return relative to average for much of the 2nd half, but likely not enough to offset the anomalously warmer dominated first 16 days of the month. The month of April was slightly adjusted this week for a near to slightly below average (0.0°F to -2.0°F) temperature departure expectation, using longer term climate guidance and global observation trends. A cooler start to the month most likely, with some temperature recovery during the final week of April is the current expectation.



Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook



Valid: March 23 - April 5, 2024
Issued: March 8, 2024

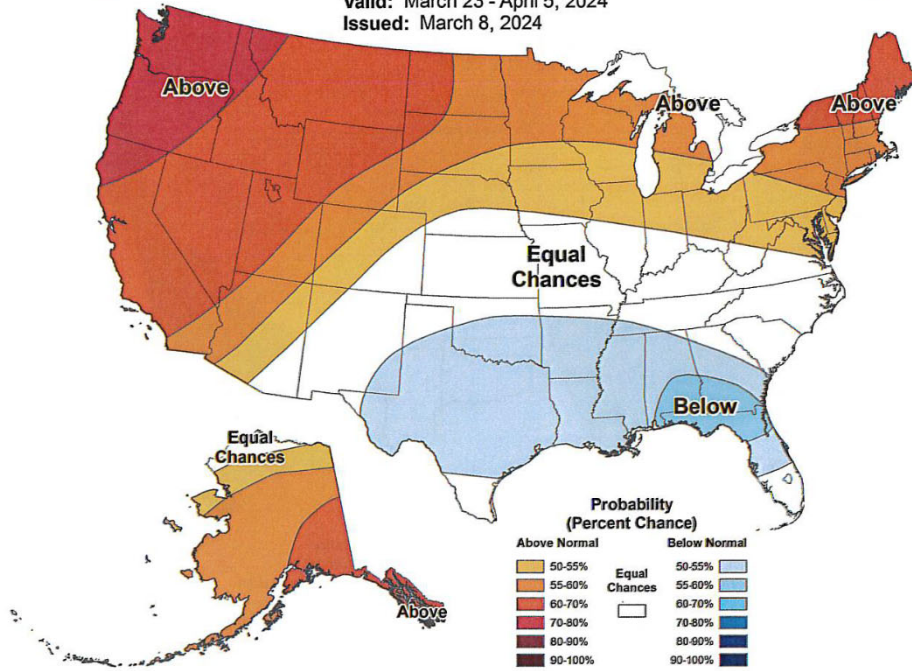




Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook



Valid: March 23 - April 5, 2024
Issued: March 8, 2024

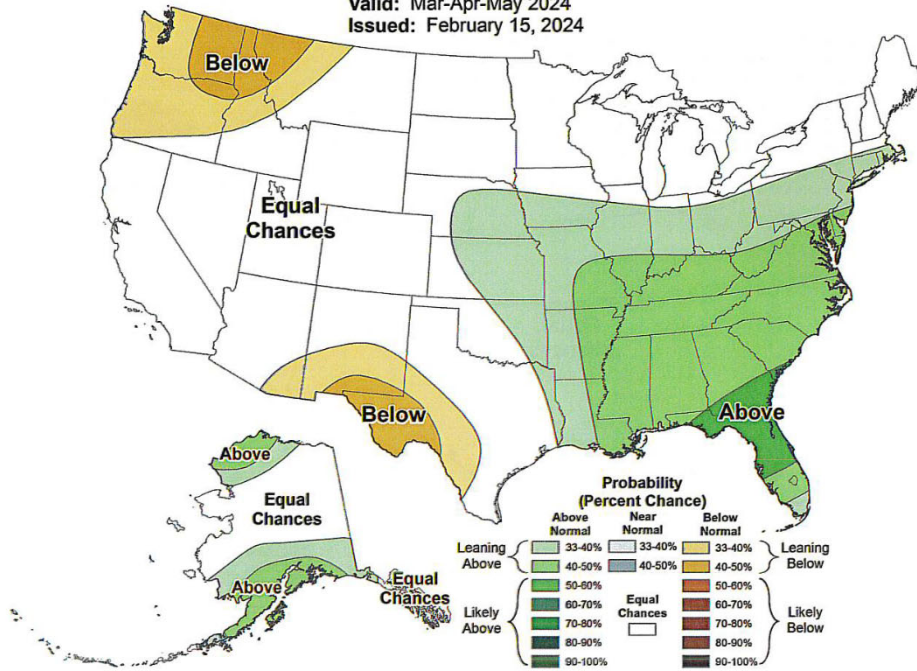




Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2024
Issued: February 15, 2024





Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2024
Issued: February 15, 2024

