

Local Impact of Marcellus Shale on Emergency Management and Response

David M. Sanko
Executive Director
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

All politics is local
Speaker Tip O'Neil

All disasters are local...the first responders are the local communities

- Emergency management is provided through a partnership of state, federal, and local government.

- Drilling in the Marcellus Shale region has created impacts on all aspects of local emergency management and response.
- Not occurring in isolation, but increasing pressures on already stressed volunteers.



- Communication plays a key role in emergency management, both planning and response.
- Drilling activity has increased the need for and demand on communication between all of the players.
- Some areas have been successful, others are working hard to improve coordination
 - Includes coordination at local level, as well as improving communication between local and affected state agencies.

- Emergency management is a legal responsibility and function of local, county, state, and federal government.
- State law requires local and county emergency management plans.
- All hazards platform.
- Drilling activity leads to potential for many types of incidents, both large and small.
 - Many will require specialized response, equipment not readily available.







- Dispatchers need to know who to contact.
- Responders need to know what to do and what not to do until specialists arrive.
- Industry employees and contractors need to know who to contact, how to contact them, and when to call.

- Impact: Need for emergency management planning at municipal and county level
 - Update to all hazards plan for all types of possible incidents.
 - How will responders access site?
 - Training and equipment needs.
 - Need for increased coordination between all parties.
 - Site Emergency Operations Plans should be shared with emergency management planners.

- Impact: 911 addressing issues.
 - Facilitate response, particularly in very rural, not easily accessed areas.
 - Some requiring 911 addressing for sites.
 - Satellite phone issues.



- Fire is somewhere off Rich Hill Road.

NO SPECIFIC ADDRESS

- LIMITED ACCESS

- ONE WAY IN, ONE WAY OUT

- OVER 1 MILE OFF OF THE MAIN ROAD

- ROUGH TERRAIN

- MOBILE WATER SUPPLY ONLY

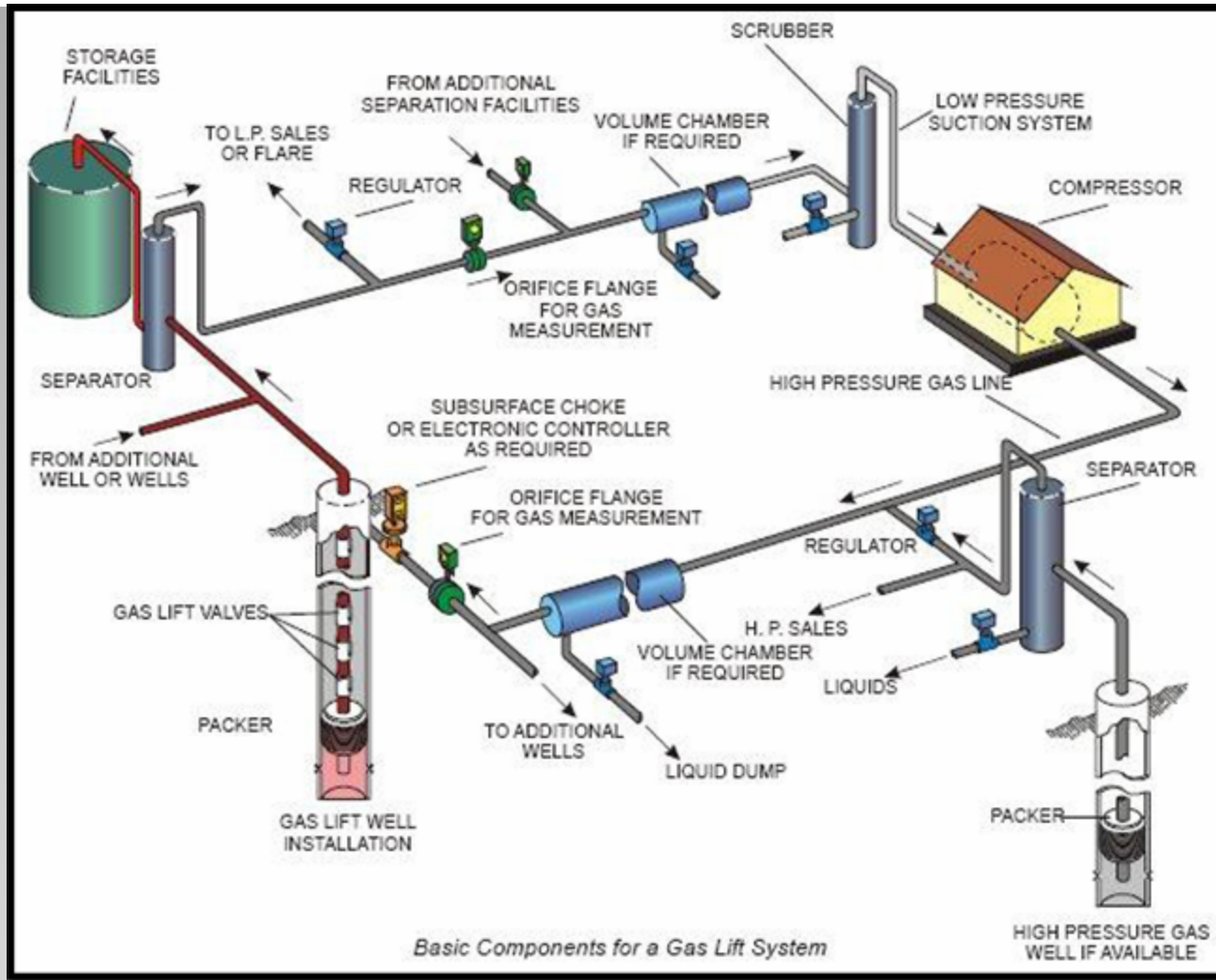


- Impact: Police protection
 - Increase in minor crimes, specifically DUI citations and minor altercations
 - Some communities now contracting for police service or expanding existing departments.
 - Expense.

- Impact: Volunteer fire departments
 - Additional strain on need for recruitment and retaining of volunteers.
 - Additional response, need for training, equipment, funding.
 - Local government increasingly looked for funding.
 - Local solutions to staffing issues.
 - Expanding roles of volunteers include rescue, hazardous materials response.

- Impact: Volunteer fire departments (cont.)
 - Clear delineation of response role vs. specialists?
 - Hiring of volunteers by industry shrinking pool of available volunteers.
 - Training needs, ability to understand terminology, hazards on rig.





Gas Well System Components

- Impact: EMS

- Construction incidence to large scale event.
- Additional response, need for training, equipment, funding.
- Availability of both BLS and ALS service.
- Hiring by industry shrinking pool of available talent.

- Impact: Transportation infrastructure
 - Significantly increased heavy hauling has major effects for emergency response.
 - Drilling in rural areas, limited access via low-volume roads, frequent damage causes road closures due to impassable conditions, repairs, rebuilding.
 - Damaged roads and bridges cause access issues, increase response times, may require different department to respond.
 - This can happen within hours during frost/thaw cycle.

- Impact: Transportation infrastructure (cont)
 - Concerns for damage to valuable emergency equipment attempting to respond via damaged roads, slower speeds and response times.
 - Increased accidents from heavy haulers rolling on damaged roads, can block emergency response in limited access areas.
 - Increased traffic accidents in all heavily impacted areas.
 - Increase in all reported incidents in these areas.
 - Lack of prior notification of drilling activity in some areas have left local officials scrambling.

- Impact: Environmental issues.
 - Increased risks and reporting of hazardous materials spills in affected areas.
 - Increased demands on responders.
 - Potential contamination of water supplies.
 - In Dimock, reports of methane migration initiated emergency response.

- Impact: Gathering lines

- Raise many issues and concerns, for industrial accidents during construction stage, as well as potential for leaks and explosions from active, completed lines.
- Need for additional oversight at state or federal level to ensure safe construction.
- Need for communication of location of lines and related structures (compression stations) for emergency management and response planning.

- Impact: Gathering lines (cont.)
 - Need for installation at sufficient depth to avoid potential for accidents.
 - Need for required registration with Pennsylvania One Call as facility owner to promote communication, reduce risks of accidents.

- Additional issues:
 - Need for increased training for industry employees and contractors.
 - Need to know whom to contact and when in the case of an incident.
 - Delayed response due to failure to promptly report incidents to 911.
 - Need for increased coordination at local level between industry, emergency management, dispatchers, and responders.
 - Success stories exist, other areas are working on improvements.
 - Communications needs of first responders.
 - Radio interoperability
 - Challenge of growth

- Additional issues: (cont.)
 - Need for increased coordination between all impacted agencies, at state and local level.
 - Need for increased training and collaboration.
 - For major incidents, response could involve dozens of local responders, municipal and county officials, numerous state and federal agencies, as well as private entities.

- Emergency management involves coordinated planning and response from agencies at all levels.
- Industry impacts may be significant in light of macro issues affecting municipalities and emergency response agencies.
 - Volunteer recruitment and retention struggles.
- All disasters are local.