

*East Bradford Township*  
*Special Edition Newsletter—Spring 2007*  
**FOR YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY**

## **East Bradford Township Emergency Management**

Emergency management involves planning for, and dealing with all types of emergencies that may occur in the township and surrounding areas. These may include natural disasters such as fires, floods, snowstorm, hurricanes, tornados and earthquakes as well as man-made or technological events such as hazardous materials releases, power outages and acts of terrorism.

For this reason, all municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by law are required to have in place a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The responsibility for the response to an emergency starts at the lowest level of government. Therefore, each municipality is required to have a municipal Emergency Management Coordinator. The Emergency Management Agencies of East Bradford Township and West Chester Borough have entered into a written mutual aid agreement to provide aid to one another in times of crisis. When an emergency involves more than one local municipality, the Chester County Emergency Management officials become involved. When more then one County is involved, the Pennsylvania State Emergency Management Agency becomes involved. When more than one state is involved or is requested by the Governor of Pennsylvania for assistance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency becomes involved.

It is the job of the township's Emergency Management Coordinator, working cooperatively with the various local emergency service providers, to minimize the potential loss of life and property damage through proper planning and response to emergencies. The Emergency Management Coordinator is appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania upon recommendation by the Township Board of Supervisors and maintains a professional certification level due to the on-going mandated training by both Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The township EOP establishes policies, procedures and organizational structures for response to major emergencies and provides for the coordination between the township and Chester County government and our local police, fire, emergency medical, and hazardous materials service providers. Through effective use of local, county and state resources, the plan addresses the four phases of emergency management:

**continued on page 2**

## **YOU CAN HELP EAST BRADFORD DETECT STREAM POLLUTION!**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently required East Bradford Township, as well as many other communities in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region, to obtain a permit for its storm drainage system. The permit requires the Township to locate and map all stormwater piping and drainage ditch systems owned and maintained by the Township that are within the Township limits. The permit also requires the Township to periodically inspect the drainage systems to detect any "illicit discharges" from the systems.

What in the world is an illicit discharge? Avoiding all of the technical jargon, an illicit discharge is something that is exiting a storm drainage piping system or drainage ditch that is not stormwater and that could potentially pollute our streams. Examples of illicit discharges that would be typical for a community like East Bradford are septic system overflows, vehicle washing water, pool water, paints, vehicle fluids, etc.

While the Township thoroughly inspected its drainage system once since the permit was issued, our inspectors can't be everywhere all the time. If you happen to see something exiting a storm pipe or ditch that looks, smells, or feels like something other than stormwater, please contact the Township so we can track it to its source and keep East Bradford's streams as clean and pure as possible.

*Fun Fact*  
**How much rain can a tree retain?**  
**One mature tree reduces stormwater runoff by over 1,000 gallons per year!**



## East Bradford Township Emergency Management—continued from page 1

### MITIGATION

Actions taken to eliminate a hazard, or to reduce the probability and the effect, should the disaster occur. Such actions include building codes, advance pre-planning of known township hazard sites, and land use and zoning requirements.

### PREPAREDNESS

Actions taken to facilitate disaster response and recovery. This includes developing and testing the plan, training personnel, and identifying resources to deal with situations that may develop in the community. By emphasizing a coordinated approach, the loss of life and property can be minimized. To be properly prepared, East Bradford must assess the hazards facing it, assign responsibilities to the various agencies, know what resources are immediately available, and ensure that those who respond are properly trained.

### RESPONSE

Actions taken to save lives and property during an emergency. This is where everything comes together and may include search and rescue, fire suppression, evacuation, emergency sheltering, etc. It may also include behind-the-scenes activities such as activating emergency plans and activation of an Emergency Operations Center.

### RECOVERY

Actions taken to return the community to normal or near normal conditions. This could include reconstruction of roads and public facilities, securing financial aid for disaster victims and review and critique of response activities. This phase also leads back to mitigation. During rebuilding, efforts are made to identify ways to prevent such damage from occurring.

For more information contact Eric D. Ruggeri, Emergency Management Coordinator, via e-mail: [emc@eastbradford.org](mailto:emc@eastbradford.org) or 610-436-5108.

## Stormwater Is Everybody's Business Best Lawn Care Practices Save Time, Money and Prevent Stormwater Pollution.

**MOW HIGH** - Set your mower at the highest setting to create deeper root systems that are more drought tolerant and to choke out weeds. Leave grass clippings on lawn to fertilize naturally.

**WATER DEEPLY**—and only when necessary. Water at cool times of the day to prevent fungus growth and excess water evaporation.

**USE FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES WISELY**—Test your soil first and apply only the nutrients that your lawn needs. Excess fertilizers cause nitrogen pollution of streams. Use pesticides only when you have a problem. Over use of chemicals will harm beneficial soil organisms.

**REDUCE MOWABLE LAWN SIZE**—Create more garden areas using native plants. These areas increase stormwater infiltration and create wildlife habitat.

**Soil Test Kits** are available from the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in Chester County. For more information on the cost of the test and where to pick up the kit please call 610-696-3500 or visit [www.aasi.psu.edu](http://www.aasi.psu.edu)

**Did You Know ???**  
**It is illegal to:**  
Blow, sweep or place grass clippings or leaves into the street or storm water system.  
  
This can clog storm water drains and piping causing flooding.



### COMPOSTING SEMINAR AND FREE COMPOST BIN

Learn to compost and receive a free compost bin. Register for the composting seminar to be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 7pm in the Township Building. Class is limited to the first 50 residents who register. You must attend the seminar to receive your free bin.

Call 610-436-5108 to register. Limit 1 per household.

## Reverse 9-1-1 Notifications

REVERSE 911 is a program that launches pre-recorded emergency messages via telephone using a combination of a telephone database and geographic information system computer mapping technologies. The system can quickly target a precise geographic area of East Bradford and saturate it with thousands of calls. Some of the many usage examples of the system include emergency evacuations, deteriorating weather moving into our area, missing person alerts, natural disaster alerts, hazardous material leaks, neighborhood emergency incidents, and homeland security issues. The pre-recorded message made specific to the emergency at hand provides residents with the critical information and necessary instructions they need to know.

The township emergency management coordinator after consulting with township officials, contacts the Chester County 911 Center to activate REVERSE 911 with the specific area or area(s) to be targeted and the necessary emergency message. In the event of a major emergency, specific instructions to either evacuate or “shelter in place” will be given in the recorded message.

Be aware, REVERSE 911 does **NOT** work on phone lines that have call screening or are unpublished in their telephone provider’s database. However, REVERSE 911 **WILL** work with private call blocking features. Citizens that have unlisted or unpublished phone lines or have recently moved into East Bradford and want to be added to the REVERSE 911 call database can do so by contacting the township emergency management coordinator at [emc@eastbradford.org](mailto:emc@eastbradford.org) or by calling the township building (610-436-5108) and leaving a message advising such. Your telephone listing will remain unpublished and the number will not be released to anyone outside of emergency services.

On September 1, 2006 East Bradford Township successfully used the REVERSE 911 system for the first time as rains from Tropical Storm Ernesto endangered portions of our area. The incorporation of the REVERSE 911 system represents East Bradford Township’s continuing commitment to providing our citizens with the most advanced warning technologies available to ensure that our local public safety is as effective as possible.

### ***Attention East Bradford Township Residents***

If you or someone you know would need special evacuation assistance or attention in the event of a major emergency or long term power failure within the township please take a moment to contact the township Emergency Management Coordinator. Examples would include those who are oxygen dependant, bed ridden, have severe medical conditions, are unable to walk, and or require electricity for legitimate medical reasons. Please include the name, address, telephone number and reason for assistance for that person and the information will be included in the township Emergency Operations Plan and will be kept on file at the Chester County 911 Center. All information will be kept strictly confidential. Requests should be in writing to the Emergency Management Coordinator at:

E-mail: [emc@eastbradford.org](mailto:emc@eastbradford.org)

Regular Mail: Eric Ruggeri, Emergency Management Coordinator

East Bradford Township

666 Copeland School Road

West Chester, PA 19380-1822



## Township Environmental Ordinances

In 2006 the Township adopted new ordinances regulating grading operations, certain tree removal activities and protection of lands near streams (riparian buffer areas) to meet Federal and State requirements to improve the water quality in our streams. If you are planning any earthmoving operations, removal of trees or any activities within riparian buffer areas, be sure to contact the Township to find out if the activity is allowed, and acquire any necessary Township permits. The ordinances can be obtained at the Township building or on the internet at [www.eastbradford.org](http://www.eastbradford.org) under Code of the Township.

The Township will be undergoing an investigation of several reported potential violations in the Township in the near future. If you think you may be conducting an activity that is in violation of the Code or without the appropriate permits, please contact the Township immediately for instructions on permit acquisitions to avoid any remedies that may involve fines or other penalties administered by the Township.

## Construction Activities Which Require a Township Permit

The list below helps to clarify when permits are needed for construction or other activities within East Bradford Township. If you are uncertain or have questions please do not hesitate to contact the Township Codes Enforcement Officer, Brenden Beaumont at 610-436-5108.

- **Additions to structures** such as, but not limited to, a porch, sun room, bedroom or garage
- **Basement—finishing or remodeling**
- **Bathrooms—adding or remodeling that requires new plumbing or new electrical work**
- **Kitchens—remodeling that requires new plumbing, electrical work, cabinetry or appliances**
- **Decks—new or replacement**
- **Retaining walls over 4' high**
- **Swimming Pools—in ground or above ground pools over 24" deep**
- **Hot tubs and spas**
- **Accessory structures, such as sheds, garages, greenhouses**
- **Walls—removal of or installation of any wall**
- **Doors—if existing opening is enlarged**
- **Roofing—Required for sheathing and or rafter replacement**
- **Windows—if existing opening will be enlarged or decreased in size in sleeping rooms**
- **HAVC systems such as new heat pumps, furnaces, oil burner, boilers, air conditioning (does not include window units)**
- **Plumbing—new supply, drain, waste or vent lines**
- **Driveways (new or enlarged), permit issued by Township Public Works**
- **Wells (new or replacement), permit issued by Chester County Health Department**
- **Septic systems (new, replacement or repair), permit issued by Chester County Health Department**
- **Earth moving involving the disturbance of 5000 square feet or more or 100 cubic yards or grade change greater than 6 inches, permit issued by the Township Engineer**
- **Storm water management—change to existing storm water management system or new impervious coverage, permit issued by the Township Engineer**
- **Alarm systems—permit issued by the Township Office**
- **Accessibility features such as ramps, lifts or elevators, permit issued by PA Dept. of Labor & Industry**
- **Fire Suppression or sprinkler systems**
- **Signs**
- **Change of use of the structure**



## You Can be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

Polluted stormwater run-off is the greatest threat to clean water.  
Practice these healthy household habits and  
you will be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution.

### Healthy Household Habits

1. Keep your nearest storm drain clear of debris and litter.
2. Never dump anything down a storm drain.
3. Use fertilizers sparingly.
4. Use pesticides only when necessary.
5. Do not blow grass clippings or leaves into the street.
6. Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down paved areas.
7. Compost or recycle yard waste.
8. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
9. Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on an unpaved area.
10. Service your car regularly to prevent leaks onto paved areas.
11. Dispose of household hazardous waste at designated collection locations.
12. Produce less waste – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
13. Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled or recyclable products when ever possible.
14. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected every three years (Twp. requirement).



## Is Your House Number Properly Posted for Your Safety?

Did you know that Chapter 46 of the Code of the Township of East Bradford requires all buildings, residential and commercial, to post the street address numbers of the property on the building's front or otherwise separately mounted in the front yard of the property? The numbers should be Arabic in design, have a minimum height of three inches and be mounted in a secure fashion to the principal building's front or in an approved manner on a post, wall or mailbox in the front yard of the premises. The numbers should be visible from the center line of the street and not obstructed by trees, shrubs or other obstructions. If you have a driveway accessing more than one house, all numbers should be posted at the entrance of the driveway at the main road and also where the driveways split off to each home.

 A rectangular sign with a thick black border and a white background. The number '1234' is printed in a simple, black, sans-serif font in the center of the sign. The sign is mounted on a black post.
 

1234

Did you know that when you dial 9-1-1 your property address is linked to your telephone number so that emergency vehicles can find your location even if you are unable to stay on the phone line? If the address shown on the 9-1-1 control panel does not match your address posted on your home or if your home is not posted with an address, emergency vehicles may not be able to find your location and emergency help may be delayed in responding. Please post your house number properly and avoid the possibility of emergency help not arriving when most needed.

To verify your information in the 9-1-1 System please call 610-344-5260 and follow the directions in the message. You will receive a return call with your information.

Any property owner not complying with this ordinance may be fined not more then \$1000 or less than \$25 plus reasonable attorneys fees and court cost and may be incarcerated for a period not exceeding 90 days. You can review all the requirements at the Township Web Site [www.eastbradford.org](http://www.eastbradford.org)

## Do You Have A Disaster Supply Kit?

Having a disaster supply kit ready ensures that you will have the necessary supplies no matter what the emergency. If you pack supplies in duffel bags or back packs you will have them available to take with you if have to evacuate because of a weather emergency or terrorist emergency. Store them in a location that is easily accessible and known by all family members. Make sure to check expiration dates on all items and check the kit at least every six months.

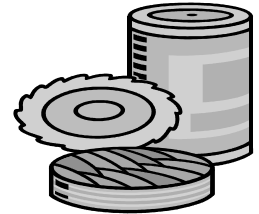
### Water:

Pack at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days. Store water in tightly sealed, non-breakable plastic, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Change your water supply every six months.



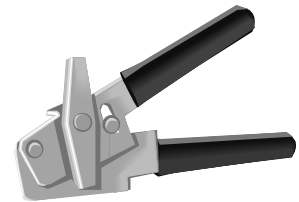
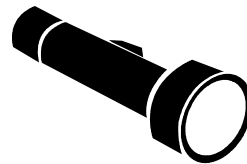
### Food:

Pack enough food to last each family member at least three days. Include canned and boxed foods because they require little preparation and stay fresh for long periods of time. Remember to bring a manual can opener or to buy food in self-opening cans. Pack foods in sealed metal or plastic containers. Replace foods every six months. Include foods for infants and family members with special diets.



### Tools and Equipment:

First Aid Kit  
Battery powered radio  
Flashlights  
Spare batteries  
Re-sealable plastic bags  
Washcloths and towels  
Paper cups and plates and plastic utensils.  
Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant and other toiletries  
Heavy duty plastic garbage bags  
Change of clothing and an extra pair of shoes and socks for each person  
Blankets or a sleeping bag for each person



### Personal Items:

Personal identification  
Copies of birth and marriage certificates, inventory of household goods, bank account numbers and other important documents  
Extra keys for your house and vehicles  
Prescription medications  
Maps of the area and state



## Do You Live in a Floodplain?

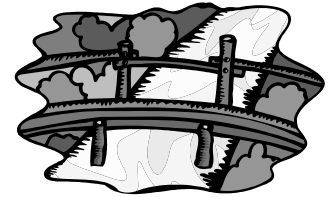
The summer is quickly approaching and with it increased rainfall. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to remind residents living in or near a floodplain about the Township's floodplain regulations.

Section 115-42 of the East Bradford Code contains rules and regulations for properties that are located in the floodplain. (You can view the Code for yourself by visiting the Township's website ([www.eastbradford.org](http://www.eastbradford.org) – go to the bottom of the home page and click on "Code of the Township" or by stopping into the Township office.) Compliance with the Code is critical to your family's safety as well as the health and safety of those living downstream of you. Further, failure to comply with these rules could result in the Township pursuing legal enforcement against you, which is unpleasant and expensive for all involved. Below is a list of things you can do to help ensure your compliance with this section.

- Secure objects that could float away if inundated by flood waters. This includes deck furniture, outdoor grills, lawn and garden equipment, vehicles, and the like. All objects that are not secured must be stored above the base flood elevation. If your home is elevated, no materials of any kind may be stored, kept, or placed under the structure.
- Do not store any flammable or toxic materials (including propane, gasoline, and other chemicals) which, if inundated or otherwise released into the stream, would degrade or pollute the stream or cause damage if swept downstream. Again, if your home is elevated, these items may not be stored, kept, or placed under the structure.
- Talk to the Township about any plans to erect a fence or stonewall that could impede or alter the flow of water during a flood event.
- Before extending, altering, or converting any structures on your property, discuss your intentions with the Township codes enforcement officer and/or zoning officer before starting your project.

In addition to the precautions listed above, you might decide to retrofit your home to protect it from flooding. The Township encourages retrofitting! One of the most common types of retrofitting is elevating the home so that the lowest floor is at or above the base flood elevation. To learn more about retrofitting options, talk to the codes enforcement officer, Brenden Beaumont: 610-436-5108.

Township officials are carefully monitoring all floodplain properties on an on-going basis. So, if you have any questions concerning floodplain regulations or property maintenance, please contact the township at 610-436-5108.



### On Lot Sewage System Maintenance Program

On December 14, 2004, the East Bradford Board of Supervisors adopted a new on-lot sewage system maintenance program (Ordinance #7-2004). The purpose of this program is to ensure that all on-lot systems are properly maintained.

This maintenance program will require septic owners to pump their system every three (3) years. Most septic systems have enough space for approximately 3 years worth of accumulation. Having your system pumped approximately every 3 years will extend the life of your system and could save you thousands of dollars in future repairs. Failing septic systems can contaminate drinking water, as well as nearby lakes and streams. Regular pumping will protect your investment and the quality of life in your community. Copies of Ordinance #7-2004 are available at the Township office. The following points summarize important elements of the ordinance:

- By December 31, 2007, and every three years thereafter, each on-lot system in East Bradford Township must be pumped out by a licensed hauler. Contact the Chester County Health Department for a list of licensed haulers at (610) 344-6225 or [cchd@chesco.org](mailto:cchd@chesco.org).
- Property owners must direct the hauler to report the pumping to the Chester County Health Department's central database.
- There is no charge for the administration of this ordinance. However, property owners who fail to have their system pumped within the three (3) year period will be charged a \$10 administration fee. Continued non-compliance with the provisions of this ordinance may be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$300 and not more than \$2,000 plus costs.
- If the Township becomes aware of a system that is malfunctioning, it will be reported to the Chester County Health Department. All repairs and replacements require a permit from the Health Department. If you have any questions you should contact the Township at 610-436-5108.

**East Bradford Township**  
666 Copeland School Road  
West Chester, PA 19380-1822  
(610) 436-5108  
www.eastbradford.org

## For Your Health & Safety

Special Edition Newsletter  
Spring 2007

**Spring Leaf Collection—One Day Only**  
Saturday, May 19, 2007  
Place leaves in brown paper leaf bags  
curbside by 6AM

## EAST BRADFORD DAY 2007

Saturday, September 29, 2007

11 am—4 pm

At the Stroud Preserve

“Family Fun for All”

Music - Art - Nature

Watch for more info in the newsletter and on our website



PRESORTED—STD  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
WEST CHESTER, PA  
PERMIT NO. 154

### Township Meeting Schedule. All meetings are held in the Township Building:

▪ **Board of Supervisors**

2nd Wednesday each month (7:00 P.M.)

Work Session Thursday prior (Noon)

Work Session 2nd Wed (6:00 P.M.)

▪ **Planning Commission**

1st Tuesday each month (7:30 P.M.)

Work Session 4th Tuesday (7:30 P.M.)

▪ **Historical Commission**

3rd Tuesday each month (7:00 P.M.)

▪ **Parks & Recreation Board**

4th Wednesday each month (7:30 P.M.)

▪ **Open Space Review Board**

4th Tuesday each month (6:00 P.M.)

▪ **Environmental Advisory Counsel**

4th Monday each month (7:00 P.M.)

▪ **East Bradford Day Committee**

3rd Wednesday each month (7:00 P.M.)

▪ **Zoning Hearing Board, H.A.R.B.**

**& Building Code Appeals Board**

(As needed)

**Office Hours: Monday—Friday**

8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

(610) 436-5108

Fax (610) 436-8652

WEB SITE—www.eastbradford.org

All meetings, are open to the public,  
except Executive Sessions of the Board of  
Supervisors & OSRB.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

April 21, 2007 9am—3pm

**Household Hazardous Waste & Computers**

CAT Pickering—Center for Arts & Technology

1580 Charlestown Road

Phoenixville, PA 19460

**Sat. May 19, 2007 9am—3pm**

Household Hazardous Waste Only

Owen J. Roberts High School

981 Ridge Road, Pottstown, PA

**Sat, September 15, 2007 9am—3pm**

Household Hazardous Waste Only

New Garden Township Building

8934 Gap Newport Road

Landenberg, PA

**Sat, October 6, 2007 9am—3pm**

Household Hazardous Waste & Computers

Government Services Center

601 Westtown Road

West Chester, PA

**These words identify HHW:**

Caution, Toxic, Danger, Flammable, Warning,

Corrosive, Explosive, Reactive, Combustible,

Poisonous, Hazardous.

**UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS:**

Latex (water-based) paint, Explosives, Ammunition,

Appliances, Radioactive waste, Tires, Infectious waste,

Unidentified waste.