Super Storm Sandy
Pennsylvania’s Preparation and Recovery
Super Storm Sandy’s Brief and Destructive History

- October 22, 2012 - Sandy becomes a tropical storm deep in the Caribbean
- October 27 – Sandy moves away from the Bahamas and turns northeast
- October 29 – Sandy comes ashore near Atlantic City, NJ
- October 31 – Sandy dissipates over western Pennsylvania
Super Storm Sandy’s Brief and Destructive History

- Second costliest hurricane in United States history
- Largest Atlantic hurricane in history (by diameter)
- $75 billion in estimated damage
- Estimated 285 fatalities throughout seven countries

Seaside Heights, N. J.

Breezy Point, Queens, N. Y.
Before Landfall – Preparation – October 26, 2012

- Early Afternoon - PennDOT convenes disaster emergency meeting
  - PennDOT, PEMA, State Police, Turnpike and Governor’s Office
- Mid-Afternoon - Safety Administration convenes disaster emergency meeting
  - Disaster recovery centers (using Hurricane Irene model)
  - Fee waiver for lost or damaged products
  - Extension of driver license, vehicle registration, vehicle inspections
  - Volunteers for disaster recovery efforts (current and former employees)
Before Landfall – Preparation – October 26, 2012

- Mid-Afternoon - Governor issues Proclamation of Disaster Emergency
  - Authorizes waiving laws / regulations for drivers and vehicles
  - Authorizes waiving laws / regulations for motor carrier safety / commercial drivers
  - Authorizes emergency procurement
Before Landfall – Preparation – October 27, 2012

- Governor issues a communication alerting citizens to start preparations in advance of Sandy

- Philadelphia announces public transit will cease after midnight October 28
- PennDOT announces Philadelphia area service centers will be closed October 29
- Exemptions are given for vehicle size and weight limits
Before Landfall – Preparation – October 29, 2012

- Early morning – Statewide closing of state offices on October 29
- Exemptions from certain CDL regulations issued
- Mid-Afternoon – Statewide closing of state offices for October 30
Landfall – October 29, 2012, 8:00pm

- 1.2 million Pennsylvanians without power
- 140 road closures
- 900+ people in Red Cross shelters across the state
- Compared to other states in Sandy’s path, Pennsylvania “dodged a bullet”
After Landfall – Recovery – October 30, 2012

• Governor offers resources to surrounding states, for example:
  – Two mega shelters on the border for people displaced, mostly from New York and New Jersey
  – Vehicles for New Jersey, including ambulances
• Safety Administration identified network and electric outages for field offices
After Landfall – Recovery – October 31, 2012

- Most state offices open
- Some field offices still without power
- Extended the expiration of driver licenses, vehicle registrations and inspections
- Detail planning for possibility of 10 Disaster Recovery Centers (never deployed)
Recovery

• By November 6, 2012, all of the 140 road closures had been resolved.
• On January 15, 2013, the Governor declared “that the adverse impacts of Hurricane Sandy have been dealt with to the extent that emergency conditions no longer exist”, and proclaimed the termination of the state of disaster emergency in the Commonwealth.
• More than 1.5 million customers in the eastern half of the state lost power at some point after the storm struck on Oct. 30, including 1.2 million who were without electricity at its peak, according to the PUC. Nearly all service was restored by Nov. 8, Robert Powelson, chairman of the state Public Utility Commission, said.
Disaster Preparation and Recovery

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