

WINTER STORM JONAS January 22 – 24, 2016



PA House Transportation Committee Feb. 10, 2016

Response Entities

More than 40 entities assisted with the response:



Alan Bank Fire Co.
 American Red Cross
 Bedford County 911
 Bedford County Emergency Management Agency
 Bedford Fire Co.
 Berlin Fire & EMS
 CoGo's
 Customary/Motorists
 Emergency Shelters:
 Bedford Area School District
 Bethel Methodist Church
 FEMA
 Herring Motor Co. Towing
 HNS West Corp.

Interstate Towing
 Lakewood Towing
 LeSellers Garage
 Local hotels and motels in Somerset and Bedford
 Maiba
 Myers Garage
 New Baltimore Fire Co.
 PA Department of Corrections (prisoners and drivers)
 PEBA
 PennDOT
 Pennsylvania National Guard
 PA State Police Group 1 and all Terrestrial Groups
 Pleasantville Dollar General
 Private and Public Bus Companies

Salvation Army
 Shanksville Fire Co.
 Shawnee Market
 Shawnee Valley Ambulance
 Shawnee Valley Fire Co.
 Shertz
 Somerset 911
 Somerset County Emergency Management Agency
 Southern Cove Fire Co.
 Subway
 Volunteer citizens from communities along the Turnpike
 Wal-Mart Distribution
 Wren
 Wiscunguis Reports
 All other local fire and EMS companies responding...



2/10/2016

AAR Process – Overview

AFTER-ACTION REVIEW (AAR)

- The purpose of the AAR is to review decisions made and actions taken to identify leading practices and improve operations and response.
- The AAR Team is being directed by CEO Mark Compton with coordination by the PA Turnpike's general consulting engineering firm, Michael Baker International Inc.
- Phase I began on Jan. 25 and ended Feb. 8.



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AAR Process – Phase I

- As part of the information-gathering process, the AAR Team met internally with the three maintenance sheds involved in the storm operation from start to finish, including Everett Maintenance, Kegg Maintenance and Somerset Maintenance.
- Altogether these maintenance locations employ more than 90 personnel.
- These sessions involved a lengthy and thorough discussion about preparations, actions taken and a review of the timeline pertaining to the maintenance response.
- In addition, the AAR Team conducted 10 fact-finding meetings which included dozens of representatives from key internal departments:
 - Traffic Engineering and Operations;
 - Fare Collections;
 - Senior Executive Team;
 - PA State Police Troop T; and
 - PennDOT personnel assisting during Winter Storm Jonas.



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AAR Process – Phase II

- The AAR Team has begun meeting with all external federal, state and local agencies, examining the decisions made and actions taken before, during and after the event.
- More than 300 professionals and volunteers from more than 46 state, federal, local and private entities assisted with the response.
- Interviews with outside partners will help develop a complete picture of the massive response and rescue effort.
- The AAR Team will begin its analysis of the response and decision-making procedures and offer a series of recommendations for future consideration as part of the Phase II work.
- The Commission expects to conclude the AAR in early March.
- A report will be made public after the AAR Team completes, and the Commission approves, the review.



Preparatory Actions and Communications

Thursday, Jan. 21

- Winter Weather Shed Radio Checks schedule issued

Friday, Jan. 22 @ 11:34 AM

- Traffic Operations staff issued its Tow Truck Standby Winter Plan Level 2 and Safety Advisors schedules

Friday, Jan. 22 @ 2:03 PM

- Traffic Operations Center advised PEMA, PennDOT, and PSP of Turnpike's Weather Response Plan Level 2 Activation

Friday, Jan. 22 @ 3:00 PM

- Travel Advisory issued "PA Turnpike Will Reduce Speed Limits on Some Sections Tonight at Midnight Due to Weather"
- 45 MPH Speed restriction moved up to 8:30 Due to heavy snow starting earlier than expected

Regional Winter Maintenance Operations

FRIDAY, JAN. 22

- Both Everett and Kegg Maintenance units were in snow patrol mode for the storm event during the 7 AM – 3 PM shift.
- **1:30 PM** – Somerset Maintenance units began treating roadways.
- **3:30 PM** – Kegg and Everett Maintenance units began treating roadways.
- **4:00 PM** – Kegg Maintenance units began plowing.
- **Kegg Maintenance Plow Trains:**
 - First plow train left from Kegg at 7:55 PM
 - Second plow train left Kegg at 8:22 PM



Primary Event Locations

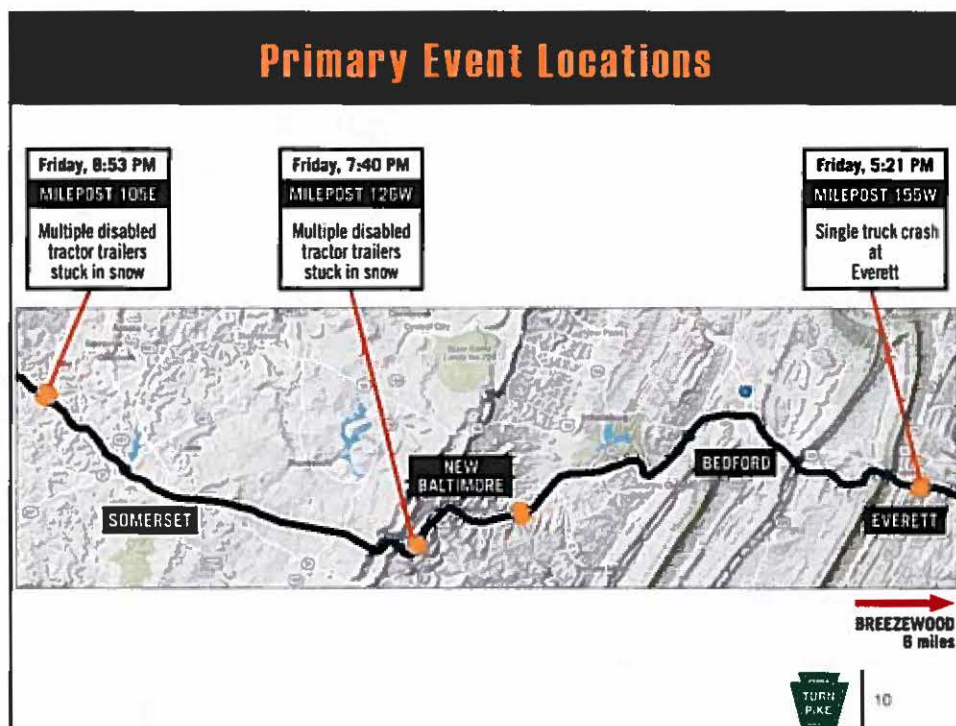
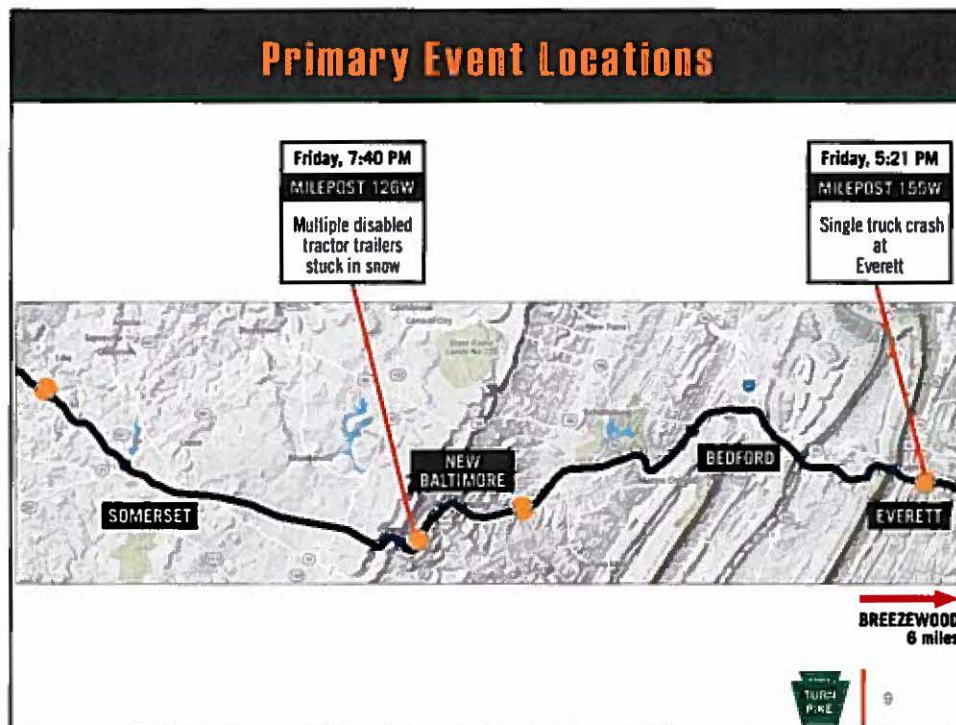


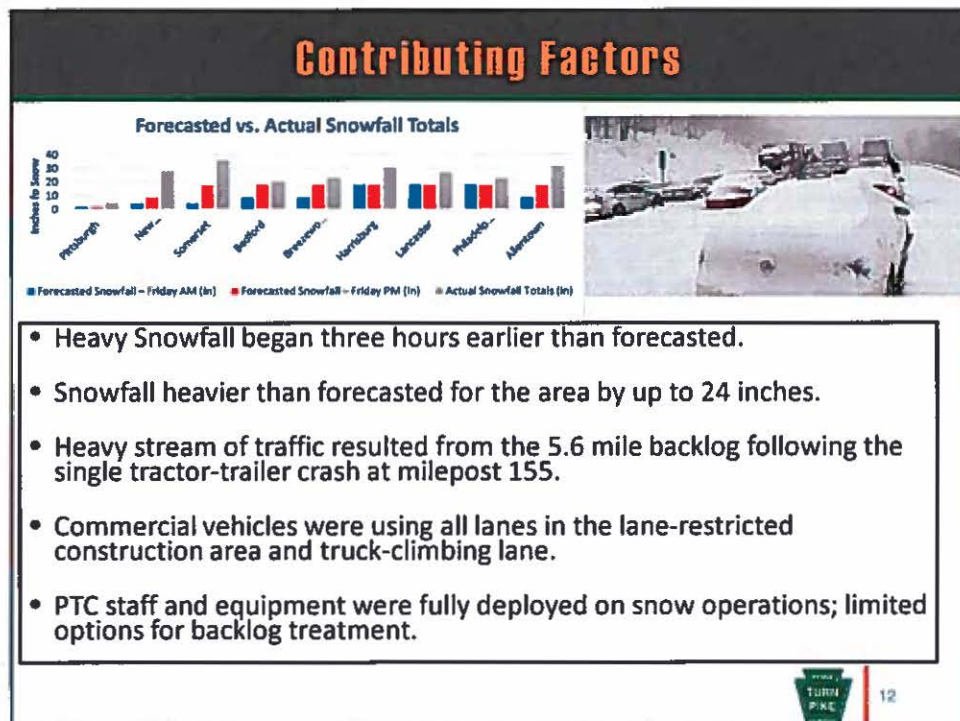
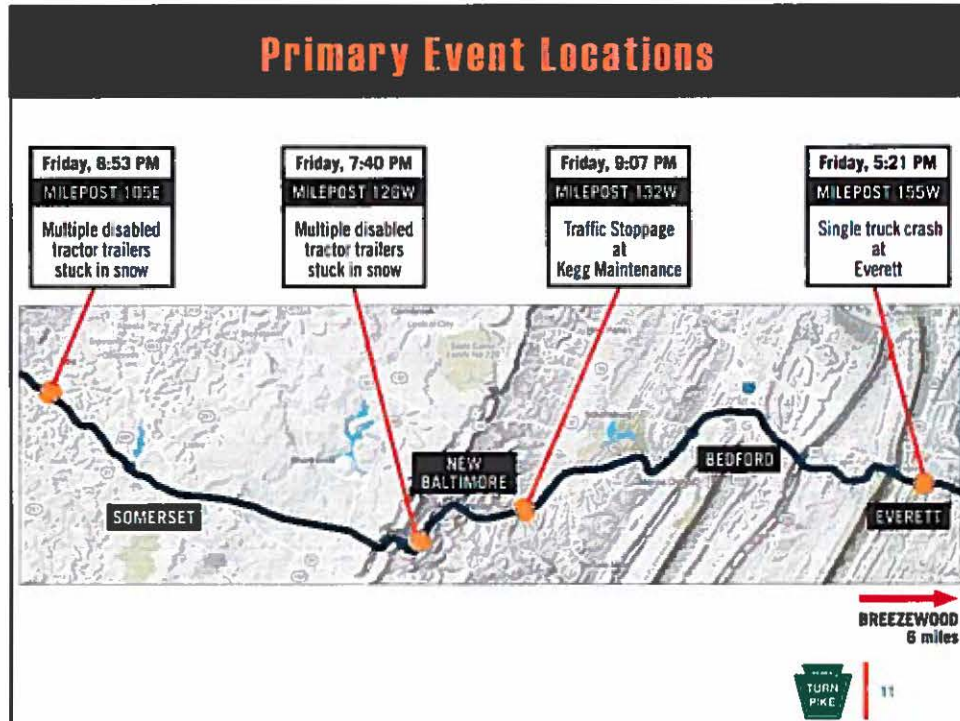
Friday, 5:21 PM
MILEPOST 155W
Single truck crash at Everett



BREEZEWOOD
6 miles







Weather Synopsis

- The historic snow storm event impacted the southern half of the Commonwealth on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 22-23.
- Snow fell from roughly 2 PM Friday until 10 PM Saturday and ranged from 0.5" along the I-80 corridor to around 3 ft. in some of the southern mountains.
- Snowfall rates averaged 1-2" per hour with some periods of 2"+ per hour.
- Blizzard conditions affected southeastern PA due to high winds and blowing snow.
- Storm preparations began with all partners starting the weekend prior.

UPDATE: STAFF TRIPS ADVERTISED IN THE SOUTH. SNOW WILL SPREAD FROM SOUTH TO NORTH LATE TODAY AND TONIGHT. SNOW WILL BE HEAVIEST ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST WITH STORMS BEING CONTINUED TO CREATE BLIZZARD CONDITIONS. THE HEAVIEST SNOWFALL WILL OCCUR AFTER MIDNIGHT TONIGHT INTO SATURDAY AFTERNOON.


AccuWeather
180 Delaware Park Road
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 851-0800

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Pennsylvania Turnpike
One PTD Plaza
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Jan. 22 @ 3:15 PM

Milepost 120 (Somerset) RWIS Station Data

FRIDAY, JAN. 22	SATURDAY, JAN. 23 TO SUNDAY, JAN. 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow began at approx. 2 PM. • Snow had intensified to 1.85" per hour at time of T126W event (7:40 PM). • Snow accumulation was >8" by midnight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Saturday at 6 AM through 9 AM snowfall rates was >2" per hour. • The Turnpike's Roadway Weather Information System (RWIS) station at MP 120 recorded nearly 32" of total snow accumulation. • Somerset received a record 35.8" of total snow accumulation.



New Baltimore Slide Images - MP 128



1/22/2016 @ 5:10 PM



New Baltimore Slide Images - MP 128



1/22/2016 @ 5:25 PM



New Baltimore Slide Images - MP 128



New Baltimore Slide Images - MP 128



New Baltimore Slide Images - MP 128



New Baltimore Slide Images - MP 128



New Baltimore Slide Images – MP 128



1/23/2016 @ 6:55 AM



New Baltimore Slide Images – MP 128



1/24/2016 @ 6:40 AM



Traffic Management

ROADWAY CLOSURE

- Turnpike Maintenance was responding effectively across the system.
- Traffic was either approaching or already on the roadway at the time of the incident.
- Conditions on alternative routes in the region were also impacted by the storm.
- Closure would have had significant impacts on state and local roads and communities.

TRAFFIC STOP AT KEGG MAINTENANCE (MP 132W) – Friday

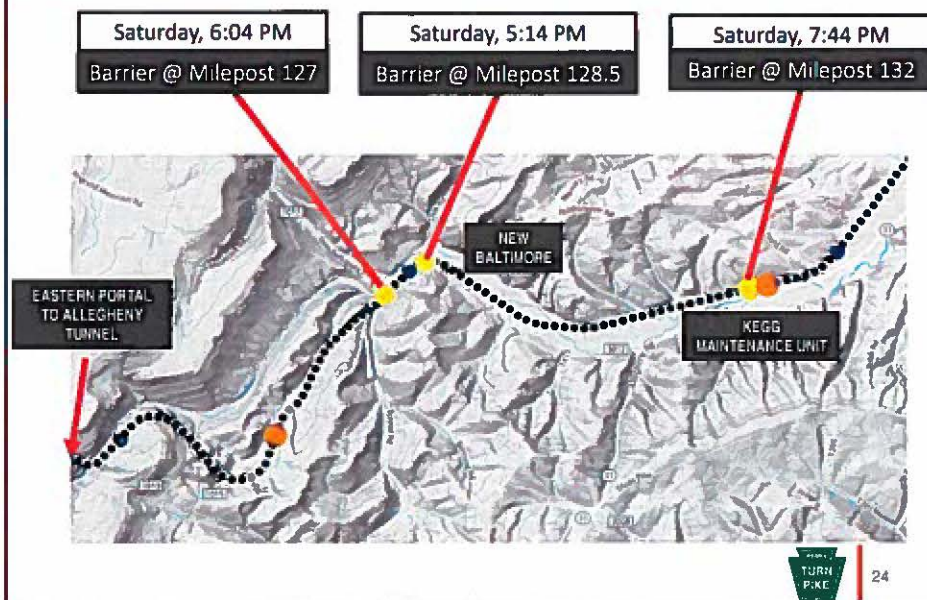
- **9:07 PM** – Instituted per pre-determined traffic operation plan designed to minimize impacted traffic prior to New Baltimore construction with steep grades

TURNING TRAFFIC AT KEGG MAINTENANCE AND GATES – Saturday

- **1:30 AM** – Kegg Maintenance Milepost 132W
- **8:35 AM** – Access Gate Milepost 138W
- **1:10 PM** – Access Gate Milepost 129W



Median Barrier Removal Locations



Incident Management Changes Since 2014

- Emergency Transportation Operations Plan
- Backlog Motorist Assistance Plan (wellness checks)
- Improved coordination with PSP, PEMA, PennDOT
- Retooled Traffic Engineering and Operations Departments
- Provided incident command training
- Increased use of social media and Waze



TRUCK DRIVERS

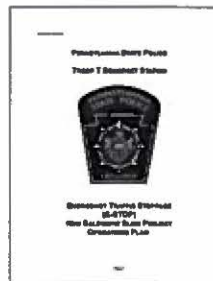
Please obey lane restrictions IN WORK ZONES.
IT'S FOR YOUR SAFETY. IT'S THE LAW.



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Incident Management Changes Since 2014

- Increased participation in Traffic Incident Management Programs (PennDOT, SPC, and DVRPC)
- Increased deployment of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices
- Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training for Turnpike and partners (approx. 217 first responder partners in region)
- Planned deployment of movable center barrier gate with NE Ext. construction project



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Incident Management Changes Under Way

- Backlog Motorist Assistance Plan
 - Ensuring incident command's span of control integrates command for welfare checks
 - Further refine to address specific requirements across the Turnpike system
- Auxiliary staffing plan for maintenance and operations staff during extended duration events
- Evaluation of winter maintenance equipment needs
- Situational awareness capabilities
- Interagency communications and coordination



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Incident Management Changes Under Way

- Winter Weather Plan and Maintenance Operations
- Incident/Unified Command
- Resource Coordination and Deployment
- Median Barrier Access
- Traffic Operations Center resources
- Communications (Message Boards, PA511, Waze, Twitter, Facebook, Turnpike Website, TRIPTalk)
- State Emergency Operations Center Liaison Staff Training



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Incident Management Changes Under Way

- Enhanced attention to incident management during construction design
 - Access gates
 - Construction zones
 - Median access
- Evaluating current and planned access gates for utility in traffic relief efforts
- Emergency provisions inventory



Thank You.