



Location: Wegman's Restaurant, 4401 Pottsville Pike, Reading, PA 19605 610 929-2538

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BerksCountySheriff01/>

Website: <http://www.berkssheriffbrigade.com/>

Time:

5:30 - 6:00 PM Optional Prepper Group Discussion

6:00 PM Invited Guest Presentation

7:15 PM Constitution Presentation

At the November 4, 2015 planning meeting, the Berks County Sheriff Brigade Board designated 2016 monthly programs for **individual and community emergency preparedness**. We are expanding our 20 minute allocation to a 30 - 60 minute presentation on both the State and Federal Constitutions by Mr. William (Bill) Taylor Reil following our guest speakers listed below. Also, as an option, we encourage participants to arrive at 5:30 PM and order dinner. From 5:30 to 6:00 P.M. we will provide group discussion on various prepper activities. Our meetings start promptly at 6:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer, and our monthly guest speakers listed below:

Sunday, January 24, 2016: 6:00 to 7:30 PM - Emergency Preparedness:

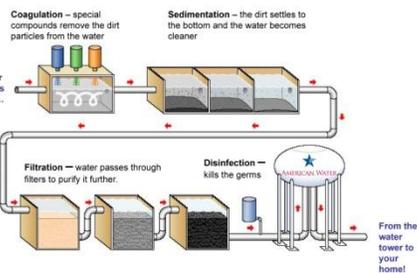
Ms. Kara Mowbray (confirmed) of the American Red Cross to discuss their "Are You Red Cross Ready?" And Mr. Donnie Swope (confirmed) of the Berks County Department of Emergency Services discussing the roles of government (County, State, Federal) during and after disaster.



American Red Cross



How a Water Treatment Plant Works



Sunday, February 28, 2016: 6:00 to 7:30 PM - Public Water Supply:

Mr. Leonard "Chip" Bigler II (confirmed) Executive Director, Western Berks Water Authority (WBWA). How do water companies purify surface water from lakes and rivers for human consumption. What actions are taken by WBWA to maintain potable water during and after disasters. What are the challenges in providing Berks County homes and businesses with safe drinking water? What are the security concerns (terrorism) faced by Pennsylvania water providers?

Sunday, April 3, 2016: 6:00 to 7:00 PM - Backyard Gardening:

Ms. Beth Finlay (confirmed) Master Gardener Coordinator, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Berks County. Come and learn how you can start and/or improve your backyard composting system. From Wikipedia: "Compost is the organic matter that has been decomposed and recycled as a fertilizer and soil amendment. Compost is a key ingredient in organic farming. At the simplest level, the process of composting simply requires making a heap of wetted organic matter known as green waste (leaves, food waste) and waiting for the materials to break down into humus after a period of weeks or months"



Sunday, April 24, 2016: 6:00 to 7:00 PM - Bush Craft:

A speaker will discuss the art of bush craft.

Sunday, May 22, 2016: 6:00 to 7:00 PM - Normalcy Bias:

Dr. Peggy C. Bowen-Hartung (confirmed), Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Alvernia University. Why do people fall into the trap of Normalcy Bias? From Wikipedia: "The **normalcy bias**, or **normality bias**, is a mental state people enter when facing a disaster. It causes people to underestimate both the possibility of a disaster and its possible effects. This may result in situations where people fail to adequately prepare, and on a larger scale, the failure of governments to include the populace in its disaster preparations." There are accounts on 911 of persons in the towers exiting the building down the stairwell and then deciding to go back and turn their computers off. This is a classic case of normalcy bias, unfortunately, per several accounts many of these individuals that returned to their office for mundane reasons did not make it out of the building. What causes people to fall into the trap of normalcy bias? What happens in people's minds during long term disasters and what can be done to mitigate destructive patterns in one's mindset if the grid were to go down for the long term?



Sunday, June 26, 2016: 6:00 to 7:15 PM - OODA Loop & Pennsylvania's Castle Doctrine:

Mr. Simon Grill, (confirmed) is a criminal defense attorney in Reading, PA. Mr. Grill will present on the OODA Loop and Pennsylvania's Castle Doctrine. From Wikipedia: "The phrase **OODA loop** refers to the decision cycle of *observe, orient, decide, and act*, developed by military strategist and USAF Colonel John Boyd." From Wikipedia: "A **castle doctrine** is a legal doctrine that designates a person's abode (or, in some countries, any legally occupied place [e.g., a vehicle or workplace]) as a place in which that person has certain protections and immunities permitting him or her, in certain circumstances, to use force (up to and including deadly force) to defend himself or herself against an intruder, free from legal responsibility/prosecution for the consequences of the force used."



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Sunday, July 24, 2016: 6:00 to 7:00 PM - Residential Fire Prevention:

Mr. John Schach (confirmed) emergency specialist will speak on fire prevention in the home: Smoke alarms, cooking safety, escape plan, Carbon Monoxide Alarms, Electrical & Appliance Safety, candle safety.



Sunday, August 28, 2016: 6:00 to 7:00 PM - Neighborhood Watch:

Officer Tom Gauby (confirmed) of the Amity Township Police Department will provide a discussion on creating a neighborhood watch. From Wikipedia: "A **neighborhood watch**, also called a **neighborhood crime watch**, is an organized group of civilians devoted to crime and vandalism prevention within a neighborhood. In other words, neighborhood watch is a crime prevention scheme under which civilians agree together to keep an eye on one another's properties, patrol the street, and report suspicious incidents to law enforcement members."



Sunday, September 25, 2016: 6:00 to 7:00 PM - NRA Instructor:

Sunday, October 23, 2016: 6:00 to 7:30 PM - Alternative Power & Lighting Technologies:

Sunday, November 27, 2016 - TBD

Sunday, December 25, 2016 - No gathering in December

Optional Prepper Group Discussions run from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM - Below are the proposed prepper topics:

Sunday, January 24, 2016: 5:30 to 6:00 PM - Emergency Communication:

In event of a major disaster such as grid failure, your communication via landline phone, cell phone and internet can become impaired or possibly out of service. Your first choice in this scenario might be the use of citizens band (CB) radios. During this 30 minute session we will discuss other options such as Ham, FRS, GMRS and MURS radios for communication. We will hand out and discuss the Berks County Sheriff Brigade Communication Plan. The Brigade is currently looking for a classroom facility with internet and chalkboard to provide 4 days of training on how to pass the Ham Radio Technician test on various weekends in January 2016.

Sunday, February 28, 2016: 5:30 to 6:00 PM - How to Produce Potable Water:

Let's once again consider the possibility of a major grid failure across the United States. In this scenario, how long can the utilities provide potable water, and if you are on a well, how long can you fuel a generator to power your well pump. At some point, potable water will be a valuable commodity if the grid goes down for any extended period of time. During this 30 minute presentation we will discuss water sources that are available to you and how to make this water potable for human consumption. Immediately following our prepper discussion we will have a presenter from the Western Berks Water Authority which address how they process surface water supplies into potable water for your consumption.

Sunday, April 3, 2016: 5:30 to 6:00 PM - Backyard Gardening:

During this 30 minute presentation, we will discuss different types of vegetable/and fruit plants for your garden as well as different types of gardening practices such as, row, square foot, container, vertical, and permaculture techniques. Immediately following our prepper discussion, we will have a guest speaker from the Penn State Cooperative Extension with their presentation on how you can implement your Backyard Composting Program.

Sunday, April 24, 2016: 5:30 to 6:00 PM - Food Storage:

During this 30 minute presentation, we will discuss how to start your food storage program. The first question to be addressed is how many people do you want to have food stored away for and what length of time (3 days, 1 month, 1 year) of emergency are you planning your food storage? What types of food can be placed in Mylar bags and food grade buckets? When it comes to canning, what foods are done in hot baths and what types require pressure cookers? What are the advantages of freeze dried foods?

Sunday, May 22, 2016: 5:30 to 6:00 PM - TBD:

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Berks Alert: www.berks.alertpa.org The Berks County Department of Emergency Services uses the Berks Alert system to immediately contact you during a major crisis or emergency. The Berks Alert system allows you to receive emergency notifications, updates, and notifications on all of your devices including:

Email (work, home, other)

Cell Phone (SMS text page)

Smartphone (iPhone, Android, BlackBerry, and Windows Phone)



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Optional Program:

The Berks County Sheriff Brigade Presents: Backyard Gardening Sunday, April 3, 2016 - 6:00 PM

Featuring Ms. Beth Finlay, Master Gardener Coordinator - Penn State Extension:
Come and learn how you can start and/or improve your backyard composting system.

Penn State Master Gardeners will demonstrate simple, effective methods of composting at home to convert readily-available materials to the "black gold" that is an ideal amendment for improving your soil. Tips and techniques will benefit both new and experienced composters. From Wikipedia: "Compost is the organic matter that has been decomposed and recycled as a fertilizer and soil amendment. Compost is a key ingredient in organic farming. At the simplest level, the process of composting simply requires making a heap of wetted organic matter known as green waste (leaves, food waste) and waiting for the materials to break down into humus after a period of weeks or months"



Local Backyard Gardeners Jim and Mary will present on their organic practices in producing high quality sustainable vegetables and fruits for themselves, their children and grandchildren. Within their presentation, you will see how they incorporate row, vertical and permaculture techniques in growing their food. Also, this year they built a grow room in their home where they are now starting their own plants using LED lighting. In conclusion, Mary will share her success in storing their food through canning, freezing, drying and cool storage of potatoes, onions and winter squash.





Date/Time: Sunday, May 22, 2016 / 6:00 PM

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Optional Program:

The Berks County Sheriff Brigade continues their yearlong Emergency Preparedness Programs with the following presentation:

What Happens to a Person During a Disaster or Crisis Situation?

Sunday, May 22, 2016 - 6:00 PM

Featuring Dr. Peggy C. Bowen-Hartung, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Alvernia University

Dr. Bowen-Hartung has served as a licensed psychologist in the states of Oklahoma and Texas, as well as a certified trauma specialist. In fact, her unique background has made her a valuable asset to the American Red Cross, which has called on the mental health specialist to treat first responders--world-wide--after hurricanes, typhoons, and other natural disasters. Bowen-Hartung was at ground zero after September 11, 2001, and has been to all 50 states and Canada, as well as every country in South America, Asia and Europe. Currently Bowen-Hartung teaches courses at Alvernia University and the Reading Police Academy on psychology and criminal justice. Locally, Bowen-Hartung is involved in both Anti-Gang Initiatives and Public safety Advisory Committee for the City of Reading.



How would you have reacted if you lived in Canada's Fort McMurray portion of the recent 400,000 acre apocalyptic firestorm which destroyed 1/5 of the town, displaced 88,000 persons, and destroyed much of the towns water and electrical infrastructure. Some things to consider: Normalcy bias - the denial of reality, fear & avoidance, withdrawal, hopelessness & helplessness.

Our Brigade sponsors ham radio training. having your ham license will be a great communication tool during disaster.

Our program will conclude with a constitutional presentation by Mr. Bill Reil from 7:15 PM to 8:00 PM.

