



COUNTY OF ERIE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Erie County, DEP unveil spill-response equipment

Erie, PA – Officials from the County of Erie and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on Wednesday unveiled new spill-response trailers that will be used to aid in rapid response to the release of hazardous materials, including crude oil.

The Great Lakes Emergency Spill Response Trailers are part of a collaborative effort between the county and the Pennsylvania DEP. The need for response trailers was identified by the Erie County Department of Public Safety during the creation of the Erie County Rail Safety Plan. Funding for the trailers and equipment was provided by a \$38,000 grant secured through the Pennsylvania DEP and the US Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

“Protecting Pennsylvania’s Lake Erie shoreline from chemical and oil spills is vital to securing safe drinking water and keeping public beaches and fishing streams clean,” said Timothy Bruno, chief of Pennsylvania DEP’s Office of the Great Lakes. “The spill response trailers and the preparedness of our emergency response personnel will provide environmental and public health safeguards, as well as protect recreational water resources that are economic generators for our region.”

The six trailers, which will be stationed at points around Erie County, each contain containment booms, oil-absorbent pads, loose absorbent and more. The trailers will be stationed at the following locations, made possible through partnerships with the hosting organizations:

- Lake City Fire Company, Station 57
- Walnut Creek Marina, at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission station
- City of Erie Fire Department, Marsh Street facility
- Harborcreek Volunteer Fire Department, Station 2
- North East Marina, at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission station
- Millcreek Township, at the municipal building, West 26th Street and Caughey Road

The trailer in Millcreek Township was purchased by the township, but equipment inside was funded by the grant. A seventh trailer, which served as the model for the other six, will remain stationed at Erie County's Public Safety facility in Summit Township.

“Stationing this equipment around Erie County helps to ensure that our first responders can get the necessary equipment to the site of a potential spill as quickly as possible,” said Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper. “We are helping to protect our waterways as well as our residents and communities.”

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