

Exhibit 2.

OEMHS Memorandum - summarizing its role in the response to the explosion / fire at 8701 Arliss Street, on August 10, 2016 ¹

¹ Redaction (of Personally Identifiable Information) by NTSB



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Earl Stoddard, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Director

MEMORANDUM

Friday, January 13, 2017

TO: Richard M. Downs, Jr., P.E.
Mechanical Engineer (Crashworthiness)
Chairperson, PE/Survival Factors Technical Working Group, Flower Branch Apartments
Explosion Investigation
National Transportation Safety Board

FROM: Earl Stoddard, PhD, MPH, CEM [REDACTED]
Director
Montgomery County (MD) Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

SUBJECT: Role of the Montgomery County (MD) Office of Emergency Management & Homeland
Security in responding to the Explosion and Fire at 8701 Arliss St on August 10, 2016

The explosion and ensuing fire that occurred at 8701 Arliss Street on August 10, 2016 represented a significant event for Montgomery County and its collective emergency response partners. OEMHS was initially notified of the explosion via the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) dispatch texts through the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center (ECC). The first page went out at 11:55pm on August 10 and additional escalating critical notification messages continued through 12:08am. While OEMHS does not respond to all fire events in Montgomery County, OEMHS immediately began dispatching staff to the scene to support Incident Command based on the rapidly escalating nature of this incident. OEMHS staff began arriving on-scene at approximately 12:30am and immediately began supporting Incident Command.

Whether through on-scene support capabilities or activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), OEMHS plays several roles in a collective, all-hazards response capability. Those roles can be loosely summarized into three areas; ensuring appropriate situational awareness among all County

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response partners, coordinating multi-disciplinary resource acquisition and management (logistics) during emergencies, and supporting real time response gap identification and correction during events. Each of these major areas was supported by OEMHS while operating in Unified Command to the Arliss Street Explosion and Fire.

While the above categories loosely define the areas of support OEMHS provides, it is critical to note that OEMHS embraces a culture of flexibility and adaptability. Therefore, when there are perceived (or actual) gaps, OEMHS aims to fill or identify appropriate resources to fill those gaps in support of a cohesive and thorough response in support of our residents' needs. Examples of the broad OEMHS activities during the Arliss Street incident include (but are not limited to):

- On-scene staffing in the Unified Command from arrival through the transition of the incident investigation to the National Transportation Safety Board;
- Activation of the County's WebEOC (online incident management, situational awareness and resource tracking dashboard) software system;
- Distribution of road closure and gas line testing (August 15) notifications through the County's public Alert Montgomery system;
- Coordination for onsite logistics needs such as: food, water, fuel, portable bathrooms/hand wash stations and other equipment as requested to support the responders onsite;
- Initial opening and ongoing support of the county emergency shelter at the Long Branch Community Recreation Center;
- Staffing support for the Family Reunification Center established on August 11 & 12 to support victim tracking and identification efforts;
- Participation in ongoing volunteer, donations, and human service coordination meetings with County and external stakeholders;
- Direct resource requests for assets including emotional and spiritual care support, crisis counseling, multilingual support services and transportation assets;
- Development of a protocol for use of the County's 311 system to collect public information regarding missing or potentially missing persons in support of MCPD investigation;
- Coordination with American Red Cross in support of sheltering operations and responder support services;

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- Organizing and supporting briefings for victims in the shelter by MCFRS, MCPD and OEMHS throughout the shelter operations;
- Identification of resources to conduct environmental and air quality testing in adjacent dwellings; and,
- Serving a liaison function with key visiting officials, including Senator Ben Cardin and Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford.

As the Chair of the County Emergency Management Group (EMG) – a collection of the more than one hundred emergency response stakeholders in Montgomery County – OEMHS supported development of the countywide After Action Report (AAR) and will be responsible for tracking corrective actions associated with the EMG AAR. Additional single departmental reviews were conducted to assess individual operational efforts.

In conclusion, this was a traumatic event for Montgomery County, including its responder community. OEMHS is deeply saddened for the families of those who lost their lives in this event, the injured, and all of those who lost so much during this tragic event. While OEMHS is proud of the efforts it and its partners undertook in support of this incident, there are always areas where we can improve and OEMHS is committed to ensuring that our collective response to future events reflects the lessons learned during the Arliss Street Explosion & Fire response as reflected in the After Action Reports and NTSB report being developed.