



ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL AT POTTSTOWN HOSPITAL

Recently, Pottstown Hospital along with Pottstown Police Department and Montgomery County SWAT-Western Region took part in an Active Shooter Emergency Preparedness Drill in the hospital.

Jim Magee, Manager of Emergency Preparedness, said the hospital has conducted drills in the past for mass casualties resulting from biohazards and other scenarios, and felt it was the right time to do an active-shooter drill as part of its emergency planning. "We have the 2nd busiest emergency department in Montgomery County, which leads to a large patient base. I think it was incumbent upon our staff to do an active-shooter drill," he said.

Patient care was not interrupted because the drill was conducted in a closed unit in the hospital. Hospital administration intentionally chose this unit due to its size allowing for a variety of scenarios during the drill. The drill helped Pottstown Hospital maintain a constant state of readiness and meet Pennsylvania Department of Health and Joint Commission requirements. The drill was designed to prepare staff,

including security and health care workers, for their roles in limiting casualties in an active-shooter scenario. Magee said the hospital has a good working relationship with Pottstown Police Department and Montgomery County SWAT-Western Region, and this drill provided an opportunity to enhance their collaborations. They plan to run the schedule future drills.

ABOUT POTTSTOWN HOSPITAL: Located in Pottstown, Pa., and a member of Tower Health, Pottstown Hospital is a 219-bed hospital that offers a full range of health services, including inpatient and outpatient, medical and surgical, and diagnostic and emergency care. Accredited by The Joint Commission, Pottstown Hospital has been recognized for its quality outcomes and clinical expertise across many service lines. The Hospital is Joint Commission-certified for hip and knee replacement and is also an accredited Chest Pain Center. Recently, Pottstown Hospital was recognized as a recipient of Get with the Guidelines/American Heart Association/American Stroke Association – Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Honor Roll Elite and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll. The Cancer Center at Pottstown Hospital is also nationally recognized, bringing over a decade of award-winning care to our region. The Pottstown Hospital Emergency Department, a Primary Stroke Center, is the second busiest in Montgomery County, seeing more than 45,000 patients a year. For more information, visit pottstown.towerhealth.org.

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PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT'S NET METERING PROGRAM

Derek Tyner with SunnyMac Solar/Energy Solar Solutions is working with the local utility companies in your area to get some information out to homeowners about Pennsylvania Power & Light's Net Metering Program. Have you heard anything about that yet?

What's happening now is this: Utility companies are in the process of transitioning to using green, renewable energy, which is a good thing, but it also costs them quite a bit to implement. Therefore, OUR electricity rates are going up. So, in effort to keep the costs down for that transition, they're incentivizing homeowners who are looking to transition to renewable energy on their own.

For homes in your area that qualify for it, it's actually possible to put solar panels on the home with literally no out-of-pocket money at all — no upfront costs.

When a homeowner does that, two things happen:

1. The electric bill gets switched over to a solar payment, usually lowering the monthly payment a bit, and then it stays the same. It doesn't ever go up again.

2. The homeowner gets a federal tax credit. On average, it's around \$5,000 —

sometimes higher, sometimes lower.

All this sounds good, but there's a catch— About 80 percent of homes in your area just don't qualify. Meaning, they either have too much shade from trees, or sometimes, people simply don't use enough electricity for this program to make sense.

To see if it makes sense, they look at two things:

1. They look at the home's "sky view" to see how much power can be generated from your roof.
2. They look at your electricity usage — it's on your bill on a graph.

With these two pieces of information, a report is generated. There's no cost or obligation associated with the report. It's just for information.

The report shows us two things:

1. If the home qualifies for this program.
2. If it does qualify, you'll know exactly how much money is being saved.

To receive this report this no obligation informational report, call or send your full electric bill to Derek Tyner at 610.597.0844; email: derek.tyner@sunnymacsolar.com.