



## THE EXPRESS-TIMES

### **Forks studies disaster plan**

**Officials urged to update emergency management plan.**

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**By COURTNEY LOMAX**  
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FORKS TWP. | The township's emergency management plan hasn't been updated for at least eight years, supervisors Chairman David Hoff said.

And the existing plan doesn't meet the current needs of the township, said Adam Maisel, volunteer firefighter and emergency management student at Lafayette College.

Maisel and fire Chief Bryan Weis took the public safety committee through hypothetical scenarios Tuesday of what the township would do in an emergency situation.

If a tractor-trailer hauling chlorine flipped over on a township road, how many residents would be affected and what would the township do to protect the community?

Maisel and Weis suggested the township hire a full-time employee to do the annual process of updating emergency management information, lists of resources and training drills.

"There is no accountability to it unless it's someone's job," Weis said.

Supervisors Hoff and Bonnie Nicholas said they didn't think hiring a full-time person now was the appropriate move.

Nicholas said she wants to see what the yearly process entails before hiring someone.

Police Chief Greg Dorney said he acquired some of the information Weis needs through the police department's recent accreditation process.

"(There's) a lot of duplication of efforts," Nicholas said.

Hoff agreed and said the township should use its own resources first before hiring someone to do the work.

The public safety committee plans to have a revised emergency management plan in place by next April.

"This is a major priority," Nicholas said.

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