



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 16, 2020

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Nearly 100 Residents to Attend Health & Safety Event Tonight to Discuss Air Quality and Emergency Management in Beaver County

Beaver, Pa. – More than 100 residents signed up to attend tonight’s virtual event that will focus on monitoring of the air shed and emergency management systems in Beaver County. The event is the first of four virtual programs for residents on how to stay safe as industrial development expands in the region and across the greater Ohio River Valley.

The event will be streamed live on [BCMAC’s Facebook](#) page and Zoom. [Registration](#) for events will remain open at bit.ly/BeaverEvents2020. A discussion and Q+A will follow the speakers.

This evening’s forum will open with personal stories from three local residents and what they learned from two accidents that occurred in Beaver County. One was the Revolution pipeline explosion in 2018 that ripped open the hillside above a neighborhood in Center Township. The other was the toxic, chlorine-smelling cloud that descended on homes in the early morning hours from leaking storage tanks in an abandoned Rochester building known as the Pool Doctor in June 2019. Both events bring important lessons to light, the residents said.

“A swift 911 early response system needs to notify every household in Beaver County when these events occur,” said Marcia Lehman, a resident of nearby Harmony Township. “What happened in Rochester needs to be seen as a wakeup call for much more potentially devastating situations that will inevitably happen at the Shell petrochemical plant.”

Following the residents’ stories, Adam Kron and Benjamin Krustman of Environmental Integrity Project and Karl Koerner of Clean Air Council will share information with residents on the Shell Fenceline settlement agreement.

“Moderating the data (air monitoring) via a website will be an important tool (for citizens) to watch emissions at the facility and interact with the data produced,” said Karl Koerner of Clean Air Council. Further information will be provided to assist residents in understanding the fence line system.

Other perspectives on air monitoring will include Ana Hoffman of Carnegie Mellon University’s CREATE Lab and Mark Dixon of Blue Lens who will share information on citizen air monitoring tools like the Purple Air Monitor network as well as opportunities to obtain a monitor for homes or businesses. Beaver County Emergency Management Director Eric Brewer will provide an overview of the county’s 911 emergency response program and public notification and communications systems.

The forum will then host a 45-minute discussion and Q+A with residents moderated by Sr. Kari Pohl of Sisters of St. Joseph at Baden.

The Beaver Event Series is sponsored by: Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC), Breathe Project, Beaver County NAACP, Beaver County Voice for Change, Clean Air Council, Environmental Health Project, Concerned Ohio River Residents and Reimagine Beaver County.