

UPPER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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TO: UPPER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: MARK F. SCHMIDT – CHIEF OF POLICE
DATE: 08/15/2023
RE: MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

NORMAL BUSINESS

July 15, a Flash Flood occurred along Rt 532 between Meadowview Drive and Wrightstown Road. This micro burst of energy released 7 inches of rain in 45 minutes in the general area which water was funneled through this ravine. Unfortunately, 11 vehicles with a total of 19 individuals were caught in this area by a wall of water. Search and Rescue teams from all over assisted the UMFD in their efforts to save the victims. 13 people were saved, 5 were confirmed dead and one victim remains missing. The force of the water moved a 4,000-pound Tesla a mile and a half and one of the victims was found several days later, 32 miles downstream from the where they were last seen. This incident brought both national and international attention to the people of this township. It showed the stamina and resilience of the both the volunteers and professionals in their quest to bring closure to the families of the lost. I was very proud of the Officers of this Pd who worked side by side with the Fire service. The PD aided in documenting the victims and retrieving and documenting lost articles and return them to the coroners' office. Officer Harry Vitello and Supervisor Tom Cino handled the press with timely news releases and managed a story that even several journalists have written about. One such article is attached at the end of this report. Even as this report is being written and placed in township achieves, crisis intervention sessions are ongoing for those who participated in the search.

MOTOR CARRIER ENFORCEMENT

July 26, the team met on RT 332 and Campus Drive in Newtown Township. During the detail 12 vehicles were inspected, resulting in 3 citations and 6 warnings being issued.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 25, 71st annual reenactment of the "Crossing of the Delaware".