



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL HAZMAT TEAM RECEIVES HANDHELD GAS DETECTOR

Uniontown, PA – With the assistance and support of the Fayette County Commissioners, the Fayette County Hazardous Materials Team has acquired a Xplor IR Meter.

This handheld gas detector is used in the detection and identification of hazardous materials vapors. The Xplor IR Meter collects air samples and uses infrared technology to identify the chemical groups of an exact chemical.

“Fayette County is home to several facilities that utilize extremely hazardous materials, such as chlorine and ammonia,” said Roy Shipley, director of the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency. “In the event of an emergency situation at one of these facilities, with the incorporation of this meter, our Hazardous Materials team members will be able to determine the type of chemical, or chemicals, that are in the air, as well as the quantities of said chemical(s). We can determine what materials we are faced with in a matter of minutes.”

Commissioners said the equipment was purchased via a Local Share Account (LSA) grant.

“Fayette county takes safety very seriously, and to that end, we have used a grant to purchase a handheld FT-IR Spectrometer to rapidly identify toxic vapors and gas,” Commissioner Harry Kaufman said. “This handheld device will be available for use by our HAZMAT team and first responders to identify a vapor or gas and protect our team members.”

Fayette County Commissioner Chair Scott Dunn said the new meter will play a key role in ensuring the safety of first responders and the public alike.

“It’s important to make sure our first responders are properly equipped and trained. To that end, getting this grant for these air quality meters will help our HAZMAT crews determine threats to public health very quickly,” Dunn said. “I want to thank Sen. Stefano and Rep. Warner for advocating on our behalf.”

“I also want to thank my friend Dick Oglevee, who first brought this to my attention. Without his knowledge and perseverance, this would not have been possible,” said Dunn.

Commissioner Vince Vicites said the health and safety of emergency workers is a priority.

“I am glad that the county received this Statewide LSA grant,” he said. “It will help keep our emergency management workers safe. We are always trying to improve the situation.”

Members of the Fayette County Hazardous Materials Team were in attendance at a training course July 2, at the Fayette County EMA Annex in Lemont Furnace.

“We can’t thank the commissioners enough for their support with this,” Shipley said. “The HAZMAT team members will now be more prepared for our next emergency.”

To learn more about the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency, follow “Fayette County PA Emergency Management Agency” on Facebook. To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.org.

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For more information, contact Kristi Kassimer Harper, Public Relations Specialist, at 724-437-4571, kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info or Jamie Rankin, Journalist, at 724-437-4571, jamierankin13@gmail.com.