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Joint Press Release

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Brackenridge, Harrison, and Tarentum Partner for First-of-Its-Kind Public Works and Utility Emergency Medical Training

Officials from Brackenridge Borough, Harrison Township, Harrison Township Water Authority, and Tarentum Borough announced the successful completion of the region's first joint Public Works and Utility Emergency Medical Training, held today at Citizens Hose in Natrona Heights. The full-day program, facilitated by Citizens Hose and Eureka EMS, trained municipal employees to respond to on-the-job medical emergencies, including cuts, amputations, chemical burns, confined space rescues, and fire-related incidents.

"This training empowers our Public Works and utility employees, the men and women who are often first on the scene of emergencies in our neighborhoods, to act quickly and effectively until EMS arrives," said Susan Clark, Tarentum Councilmember and Captain with Eureka EMS. "By combining resources and expertise across municipalities, we are giving our staff the tools and confidence they need to save lives."

The day-long course included both classroom instruction and hands-on practical scenarios, covering CPR, Stop the Bleed, confined space hazards, chemical exposure, and the deployment of fire extinguishers. Participants rotated through real-world simulations designed to reinforce fast and effective response until professional EMS units arrive.

"This is a true example of collaboration making our communities safer," said Jim Erb, Harrison Township Commissioner and Chief of EMS for Citizens Hose. "Our Public Works employees face real dangers every day. Equipping them with this kind of training means faster care in critical moments and stronger partnerships between municipalities and emergency responders."

Officials emphasized that this training is part of a broader effort to build regional cooperation and invest in workforce readiness across the Alle Kiski Valley.

The three municipalities and the water authority plan to expand these collaborative training opportunities in the future, strengthening readiness, reducing risks, and ensuring safer communities across the region.

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