

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

November 1, 2023

Subject: Train Derailment Emergency Evacuation Drill 11/5 at 3:30 PM

Dear Village Residents:

Back in November of 2014, the Village of Menands emergency services (MFD & MPD) conducted an evacuation drill for your neighborhood in the event of a train derailment in the area between the Menand Road and Brookside Avenue rail crossing. The drill was helpful not only to our first responders, but also to our residents who would be assisted in the event of such a mishap. Since that drill, there have been many new residents and first responders in our community. To have everyone on board with a safe means of evacuation, it has been determined that another drill should be executed. The drill is being organized under the auspices of Police Chief, Ryan St. Gelais and Chief of Menands Fire Department, Dave Ognan. The drill is part of the Village of Menands Emergency Preparedness Plan; we intend to repeat this drill every five (5) years.

The Train Derailment Emergency Evacuation Drill will be conducted on Sunday, November 5 at 3:30 PM and we urge all of you to participate with your vehicle. If you have children in your home, please be sure they are aware that this is a drill.

All residents residing and/or present on the West side of the CP Rail line will receive an emergency notification via our Emergency Notification System (Everbridge), that a vehicle evacuation is being conducted. The rooftop siren at the Menands Fire Department will also be activated. If you are not currently signed up for the Emergency Alert Program, we ask that you go to the Village of Menands website at: www.villageofmenands.com and click on the “Register for Village Alerts” tab. If you do not have a computer to do so, you may call the village office at 518-434-2922 so that Don or Nicole may assist you. If you are not sure that you are registered or have changed your number, you may call to have that information verified.

EVACUTATION PLAN: The evacuation route is: South Lyons Ave to Upland and exiting to Wards Lane via the Menands School path. At Wards Lane, all vehicles will be directed West up Wards Lane by MFD#1 Fire Police. Residents evacuating in vehicles **MUST NOT** travel West above N. Lyons Avenue up Menand Road toward Route 378. The gate at the top of the hill is designated as the access route for emergency vehicles arriving in the area as well as a route for them to both enter and exit.

The Village of Menands has an inter-municipal agreement with the Menands School which provides permission for the Village to use the school path for ingress and egress purposes in an emergency. We thank the Menands Union Free School District for their cooperation.

See more on reverse...

While it is impossible to predict the circumstances of every emergency, the drill allows us to develop procedures that will help us prepare for emergencies and help ensure the safety of the residents as they leave the area. Following the drill, the first responders will meet at the Village Hall to debrief and discuss how the event unfolded and if any changes are deemed necessary. Although participation is not required, it is strongly encouraged that you participate to ensure that you and your family understand how things will unfold in the event of an accident that necessitates an evacuation.

Emergency preparedness is an ongoing process, the Village of Menands is committed to providing its residents with a safe environment to live and work. Please plan on participating in the emergency evacuation drill on Sunday, November 5th at 3:30 PM.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Hon. Brian Marsh, Mayor

Chief Ryan St. Gelais, MPD

Chief David Ognan, MFD