



Civil Disorder

General

Throughout the history of the Commonwealth, riots have occurred infrequently. However, as seen in other parts of the country, riots can cause significant property damage, injury, and loss of life. Civil disorders vary widely in size and scope; impact is generally low. The 1964 riot in Philadelphia and the 1989 prison riot in Camp Hill are two examples of major civil disorders.

History

Major civil disorders and riots have had a minimal impact on the Snyder County. Small events occur frequently, however, larger events are not as common. Unlike several neighboring areas, Snyder County has never experienced a riot.

Vulnerability

Minor civil disobedience and public disorder is something that may occur, but with minimal impact. These events may be sparked for various reasons. Seriousness of the event may well be exacerbated by how authorities handle the crowd. Although there are no state correctional institutions in Snyder County, Frackville and Mahanoy State Correctional Institutions are located to the east, in Schuylkill County. Also, Rockview State Correctional Institution is to the northwest in Centre County, and Coal Township State Correctional Institution is to the east in Northumberland County. If a prison riot were to occur in Snyder County, it would be at the Snyder County Prison in Selinsgrove.

Probability

The probability of large-scale civil disorder occurring in Snyder County is extremely low. With this in mind, it is possible there may be an occurrence once every 30 years or less.

Maximum Threat

The greatest threat to Snyder County is an outbreak of civil disobedience occurring in the Selinsgrove Borough. Citizens, property, and infrastructure in downtown Selinsgrove could be affected, should a large-scale public disorder take place. Greater property damage would occur in the event of excessive revelry or due to a hostile demonstration by disruptive, controversial, or extremist organizations. A riot at the Snyder County Prison is the most likely type of civil disorder that could affect Selinsgrove Borough. This would cause disruption to the surrounding area, but would be contained within the confines of the facility.



Secondary Effect

Local government operations and the delivery of services in the community may experience short-term disruptions. Environmental impact is likely to be limited, unless acts of sabotage are performed. The greatest secondary effect is the impact on the economic and financial conditions of the affected community, particularly in relation to the property, facilities, and infrastructure that will likely be damaged as the result of vandalism. More serious acts of vandalism may result in the instance of a limited power failure or a hazardous materials incident, which could cause a limited public health emergency. Altered traffic patterns may increase the occurrence of traffic accidents. Periods of short-term work cessation may contribute to an adverse affect on small businesses and the local economy.