

Transportation – Air, Roadway, Rail, Transit, and Pipe

General

Transportation accidents claim more lives annually and cause more injuries than any other hazard. With rail, air, and highway transportation available across the Commonwealth, every county is susceptible to transportation related hazards.

There are no public airports listed in Perry County by the PennDOT Bureau of Aviation. However, this does not exclude the possibility of an aviation accident in the County. Any private airports and flight paths through the County can still represent a potential for an aviation accident.

Perry County is serviced by two major highways: U.S. Route 22/322 which travels through the middle portion of the County, and U.S. Route 11/15, which runs along the eastern border of the County. Major connector routes within the County include State Routes 17, 34, 104, 233, 235, 274, 849, and 850.

Elsewhere, Perry County is served by two major rail lines: a National RR Passenger Corporation passenger, and commuter railroad and a Class 1 Norfolk Southern railway line.¹

According to the South Central Pennsylvania Regional Goods Movement Study, approximately \$1.3 trillion in valued goods traveled through, to, or from the eight county region which includes Perry County. Due to its access to major markets in Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York City, and Washington D.C., many goods are staged in the South Central Pennsylvania region. This creates a large volume of truck traffic on the road infrastructure of many Pennsylvania counties, including Perry County.

The Perry County Transportation Authority (PCTA) provides on-demand (2-day notice) service to persons age 65+ and those with disabilities or a medical access card.. Transportation is provided to and from all points within the County (Monday – Friday) and to certain destinations outside the County, including Carlisle, Harrisburg, and Hershey (Monday, Wednesday & Friday only). There are limitations on pick-up and return times.

History

Perry County, even without major airports, is not excluded from aviation accidents. However, the Federal Aviation Administration lists no crashes in Perry County since 1962.

Perry County averaged 541 automotive crashes per year between the years 2002-2012. The upcoming table illustrates Perry County's crash statistics from 2002-2012. The most automotive crashes in the County occurred in 2003, when there were 609 recorded crash incidents. The number of crashes within the County is well behind the state per county average.

Deaths resulting from automotive crashes are relatively low in Perry County. In 2006, a peak of 18 deaths was related to automotive crash incidents. This again lagged behind the statewide average of

¹ ftp://ftp.dot.state.pa.us/public/pdf/BPR_pdf_files/MAPS/Statewide/parail.pdf

22 deaths per county related to automotive crashes. Recorded seatbelt usage in Perry County is recorded at a relatively high level.

**Table C.29
Perry County Automotive Crashes
2002-2012**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Crashes	545	609	559	567	566	587	589	473	469	508	480
State Average	2,061	2,092	2,050	1,982	1,915	1,968	1,882	1,817	1,809	1,870	1,851
Fatal Crashes	17	9	11	12	18	9	15	9	13	8	14
State Average	24	23	22	24	22	9	15	9	13	8	14
Seatbelt Usage	75%	81%	83%	83%	80%	81%	84%	80%	79%	82%	82.5%
State Average	67%	71%	72%	73%	73%	87%	85%	88%	86%	84%	84%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

No major public transportation accidents or terrorist attacks have occurred in Perry County. Similarly, Perry County has no recorded pipeline breaks. The National Response Center lists 30 hazardous material instances occurring in Perry County between December 1990 and December 2012. Of the 30 spills, 19 were oil products and 3 were automotive gas.

Vulnerability

Perry County’s vulnerability to an aviation accident is relatively low because there are no public airports in the County.

The vulnerability of a rail, transit, or personal automobile accident is directly related to the population and the traffic density of the area. In Perry County, U.S. Routes 22/322 and 11/15 present the greatest threat of an automotive or transit accident, as this major highway is traveled by local commuters and long distance travelers. Connector roads to U.S. Routes 22/322 and 11/15 also see greater traffic volumes and present higher vulnerability to transportation accidents.

According to the South Central Pennsylvania Goods Movement Study, the eight county Central Pennsylvania Region, including Perry County, is projected to see an annual increase of 2.2 percent in truck tonnage and 1.6 percent in rail tonnage through the year 2030. Further, the percentage of truck trips through the region is projected to increase 2.1 percent between 2003 and 2030. These projections will also bring about roadway congestion, safety concerns, shortage of proper parking areas, and other issues that can affect transportation incidents.

Perry County’s vulnerability to pipeline incidents generally depend on the secondary effects of other hazards including, but not limited to flooding, earthquakes, landslides, and severe weather.

Given the location of Perry County, it is unlikely a terrorist attack would occur on the County’s public transportation system. However, mass transit accidents on highways or secondary roads have a high probability of injuring many citizens.

Probability

The probability of a transportation accident occurring in Perry County is high. However, the probability of a **major** transportation accident (other than a routine transportation accident) is low.

Automobile accidents, both minor and fatal, will occur more frequently than a pipeline incident or a significant mass transit accident. Roadway accidents occur annually, often with limited impact.

Maximum Threat

The maximum transportation-related threat to Perry County is when the incident occurs in or near a heavily populated area. Each mode of public transportation experiences accidents on an annual basis. Each of these incidents can occur on both small and large scales, depending on the number of vehicles involved.

Automobile accidents can occur on any roadway. Typically, the higher speeds and more heavily traveled roads, such as U.S. Routes 22/322 and 11/15, experience a higher percentage of Perry County's automobile accidents. These traffic accidents are most common during periods of inclement weather. Significant pipeline accidents are not very common. The most vulnerable areas are those with pipelines running through or along hillsides. Mudslides and falling rocks can cause pipeline breaks. Rail accidents are not very common, but can occur anywhere along a rail line.

Secondary Effects

Hazardous material spills are the most common secondary effect of transportation accidents. Fires (both urban and rural) and utility failures can also occur.