

coming through the neighborhood, and the contents of each car. If an accident occurred, this information would be used by the Fire Department to determine the appropriate response.

• OEM has developed a specific plan to respond to a rail accident. It includes a number of City, State, and Federal agencies that would be involved in the response, as well as CSX.

- OEM has conducted exercises to test the plan and made appropriate revisions.
- If necessary, the standard evacuation zone in case of a rail accident is one-half mile. OEM would open an emergency shelter at a public school. Possible locations include Masterman and the High School for Creative and Performing Arts.
- In answer to a question from the audience, Phillips said that citizens observing

persons on the track who look like they don't belong there should call the Police Department Homeland Security Intelligence Unit at 215-686-TIPS.

The FRA is considering a number of regulatory changes to lessen the chance of oil-train derailments and spills. CCRA will continue to monitor this issue. Updates will appear in the weekly e-newsletter and future issues of the *Quarterly*.

Emergency Management Offers Just-in-Case Advice

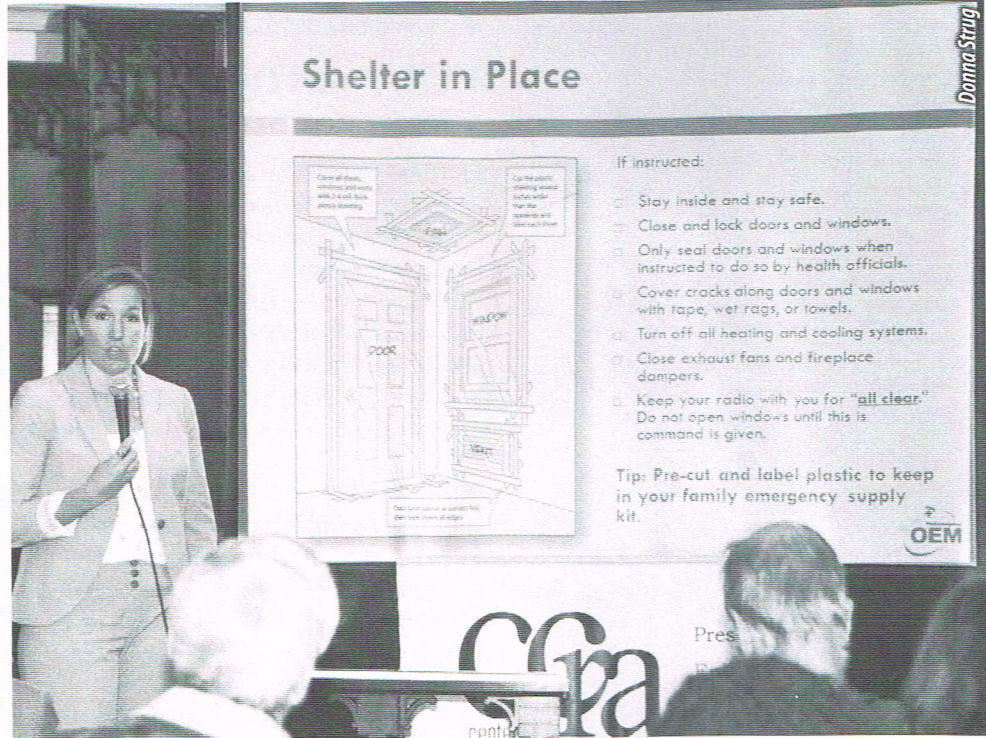
By Bonnie Eisenfeld

At a CCRA-sponsored meeting on April 27, Samantha Phillips, Director of Emergency Management for the City of Philadelphia, spoke about how Center City residents should prepare for any type of emergency, including extreme storms, floods, earthquakes, transportation accidents, terrorism, epidemics, fires, explosions, toxic spills, bomb threats, utility failures, building collapses, and other unknowns.

1. Sign up for emergency alerts by text or email. www.readynotifypa.org
2. If you see something suspicious, call the Homeland Security Intelligence Unit of the Philadelphia Police Department: 215-686-TIPS.
3. In case there is an emergency, get updates from radio and TV news stations, online at Philly311 (<http://www.phila.gov/311>), and Channel 64 (Government Access channel.)
4. Prepare to either shelter in place or evacuate, depending on instructions.

If you are a resident in a high-rise building, you can inform your management about these alerts and ask them to have all staffers, including those on call 24/7, sign up so they can alert residents if necessary. Early alerts could save lives.

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has emergency plans in place and experts on call for different types of emergencies. They do not release plans in advance to the general public for security reasons.



OEM Director Samantha Phillips addresses a neighborhood meeting of concerned citizens about how to prepare for large-scale emergencies.

For sheltering in place, Phillips recommends choosing a room in your residence with the least number of windows and a regular phone plugged in directly to a landline. Be prepared to seal windows, doors, and vents. Have food, water, medications, radio, flashlights, batteries, and other emergency supplies in that room. Be prepared to shelter in place up to 72 hours.

For evacuation, have a Go-bag ready with your personal emergency supplies, and listen for instructions. You will be directed to go to the nearest safe area. If you have family or friends in a safe area, they should be your first choice. As a backup, there also will be shelters open, such as public

schools. The High School for Creative and Performing Arts on South Broad Street has been used as a shelter in the past.

For more information about the Office of Emergency Management, go to <http://oem.readyphiladelphia.org/>

For more information about emergency preparedness, see the article in the December, 2012, issue of *Center City Quarterly*, "Documents and Underwear to Go," by Bonnie Eisenfeld, on p. 19. <http://centercityresidents.org/Resources/Documents/december%20newsletter%20for%20web%20from%20CC.pdf>