



Photo Caption

Rescue workers from Austintown Fire Department, Lane Life Trans Medic Rescue and the transportation department from the Mahoning County Board of MRDD participate in joint training exercises at Austintown Community Park

MRDD trains with local fire department for highway disaster

On August 28, the Mahoning County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MCBMRDD) took part in a joint training exercise with the Austintown Fire Department and Lane Life Trans to better prepare for a worst case scenario; a school bus accident involving injuries. The MRDD Transportation Department met at the Austintown Park on Kirk Road for a full day of training in collaboration with the local rescue workers. The joint training covered school bus evacuations, fire suppression and accident procedures. The MRDD staff experienced the sights and sounds of a mass emergency incident as a school bus donated by Myers equipment was ripped open with extraction tools to simulate an evacuation procedure under difficult circumstances. An MCBMRDD bus was filled with non-toxic smoke to simulate the noise and confusion of an on board fire. Austintown Fire Department used the experience as training for potential highway disasters while MRDD staff realized what could occur with each trip throughout Mahoning County. Staying ahead of the learning curve through intensive training assists staff to perform more efficiently, explore better ways to provide services and critically examine current practices and procedures to improve skills. The Austintown Fire Department practiced skills that every parent hopes will never be needed.