

EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

Volume 16, Issue 1

Winter 2016

COUNTY OF LYCOMING EMA QUARTERLY TRAINING

(Emergency Management Coordinators serving the municipalities of Lycoming County)

The next County of Lycoming EMA Quarterly Training will be held on:

THURSDAY - March 31, 2016 - 6:30 pm

APPRECIATION DINNER

**HOLIDAY INN - WILLIAMSPORT
100 PINE STREET, WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: TPR. MIKE HUTSON, PSP/FBI JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE
SPECIAL AGENT KYLE MOORE, FBI**

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

Our keynote speakers for the 39th Annual Appreciation Dinner are Trooper Mike Hutson and Special Agent Kyle Moore. Both gentlemen are with the Federal Bureau of Investigations in the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Their topic is titled "The Coming Storm" which deals with the threat of facing an active shooter. This is a unique training, designed to inspire collaboration among first responders in preparing for and managing this potentially harmful event. For more information about their presentation visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4G12LAV4GpQ>

Please join us for this informative session and enjoy dinner too! Hope to see you there!

IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

Welcome Commissioners!	2
Vacant EMC Positions	2
Emergency Response Guidebook 2016	3
Why Do Vehicles Float?	4
Notes From the Director	5
ACS Winter Field Day	5
American Red Cross	6
Upcoming EMA Classes	7
Lawncare Safety	7
Getting to Know Our EMCs	8
Natural Gas Activity	8
HAM in a Day	9
Thunderstorms and Lightning	10, 11
Quarterly Training Schedule	12
We Want to Hear From You	12
Contact Us	12

WELCOME COMMISSIONERS!

On January 4, 2016, Lycoming County inaugurated two new commissioners, Mr. R. Jack McKernan and Mr. Richard Mirabito, as well as incumbent, Mr. Tony Mussare. Festivities were held at the Community Arts Center in Williamsport.



Mr. McKernan is serving as the Chairman for the Board of Commissioners, while Mr. Mussare is the Vice Chairman and Mr. Mirabito is the Secretary.

Left to Right: Commissioner Mirabito,
Commissioner McKernan,
Commissioner Mussare

Please join the Department of Public Safety in welcoming the new Commissioners to office.

VACANT EMC POSITIONS

In accordance with Title 35, all municipalities in the Commonwealth must have an Emergency Management Coordinator. Currently, the following municipalities do not:

ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP

MCHENRY TOWNSHIP

PINE TOWNSHIP

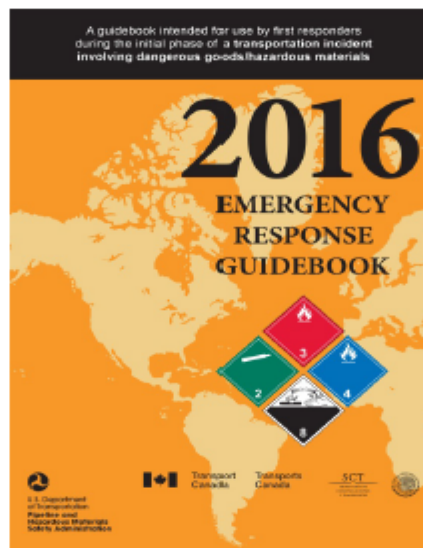
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

If you or anyone you know would be interested in this position, please contact the Lycoming County EMA office at 570-433-4461.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK 2016

The next edition of the Emergency Response Guidebook is due to be released in 2016. Below is a preview of the updates you can expect to see in this edition. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency will determine the allotment of books Lycoming County will receive. Once these books are received by our office, we will contact area municipalities and departments to pick up their books. Our office does not have a date for distribution from PEMA, so please wait for our call before contacting the office to get your ERGs.

Emergency Response Guidebook 2016 *Coming Early 2016!*



Preview of Updates

- Replaced written instructions on page 1 with a flow chart to show how to use the ERG2016.
- Expanded Table of Placards and updated title to Table of Markings, Labels, and Placards and Initial Response Guide to Use on Scene.
- Expanded Rail Car Identification Chart and Road Trailer Identification Chart to two pages each.
- Updated Table 1 and Table 3 based on new TIH data and reactivity research.
- Updated pipeline emergency response information.
- Added information about Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) markings.
- Added all new dangerous goods/hazardous materials listed in UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to 19th Revised Edition.
- Added information on Emergency Response Assistance Plans (ERAP) applicable in Canada.

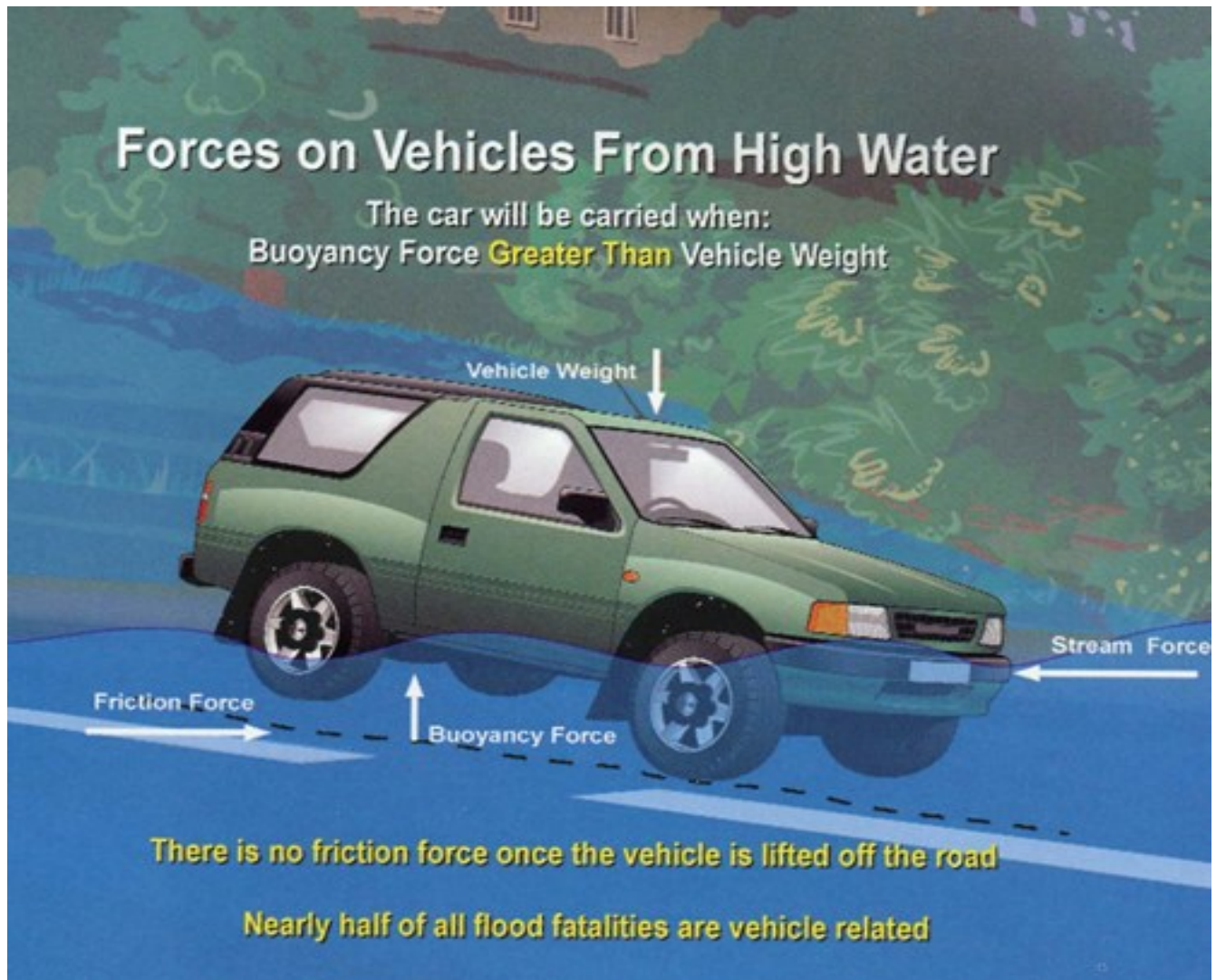
WHY DO VEHICLES FLOAT?

Where does this idea that "my heavy vehicle will keep me safe" come from? It comes from the false trust in the weight of the vehicle you are driving.

Many believe their 3,000 pound or more vehicle will remain in contact with the road surface, that it is too heavy to float. Think about that for a moment. Aircraft carriers weighing 97,000 tons float.

Vehicles, including ships, float because of buoyancy. In fact, most cars can be swept away in 18-24 inches of moving water. Trucks and SUVs do not fare much better with an additional 6-12 inches of clearance.

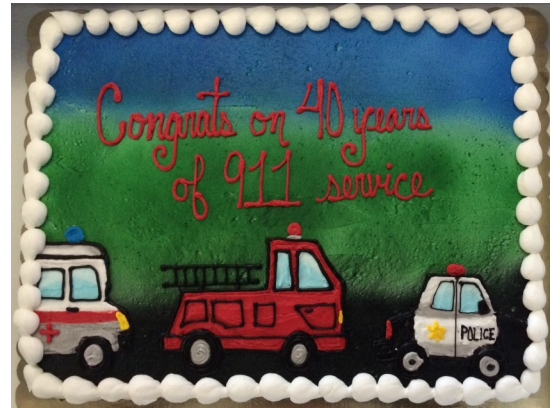
So when faced with a flooded roadway, remember "Turn Around, Don't drown"!



Notes from the Director...

Warmer weather is due to arrive in Lycoming County! Please keep an eye to the sky for severe storms and heavy rainfall. Please take a few moments and review your personal and your community's severe weather awareness and flood readiness plans, to include your elected officials. This is an excellent time to put information concerning severe weather readiness and individual preparation on your local web site or in your newsletter. DPS will be hosting SKYWARN training in April, please register for this program if you have a chance.

February 29, 2016 was the 40th Anniversary of the Lycoming County 911 center. The first call was dispatched by "County Control" at 1655 hours on February 29, 1976 for a Brush Fire along French Settlement Road near Duboistown. At that time, the 911 Center was located in the basement of the County Courthouse and had seven (7) full time dispatchers. By 1983, approximately 70% of the County's population had access to 911 to report an emergency. The system has grown from that first day to a multi-county 911 operation. In 2015, the 911Center answered over 58,000 911 telephone calls and dispatched over 61,388 Fire, Police, or EMS incidents.



On a closing note, PLEASE ensure you forward copies of your certification or training certificates to the DPS Office. Many of these programs are available on-line for your convenience.

THANKS!

John

ACS WINTER FIELD DAY



Pictured is Lycoming ACS Member John Mummert - KB3ZVX. Photo taken by ACS member Bob Brown - KB3IPZ.

On Saturday 01/30/2016, Lycoming ACS participated in Winter Field Day 2016. Winter Field Day is an event in which units like ACS practice their Amateur Radio skills in a realistic winter environment. Bonus points are awarded for operating outdoors, without grid power and away from home. Lycoming ACS operated from the pergola in the Sensory Garden at the County Farm complex to gain extra bonus points. Although it was sunny, it was not very warm. Lycoming ACS operated for approximately 3 hours and made 15 contacts with other Amateur radio operators from around the Country.

Thanks to the ACS team for their continued dedication!



American Red Cross
Central Pennsylvania Region

As You Fight the Fire

let us help those who have been displaced

We're there when you need us!

A structure fire is devastating to those impacted by the blaze. While your primary responsibility is to extinguish the fire, ours is to help those who have been burned out of their home.

The Red Cross stands ready to provide the clients (victims of disaster) with immediate assistance to secure food, clothing, and shelter. We then continue to work with those impacted throughout the recovery process.



The Basics

A Phone Call Away

To dispatch the Red Cross, notify your County Communications Center who will, in turn, contact the Red Cross dispatcher, who then deploys local volunteers to the scene. The sooner the call is made, the quicker we can get there to assist. Upon being dispatched, we will arrive within two hours, often sooner. The volunteer team will notify the County Communications Center of the estimated time of arrival.

What We Need To Know

When dispatching the Red Cross, please let the County Communications Center know how many individuals and where they will be located (neighbor's house, property management office, on the street corner, etc.). If the clients can provide a phone number, that is also helpful.

We Always Wear Identification

All Red Cross volunteers who respond to incidents wear identification badges. Some also wear Red Cross vests or jackets. At times, they will arrive in a Red Cross vehicle.

Livable Or Not

Red Cross volunteers do not need to make entry into the structure to assess the damage. They only need to know from the Fire Chief, or other official, whether a building is livable or not.

What We Provide

Our meeting with the clients typically take 20-30 minutes. We attempt - whenever possible - to meet in a private location away from the scene. After assessing the situation and the needs of those impacted, we provide the resources necessary to meet the clients' immediate needs (food, clothing, shelter, etc.). If medication was lost in the fire, we help to secure replacement prescriptions. We also work with the clients in the days following the incident to help them with their recovery plan and, if appropriate, to provide referrals for additional community resources. *Please note, even if a person has insurance, immediate assistance may be required until contact with the insurance company can be made.*

UPCOMING EMA CLASSES

Classes listed below with an (*) are required for one or more of the certification levels for municipal Emergency Management Coordinators. **Attendees must register on-line or through the County EMA office.** Contact Kelle Robinson with any questions concerning these classes.

*INITIAL DAMAGE REPORTING COURSE

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office

SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office

Other Training Resources:

PEMA TRAINING CALENDAR:

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=5051&&mode=2>

PEMA (ON-LINE) TRAINING:

https://www.centrelearn.com/login_pa.asp

FEMA (EMI) (ON-LINE) TRAINING:

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslst.asp>



LAWNCARE SAFETY



Itching to get the yard into shape for summer? Here are ways to help ensure your spring spruce-up is disaster free:

- ♦ Limber up. Yard chores may seem easy, but they involve muscles you probably haven't used in a while.
 - ♦ Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.
 - ♦ More than 60,000 people are treated in emergency rooms each year for lawn mower injuries.
- ♦ Rake before you mow to prevent any stones and loose debris from launching into the air.
 - ♦ Never operate a mower in your bare feet and avoid wearing loose clothing.
 - ♦ Never start a mower indoors.
 - ♦ When refueling your mower, make sure the engine is off and cool. Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine and don't smoke while pouring gasoline.
 - ♦ Never leave your mower operational while unattended.
 - ♦ Don't use electrical mowers on wet grass.

Information from: safetytoolboxtopics.com

GETTING TO KNOW OUR EMCs

For the next edition in the series of “Getting to Know Our EMCs”, we will be featuring Mrs. Iva Mae Guillaume. Mrs. Guillaume was appointed as Emergency Management Coordinator for Cogan House Township in March of 2007.

Mrs. Guillaume has been a resident of Lycoming County her entire life. She graduated from Liberty High School and also from Bloomfield University, with a degree in Business Management. Along with her regular duties as EMC, Iva Mae represents her township in the West Branch Emergency Management Association. She is also a member of the Quiggleville United Methodist Church and serves in their Woman’s Society.



Iva Mae holds the Basic, Advanced, and Professional levels of PEMA certification. Mrs. Guillaume is also a Weather Watcher for the National Weather Service in State College. She holds fire, rescue, and ambulance certifications and oversees the CERT and Crime Watch programs within her township.

Iva Mae and her husband, Edward, have been married for 45 years. They are the proud parents of Tena and Glenna. They have four grandchildren, Blaze, Riley, Destena, and Anna Mae. Edward retired from Fisher Mining Company after 41 years of service and he continues to work the family farm.

Lycoming County EMA would like to thank Mrs. Iva Mae Guillaume for her many years of service within the county and her community.

NATURAL GAS ACTIVITY

The Natural Gas Industry continues to grow in the Central \Pennsylvania area. Below are some statistics for Natural Gas Activity within Lycoming County as of January 1, 2016:

Named Wells—1506
Addressed Wells—1469
Permitted Wells—1362
Spudded Wells—907
Wells within 1/2 mile interface zone—693
Compressor/meter/interconnect Stations—70
Water impoundments and withdraw sites—102
Active drill rigs—0

13 Operators (Top 3 of addressed well pads)

1. Anadarko - 120
2. Range - 57
3. Exco - 53

31 Municipalities (Top 3 with activity)

1. Cogan House Township- 60
2. Cummings Township- 58
3. Penn Township - 25

Please contact Craig Konkle if you need any additional information concerning Energy Development within Lycoming County.

HAM IN A DAY 2016!



“HAM in a Day 2016” was another success. The Auxiliary Communications Service of Lycoming County hosted this event at the Department of Public Safety on February 6, 2016. We had a total of 19 students attend the course. There were (17) new HAMS that passed their Technician level, (1) upgrade to General & (1) upgrade to Extra. Additionally we had a digital station in the hallway

which garnered a lot of questions

from the students. Our own ACS team member Jim DiPalo had a great display of Amateur Radio Frequency controlled drones on display for all to view. Thank you to all the ACS members who assisted for a prosperous day.

Thank you to Travis Best & the members of Bald Eagle Repeater Association for handling the examination duties and part of the instruction.

We are offering a follow-up course Basic HAM Operations March 5, 2016 here at DPS to assist the new HAMS in getting started or the older HAMS to refresh their skills .



PEMA Fact Sheets Thunderstorms and Lightning

Some thunderstorms can be seen approaching, while others hit without warning. It is important to learn and recognize the danger signs and to plan ahead.

It is equally important to provide your residence or business with a "Weather Alert Radio" receiver that permits you to receive warning messages from the National Weather Service and local emergency management agencies.

BEFORE

Learn the thunderstorm danger signs.

- Dark, towering, or threatening clouds.
 - Distant lightning and thunder
- Have disaster supplies on hand
 - Flashlight with extra batteries
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
 - First aid kit and manual
 - Emergency food and water
 - Nonelectric can opener
 - Essential medicines
 - Cash and credit cards
 - Sturdy shoes

Check for hazards in the yard.

Dead or rotting trees and branches can fall during a severe thunderstorm and cause injury and damage.

- Make sure that all family members know how to respond after a thunderstorm.
 - Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, fire department, and which radio station to tune for emergency information.

Severe Thunderstorm Watches and Warnings

- A *severe thunderstorm* watch is issued by the National Weather Service when the weather conditions are such that a severe thunderstorm (damaging winds 58 miles per hour or more, or hail three-fourths of an inch in diameter or greater) is likely to develop. This is the time to locate a safe place in the home and tell family members to watch the sky and listen to the radio or television for more information.
- A *severe thunderstorm* warning is issued when a severe thunderstorm has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. At this point, the danger is very serious and everyone should go to a safe place, turn on a battery-operated radio or television, and wait for the "all clear" by the authorities.
 - Learn how to respond to a tornado and flash flood.
- Tornadoes are spawned by thunderstorms and flash flooding can occur with thunderstorms. When a "severe thunderstorm warning" is issued, review what actions to take under a "tornado warning" or a "flash flood warning."

Develop an emergency communication plan.

- In case family members are separated from one another during a thunderstorm (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact". After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.
- Contact your local emergency management office or American Red Cross chapter for more information on thunderstorms and lightning.

Continued on page 11

Thunderstorms and Lightning **(Continued)**

DURING

If indoors:

- Secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture that could blow away or cause damage or injury. Take light objects inside.
 - Shutter windows securely and brace outside doors.
 - Listen to a battery operated radio or television for the latest storm information.
- Do not handle any electrical equipment or telephones because lightning could follow the wire. Television sets are particularly dangerous at this time.
- Avoid bathtubs, water faucets, and sinks because metal pipes can transmit electricity.

If outdoors:

- Attempt to get into a building or car.
- If no structure is available, get to an open space and squat low to the ground as quickly as possible. (If in the woods, find an area protected by low clump of trees--never stand underneath a single large tree in the open.) Be aware of the potential for flooding in low-lying areas.
 - crouch with hands on knees.
 - Avoid tall structures such as towers, tall trees, fences, telephone lines, or power lines.
- Stay away from natural lightning rods such as golf clubs, tractors, fishing rods, bicycles, or camping equipment.
 - Stay from rivers, lakes, or other bodies of water.
- If you are isolated in a level field or prairie and you feel your hair stand on end (which indicates that lightning is about to strike), bend forward, putting your hands on your knees. A position with feet together and crouching while removing all metal objects is recommended. Do not lie flat on the ground.

Important: You are in danger from lightning **if you can hear thunder**. Knowing how far away a storm is does **not** mean that you're in danger only when the storm is overhead.

AFTER

Check for injuries.

A person who has been struck by lightning does not carry an electrical charge that can shock other people. If the victim is burned, provide first aid and call emergency medical assistance immediately. Look for burns where lightning entered and exited the body. If the strike causes the victim's heart and breathing to stop, give cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until medical professionals arrive and take over.

Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance--infants, elderly people, and people with disabilities.

Report downed utility wires.

Drive only if necessary. Debris and washed-out roads may make driving dangerous.

MITIGATION

Mitigation includes any activities that prevent an emergency, reduce the chance of an emergency happening, or lessen the damaging effects of unavoidable emergencies. Investing in preventive mitigation steps now, such as installing lightning rods to carry the electrical charge of lightning bolts safely to the ground or purchasing flood insurance, will help reduce the impact of severe thunderstorms in the future. For more information on mitigation, contact your local emergency management office.

2015 QUARTERLY TRAINING

March 31	6:30 pm	Thursday	Holiday Inn
June 23	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
September 22	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
December 8	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

Just a reminder, this newsletter is written for you, the emergency responder in Lycoming County. If there is something that you wish to see in the newsletter or you have a story that you would like to share, please let us know. We are always looking for ideas for upcoming newsletters!

COUNTY EMA STAFF

Your County EMA staff is proud to serve you, and will always welcome your comments and suggestions to promote a better EMA community. Please contact us at any time.

TELEPHONE: 570-433-4461 (local)
570-329-4061 (local)

EMAIL: ema@lyco.org - for general department email

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