

EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

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Fall 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 - December 8, 2016 - 7:00 pm

At

LYCOMING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
542 COUNTY FARM ROAD, SUITE 101
MONTOURSVILLE, PA 17754



TOPIC: Duties and Responsibilities of the EMC Course/Refresher
Presented by: County EMA Staff

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

For the next EMA Quarterly Training we will be holding the Duties and Responsibilities of the EMC Course. This will be new for some of our EMCs and a refresher for others.

The purpose of this course is to acquaint the EMC to the various duties, responsibilities, and laws governing their position. The County EMA staff will be presenting this course.

Please plan to attend this important training. Even if you have already taken this course, it never hurts to brush up on your knowledge.

Hope to see you there!

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Flooding Event of 21 October 2016 FROM THE DIRECTOR

On Friday October 21, 2016 @ 1:39 a.m., The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Flood Warning for North Central Lycoming County. Shortly afterwards, the County's 911 Center issued a Management Team ALL CALL alerting key staff of the flooding. The County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated and an ALL CALL alert was broadcast to ALL county fire departments to staff their stations. During the next 24 hours, the Lycoming/Sullivan County 9-1-1 Center dispatched over 665 Fire/EMS calls for service.



The flash flooding, as a result of 4" – 8+" of Doppler radar estimated rainfall, occurred mainly along the tributaries of the Lycoming and Loyalsock Creeks. The flooding then did extend to both the aforementioned streams. The West Branch of the Susquehanna River did not approach flood stage during this event in Lycoming County.

In McIntyre Township, the rapid rise of Pleasant Stream was devastating to the village of Marsh Hill and the surrounding area with an estimated fifty plus seasonal cabins and homes either damaged or destroyed. The County EOC and local officials coordinated with First Energy Power to develop a plan to restore power to 59 customers. Four utility poles and new power line were installed on 26 October to assist with power restoration.

The villages of Warrensville/Eldred Township and Proctor were also greatly impacted by the swift moving water. Locally severe damage also occurred in Cascade, Gamble, Loyalsock, Hepburn, McNett, and Lewis Townships.



Multiple state and local municipal roads and bridges were not exempt from the destructive forces of the flood waters. Multiple bridges were either totally destroyed or sustained damage resulting in impacts to school bus routes, emergency unit response, and recovery efforts. The loss of the bridges will have a longer term impact on residents due to additional miles to get from home to work and will limit access to seasonal cabins which will impact on bear and deer hunting seasons and the related economic factors.

Flooding Event of 21 October 2016 FROM THE DIRECTOR

Continued



One polling place was directly impacted in Loyalsock Township and an alternate polling site has been identified.

As a result of the flooding, The County declared a disaster declaration in effect until 10 November 2016. Twelve (12) other municipalities have declared local level disaster declarations to include: Cascade Twp, Eldred Twp, Gamble Twp, Fairfield Twp, Hepburn

Twp, McIntyre Twp, Montoursville Borough, Old Lycoming Township, Loyalsock Township, Piatt Township, and Plunketts Creek Twp.

A breach occurred on an 8" liquid petroleum pipeline operated by Sunoco Logistics. The breach was near the confluence of Wallis Run and the Loyalsock Creek. Approximately 55,000 gallons of gasoline was released into the waterway and local first responders, the PA DEP, Region III EPA, and the Sunoco Logistics responded to the incident. The pipeline was successfully shut down, capped, and has been subsequently repaired and returned to service.

During the period of November 1st through November 5th, three "mini" Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) were opened by the County to assist citizens with recovery efforts. 117 people visited the DRCs to receive tetanus shots, well testing kits, cleaning supplies and assistance with various short term recovery and long term mitigation programs.

The Department of Public Safety wishes to thank the first responders, relief agencies, and the many volunteers who assisted with the response and the recovery efforts to this flooding event. I especially wish to thank the local EMC Coordinators who spent many hours assisting with damage assessment and FEMA/PEMA/SBA eligibility inspection tours. A special thanks from DPS is also extended to the County's Maintenance Department, Commissioner's Office, Planning and Community Development staff, Soil Conservation District



staff, Pre-Release Center, Adult Probation Office, Fiscal Services Office, Resource Management Services, and the Sherriff's Department for the assistance with the flood recovery.



LYCOMING COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

From John Yingling

NEW Equipment in service FALL of 2016:

Station 1 – The Williamsport Bureau of Fire placed a new 2017 KME Engine in service. The unit has a 1,500 gallon per minute pump, a 500 gallon water tank, 1,200' of 5" supply line and a Class A/B Foampro system. The unit has been designated ENGINE 1.

Station 6 – The Nippenose Valley VFC has placed a new 2017 Freightliner Tanker in service. The unit has a 1,000 gallon per minute pump, a 2,500 gallon water tank and 1,000' of 5" supply line. The unit also features a 3,000 gallon port-a-tank and a 10" dump system. The unit has been designated TANKER 6. The previous Tanker 6 has been re-designated as Tanker 1-6.

Station 26 – The Picture Rocks VFC has placed a new 2017 Freightliner/KME Tanker in service. The unit features a 500 g.p.m. pump, a 2,100 gallon water tank, and a side/rear 10" dump system. The unit has been designated TANKER 26.

SSES EXERCISE

Lycoming County Emergency Management participates in another successful Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) exercise! The exercise, which is held every other year, is to test the abilities of our EOC staff, Radiological team, and Amateur radio team.

The two day event began on October 18, 2016 with the EOC portion of the exercise. This portion is to test our capabilities for receiving evacuees in our County, should an event occur at the SSES facility.

The second day of the exercise took place on October 19, 2016 at the Hughesville High School and at the Lycoming Mall. This portion test how our radiological monitoring and how we handle the receiving of evacuees. Our Amateur radio members also test the ability to maintain communications.

Once again we received a good review from the Federal evaluators! Thanks to all of our staff and volunteers who helped make this exercise a success!

LOAN ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

On November 21, 2016, Governor Tom Wolf announced approval for Small Business Administration (SBA) loans to be available to the victims of the flooding event that occurred in Lycoming County on October 21, 2016. After touring the areas and homes damaged by the flooding, the Governor requested a Federal Declaration to be issued to enable flood victims to be eligible to apply for SBA loans.

The SBA offers low-interest loans of up to \$200,000 to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. SBA regulations permit loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Businesses and nonprofits can borrow up to \$2 million to restore damaged or destroyed buildings, inventory, equipment and assets. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial qualifications.

The SBA will be setting up a Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) at the Lysock Complex at 542 County Farm Road in Montoursville. The DLOC will begin operating at 10:00am on November 29, 2016 and running until 3:00pm on December 8, 2016. Weekday operational hours will be from 8:30am to 4:00pm. There will be hours on Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Three types of Disaster Loans are available to those who qualify. They include:

- Home Disaster Loans - Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate and personal property, including automobiles.
- Economic Injury Disaster Loan - working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster.
- Business Physical Disaster Loans - loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, non-profit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc., are also eligible.

Persons and/or businesses interested in applying for any of these loans can stop by the DLOC during operational hours, by applying inline using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) on the SBA website (<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>) or by mailing an application to the SBA. Applications can be downloaded at www.sba.gov/disaster. Completed application should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. Applications must be returned no later than January 17, 2017.

For more information, please see links on the Lycoming County website, www.lyco.org, or contact the Department of Public Safety at 570-433-4461.

IN THE RIGHT *light*

DECORATE YOUR HOME SAFELY DURING THE HOLIDAYS:

According to the National Fire Protection Association, **860 home fires** caused by holiday decorations occur **each year**. An additional **210 home fires** are caused by Christmas trees per year. Follow these steps to ensure you decorate your home safely during the winter holidays.



Make sure all **extension cords and electrical decorations** are marked for **proper use**



Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by **ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)**



Inspect all lights, decorations, and extension cords **for damage before using**



Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least **10 feet from power lines**



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations **before leaving home or going to sleep**



Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can **overheat and cause a fire**



Never connect more than **three strings of incandescent lights** together



Water your Christmas tree **daily**



Keep all decorations at least **3 feet away** from **heating equipment or an open flame**



Purchase electrical decorations from reputable retailers and that are approved by a national recognized testing lab such as **UL** (Underwriters Laboratory), Intertek (**ETL**), or Canadian Standards Association (**CSA**)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ELECTRICAL FIRE PREVENTION VISIT WWW.ESFI.ORG



www.facebook.com/ESFI.org



www.twitter.com/ESFI.org



www.youtube.com/ESFI.org

Post-Flooding Safety



BASIC SAFETY:

Road Conditions

- Do not drive around highway barriers and road closed signs even if flood waters have receded. The roadway and bridges may have been damaged during flooding. Until inspectors take a look, you cannot assume the roadway is safe to use.
- Be aware that there may be detours and delays in the weeks ahead as crews repair damaged roadways, bridges and other transportation infrastructure. Please be patient and allow extra travel time in flood-damaged areas and slow down to keep road crews and fellow motorists safe.
- Do not put yourself in harm's way by visiting damaged sections of roadway for sightseeing or picture taking. Not only do you endanger yourself, you can delay workers from making much-needed repairs.
- Keep an eye out for debris on roadways.

Avoid floodwater

- Avoid contact with floodwater, which contains contaminants (things like sewage, fuel and hazardous chemicals) and debris from flooded homes, businesses and industrial sites.

Wash your Hands

- Use soap and warm water to wash your hands. If water isn't available, use alcohol-based sanitizer.

Treat Wounds

- Clean out all open wounds and cuts with soap and clean water. Contact a doctor to find out whether more treatment is needed (such as a tetanus shot). If a wound gets red, swells, or drains, seek immediate medical attention.

WHEN RE-ENTERING/CLEANING OUT YOUR HOME:

Wear protective gear for cleanup work

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing hard hats, goggles, heavy work gloves and watertight boots with steel toes and insoles (not just steel shank). Wear earplugs or protective headphones to reduce risk from equipment noise.

Prevent Mold Growth

- Be careful when entering a flood-damaged building. Loose, wet ceiling plaster is heavy and dangerous, so knock down hanging plaster before moving around.
- Clean up and dry out flooded buildings within 24 to 48 hours if possible. Open doors and windows and use fans to speed drying. To prevent mold growth, clean wet items and surfaces with detergent and water. To remove mold growth, wear rubber gloves, open windows and doors, and clean with a bleach solution of one cup of bleach in one gallon of water. Throw away porous items – like carpet, mattresses and upholstered furniture – that cannot be dried quickly.
- Everything that floodwater has touched should be disinfected. Scrub down walls and any other smooth, hard surfaces with the same bleach-water solution.
- Do not rush to move back into your home. Before a house is habitable, it must be dried and thoroughly cleaned, since floodwaters pick up sewage and chemicals as they travel.



Post-Flooding Safety

Continued

FOOD:

When in doubt, throw it out! Throw away food that may have come in contact with floodwater

– like:

- Home-canned foods.
- All foods in cardboard boxes, paper, foil, cellophane (plastic wrap) or cloth.
- Meat, poultry, eggs or fish.
- Spices, seasonings, extracts, flour, sugar, grain, coffee and other staples in canisters.
- Unopened jars with waxed cardboard seals, such as mayonnaise and salad dressing. Also, throw away preserves sealed with paraffin wax.
- Throw away any fruits and vegetables that have been in contact with floodwaters – including those that have not been harvested from gardens.
- Wooden cutting boards, plastic utensils, baby bottle nipples and pacifiers.

You do **NOT** need to throw away the following items if they have been in contact with floodwater:

- Commercially canned foods that came into contact with floodwater and have been properly cleaned by: labeling cans with the name of food in permanent marker; removing labels; washing cans in water containing detergent; soaking cans for at least one minute in chlorine solution; rinsing in clean, cool water; placing on sides to dry (do not stack cans).
- Dishes and glassware if they are sanitized by boiling in clean water or by immersing them for 15 minutes in a solution of one teaspoon of chlorine bleach per quart of water.
- If electricity at your home has been off for long periods of time, throw away perishable foods (like meat, poultry, fish, eggs, leftovers, etc.) that have been above 40 degrees for two hours or more.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR EMCs

For the next edition in the series of “Getting to Know Our EMCs”, we will be featuring Ms. Vera Doughty. Vera is the Emergency Management Coordinator for the municipality of her residence, Jackson Township. She has been their EMC since September of 2000.

Ms. Doughty currently holds the PEMA Basic and Advanced Certifications. Vera is a regular at the County EMA quarterly trainings and is also attends other training offerings.

Lycoming County EMA would like to thank Ms. Vera Doughty for her many years of service within the county and her community.



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.

HAZMAT AWARENESS LEVEL REFRESHER COURSE

*Monday, December 12, 2016 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Northumberland Fire Police Assoc.
35 Water St., Northumberland*

EMT EVALUATOR WORKSHOP

Monday, December 12, 2016 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Lycoming County DPS Office

ELEVATOR RESCUE AWARENESS COURSE

*Wednesday, December 14, 2016 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Duboistown Fire Department
2661 Euclid Ave., Duboistown*

FIRE DYNAMICS STRATEGY & TACTICS COURSE

*Monday, December 19, 2016 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Dept.
715 Northway Rd., Wmspt.*

DEATH SCENE PRESERVATION & DRUG AWARENESS COURSE

*Thursday, January 25, 2017 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Independent Fire Department
306 Clark St., S. Williamsport*

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/crslist.asp>



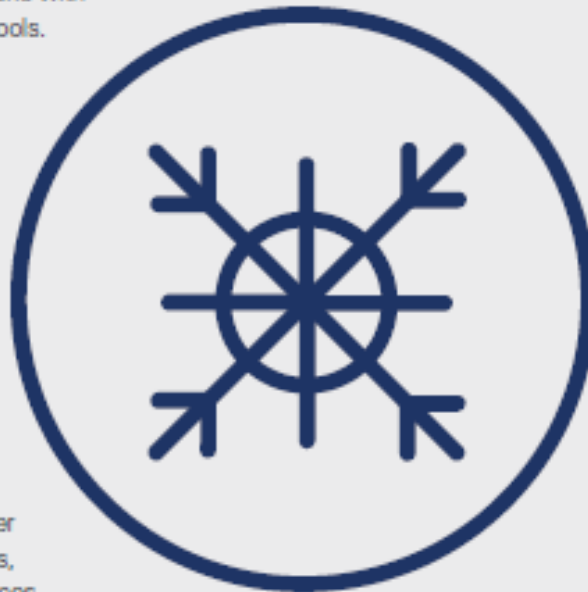
Protect Yourself Before, During, and After a Winter Storm

This page provides an overview of protective actions to take before, during, and after a winter storm. Additional information is provided in the following pages for each phase.

1 | BEFORE: PREPARE

Prepare now in case a winter storm hits and you are home for several days without power and heat.

- Prepare by gathering emergency supplies, making a family plan, and discussing emergency notifications and expectations with your workplace and/or schools.
- Install battery-powered or battery back-up carbon monoxide detectors.
- If you have access to an OUTSIDE generator, have an electric cord long enough to keep the generator at least 20 feet from any door, window, or vent.
- Make specific plans for how you will avoid driving.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions using local alerts, radio, and other news sources for information and instructions.



2 | DURING: SURVIVE

Stay indoors and avoid driving as much as possible.

- If the power goes out, close off unused rooms to consolidate and retain heat.
- Wear layered clothing and use blankets or sleeping bags to stay warm.
- Bring pets inside.
- NEVER use generators, outdoor heating or cooking equipment, such as a grill, camp stove, or a gasoline or propane heater, indoors.
- NEVER heat a home with a stove.
- If driving is absolutely necessary, keep disaster supplies in your vehicle, make sure your vehicle is properly equipped, and use extra precaution on the roads.
- Limit your time outdoors.

If you are outside, protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia by wearing several layers of warm, loose-fitting, light-weight clothing.

3 | AFTER: RECOVER

Driving conditions will still be dangerous; only drive if necessary.

- If the power is out for more than a few days, your community may set up warming shelters.
- If you do not have adequate supplies to stay warm in your home and you can get there safely, you may want to go to a shelter.
- If you go outside, dress in warm clothing, stay dry, and avoid prolonged exposure to cold and wind to protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia.



**From Your Friends at the
Lycoming County
Department of Public Safety!**

2017 QUARTERLY TRAINING

March 23	6:30 pm	Thursday	Holiday Inn
June 22	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
September 28	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
December 14	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)
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