

EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

Volume 18, Issue 1

Winter 2018

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 22, 2018 - 6:30 pm

APPRECIATION DINNER

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



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MR. PETER JUNG, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

Our keynote speaker for the 41st Annual Appreciation Dinner is Mr. Peter Jung from the National Weather Service. Mr. Jung, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, will briefly talk on new technologies, forecast products, and evolving customer and outreach initiatives at the National Weather Service. At the same time, he will relate how even with these new initiatives, the National Weather Service still relies on some of the fundamental partnerships and volunteers to help fulfill the mission of protecting lives and property.

Please join us to hear about these new technologies and products the NWS has to offer.

Hope to see you there!

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HAM IN A DAY 2018!



“HAM in a Day 2018” was another success. The Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) of Lycoming County hosted this event at the Department of Public Safety on February 24, 2018. This event offered a review of the basic knowledge needed to become an Amateur “HAM” Radio operator at the Technician level which included recognizing various RF hazards material.

We had a total of 6 students attend the course with all 6 passing the test. These students came from Lycoming, Clinton, and Centre Counties. One of the new operators from Lycoming County filled out an application to become a member of the Lycoming County ACS team.

In addition to the course and test being offered, the ACS team members had a digital station set up in the hallway. This equipment generated a lot of questions from the students and was a great source of information for everyone.

Lycoming County Department of Public Safety would like to thank all of the ACS team members who assisted in this event to make it a prosperous day. Hope to see even more participants at next year’s HAM in a Day!



WHEN DISASTER STRIKES: A GUIDE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

How do I help my constituents in a disaster?

When disaster strikes, citizens turn to their elected officials for information, guidance, and assistance to help them cope with the trauma and devastation left behind. It is important to understand that federal grants and low interest loans may not always be available. Knowing how to respond to constituent calls for assistance is the critical first step in coping with confusion, misinformation, and frustration. It is essential to understand the process that must be followed before an event can be considered for federal assistance. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is the primary disaster recovery agency for the commonwealth; however, Pennsylvania does *not* have a state disaster assistance program. There are three possible disaster declarations that local governments and residents might be eligible to receive.

Individual Assistance provides federal grants to residents who meet the criteria for that program which is funded through FEMA.

Public Assistance provides federal grants to governmental entities and certain critical private non-profit organizations through FEMA.

U.S. Small Business Administration provides federal low interest loans to individuals and businesses.

Initial Damage Reporting

Residents should survey damages to their property as soon as it is safe to do so and report those damages to their local municipality. Residential damages will be classified in one of the following categories: 1) Structures *destroyed* or that have been damaged beyond repair. 2) Structures that sustained *major damage*, but can be repaired. 3) Structures that sustained *minor damage*, occupancy is uninterrupted. 4) Property is *affected* or there is more or less an inconvenience as a result of the damage. An example would be downed trees blocking a driveway. When possible report insurance coverage.

Municipalities collect damage reports from their residents and also assess damages sustained to municipal property and infrastructure. Municipalities report residential and municipal damages to their county emergency management/public safety office.

Counties collect damage reports from their municipalities and also damages sustained to county property and infrastructure. The damages are reported to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at PEMA in Harrisburg.

PEMA analyzes the damage reports to determine if the impact is severe enough for the Governor to request a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) with FEMA and/or the SBA.*

Failure to report damages in a timely fashion could result in the loss of a disaster declaration.

*Agricultural damages should be reported to the federal Farm Service Agency serving the county. Agricultural disasters are handled through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and not PEMA.

Preliminary Damage Assessment

The purpose of conducting a joint PDA is to determine disaster eligibility. **A PDA is not a guarantee that a disaster declaration will be awarded.** The PDA team is comprised of representatives of state, federal, and local officials.

Individual Assistance PDA is led by FEMA Individual Assistance program staff who coordinates with the PEMA Individual Assistance Officer supported by PEMA Area Office staff, local emergency management and elected officials, and the SBA. FEMA primarily considers structures that are *destroyed* or have *major damage*, with a target of 100-200 homes per county. Structures with *minor damage* or are *affected* only are included in the overall impact of the event. Individual Assistance is described in Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations beginning Subpart 206.101.*

Public Assistance PDA is led by the FEMA Public Assistance program staff who coordinates with the PEMA Public Assistance staff supported by PEMA Area Office staff, representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), local emergency management and elected officials. Public Assistance eligibility is outlined in Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations beginning with Subpart 206.220, under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. **

*Individual Assistance information is protected by the Privacy Act and is need based depending on an individual's circumstances.

**Per capita dollar thresholds must be met on both the county (\$3.23 p/p) and state levels (\$1.29 p/p) before Public Assistance can be considered. Amounts are adjusted each October 1 with the Consumer Price Index. As of 2009, the federal eligibility threshold for the Commonwealth is \$15.8 million for Public Assistance.

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES: A GUIDE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS (CONT)

SBA Damage Surveys are conducted by the Small Business Administration supported by the PEMA Individual Assistance Officer, PEMA Area Office staff, and local emergency management and elected officials. At least 25 households and/or businesses must have a minimum 40-percent uninsured loss, or at least five businesses must have significant economic loss. The SBA low interest loan program is available to homeowners, renters, and businesses. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements. SBA declarations can stand alone when the Individual Assistance Program is not awarded. SBA is automatically included as a program in Individual Assistance declarations.

What happens when there is no federal disaster declaration?

Because of federal thresholds, not all events qualify for disaster declarations. This is very difficult to explain to individuals whose lives have been devastated by the loss of their home, in some cases their employment, and in most cases the bulk of their possessions.

When the criteria for a disaster declaration cannot be met, the social service network becomes the critical lifeline. The services of Pennsylvania Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (PaVOAD) are community-based organizations capable of offering limited forms of assistance to residents. Residents are encouraged to consult the Disaster Assistance section of the PEMA website www.pema.state.pa.us for additional information and to consult with other groups in their community such as the United Way.

Municipal governments sustaining road and bridge damages are encouraged to meet with their Municipal Services representative from PennDOT to inquire about the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank. The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) may be able to assist with funds for sewer, storm sewer, and drinking water repairs. The search for potential non-disaster declaration funding should expand to other state agencies to include the Departments of Environmental Protection and Community and Economic Development.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can elected officials accompany the PDA team?

A. Yes. However, when constituents see you they are going to want to share their experiences with you. The PDA team must stay mission focused and keep moving.

Q. How do I explain the PDA team function?

A. Explain that the PDA team is gathering information to determine severity of impact and the type of declaration for which they may be eligible.

Q. What is the PDA team seeking?

A. Information on the concentration of damages, extent of trauma, special populations impacted, amount of assistance from voluntary agencies, extent of insurance, average amount of government assistance provided.

Q. Who makes the decision for a declaration?

A. PEMA must compare the PDA information with disaster program regulations. When regulations are met, PEMA recommends the Governor pursue making the appropriate declaration request to the President.

Q. How can I assist my constituents?

A. Stress the importance of written and photographic documentation before, during, and after a disaster. Remind them to report damages promptly to afford emergency management time to conduct impact analysis. Federal regulations contain timelines that both PEMA and FEMA must follow. Coordinate your news releases with the PEMA press office staff.

Q. Does a PDA guarantee a disaster declaration?

A. No. A PDA is a survey to gather information on community impact and severity of damages.

For additional information, please contact the PEMA
Legislative Office at 717.651.2728

Notes from the Director...

Meteorological Spring has arrived! This time of year always brings rapidly changing weather conditions and a broad gambit of potential risks. Please keep an eye to the sky for severe storms and heavy rainfall. This is an appropriate time to take a few moments and review your personal and your community's severe weather awareness and flood readiness plans. In support of community awareness of severe weather, DPS will be hosting SKYWARN training in April, please register for this program if you have a chance.

At the February 2018 PEMA In-Service Training, PEMA leadership presented a briefing on "DAY 2 – After the Event". The key point was that Pennsylvania is experiencing many events that can be locally catastrophic but not qualify as a Federal Disaster. The program also noted that 80% of Pennsylvanian's believe a major disaster will happen here within 5 years, BUT 74% do not have a plan of what to do or where to go! Additionally, 65% of PA residents have not completed CPR, First Aid, or community preparedness type training in the past 2 years.

2017 proved to be another busy year for the Lycoming/Sullivan 911 Center. The Center logged 21,631 Fire/EMS incidents and 48,347 police calls as a result of 58,111 emergency calls and 96,654 non-emergency calls for a total of 154,765 phone calls processed in the 911 Center. The trend continued for a growing number of calls to be received at the 911 Center from wireless devices in 2017.

The staff at DPS is reviewing the new Flood Ready page hosting the county's stream and rain gauges. An overview of the new web page and public roll-out will be later in 2018.

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

DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

Every household is encouraged to keep a Disaster Supplies kit on hand in case of an emergency. Below is a list of items you will need for a basic disaster supplies kit:

- Water, one gallon per person per day for at least three days.
- Food, non-perishable, at least a three day supply
- Battery powered or hand crank Radio and a NOAA Weather radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Moist Towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Manual can opener for food
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Once you have gathered the supplies for the basic kit, you may want to add the following items to your kit:

- Prescription medications & glasses
- Infant formula & diapers
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Copies of Important family documents, such as insurance policies, identification and bank account records, in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Household Chlorine bleach and medicine dropper. When diluted, 9 parts water to one part bleach, can be used as a disinfectant.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in waterproof container
- Personal and feminine hygiene products
- Paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Books games and activities for children

From the website ready.gov.

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.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT SCENE MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Monday, March 19, 2018 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm, Loyalsock VFC, 715 Northway Rd.

SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office

SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS LEVEL REFRESHER

Saturday, May 12, 2018 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, Trout Run VFC, 241 PA-14, Trout Run

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>



SPRING

Use A High-Quality Gas Treatment

It will clean fuel injectors and help with gas mileage.



Fix Windows That Are Stuck In The Up Position

As weather warms up, you'll want your windows to roll down.

Check Belts

Belts run your engine, check them for cracks to ensure they aren't about to break.

Check Fluids

Check oil (again), check coolant level.



Remove Studded Tyres

Once winter is over, studded tyres aren't needed anymore.



Check Shocks And Struts

Winter weather causes a lot of potholes which creates bumpy rides and can be harsh on your shocks.





Generator Safety

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks.

- » Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- » Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- » Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- » Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- » Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is running.



- » Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

Just Remember...

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

FACT

- ! CO deaths associated with generators have spiked in recent years as generator sales have risen.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

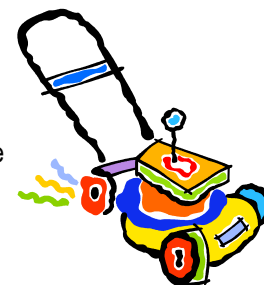
www.nfpa.org/education

LAWN AND GARDEN TIPS TO STAY SAFE THIS SPRING

It soon will be that time of the year again, a time when you will hear the buzzing of lawnmowers and smell freshly cut grass. But, with the use of these machines, there are many dangers. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging people to use caution and common sense when tending to their lawns and gardens this spring. CPSC data show that each year about 400,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries from lawn and garden tools. Each year, about 25,300 people are injured and 75 people are killed on or near riding lawnmowers and garden tractors. One out of every five deaths involves a child. CPSC estimates that most of the deaths to children occurred when a child was in the path of a moving mower.

It is recommended that consumers take the following precautions to prevent injuries from lawn and garden equipment

- Dress appropriately for the task. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts (to avoid injuries from thrown objects like rocks or sticks), close-fitting clothes and no jewelry (to avoid getting anything caught in moving parts), sturdy shoes with slip-resistant rubber soles, eye protection, heavy gloves (protects hands when changing, sharpening, or cleaning blades), and hearing protection such as ear plugs when using motor-driven equipment.
- Before starting up machinery, remove objects from the area in which you are working that can cause injury or damage equipment, such as sticks, glass, metal, wire, and stones.
- Make sure that safety devices on the equipment are in place and functioning properly before starting work.
- Never let a child ride or operate a garden tractor or riding mower, even if the child is supervised. Teenagers should only be allowed to operate outdoor power equipment if they possess adequate strength and maturity to do so safely. They also should be supervised by a responsible adult.
- Keep children indoors and supervised at all times when any outdoor power equipment is being used. Young children move quickly and are attracted to mowers and mowing activity, especially if they have been given rides on mowers before.
- Never assume children will remain where you last saw them. Be alert and turn off the mower if children enter the mowing area. Use extra care when backing up or when approaching corners, shrubs, and trees.
- Unplug electric tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools before making adjustments or clearing jams near moving parts.
- Be sure power tools are turned off and made inoperable if they must be left unattended to prevent use by children.
- Handle gas carefully. Never fill gasoline tanks while machinery is on or when equipment is still hot. Wipe up spills. Store gas in an approved container away from the house. Finally, never smoke or use any type of flame around gasoline or any gasoline-powered equipment.
- Never work with electric power tools in wet or damp conditions. For protection against electrocution, use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). GFCIs come in several models, including a portable plug-in type.
- Be sure that extension cords are in good condition, are rated for outdoor use, and are the proper gauge for the electrical current capacity of the tool.



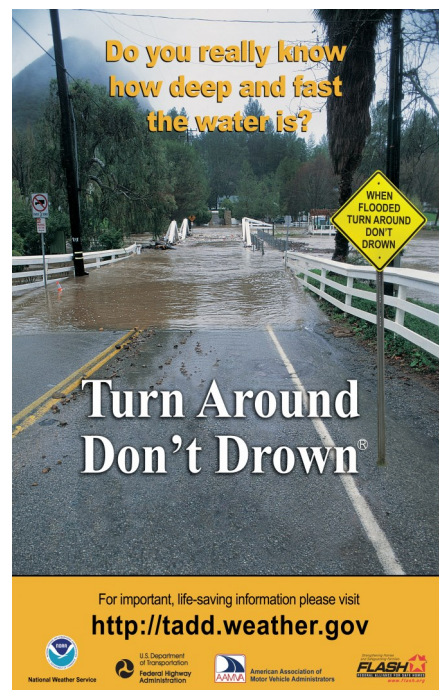
Information from www.cpsc.gov

TURN AROUND... DON'T DROWN

More deaths occur due to flooding each year than from any other thunderstorm or hurricane related hazard. Many of these casualties are a result of careless or unsuspecting motorists who attempt to navigate flooded roads. The National Weather Service now warns anyone who comes to a flooded roadway, **“Turn around... don’t drown!”** TM

Follow these safety rules:

- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Stay away from flood-prone areas, including dips, low spots, valleys, ditches, washes, etc.
- Avoid flooded areas or those with rapid water flow. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream. It takes only six inches of fast flowing water to sweep you off your feet.
- Don’t allow children to play near high water, storm drains or ditches. Hidden dangers could lie beneath the water.
- Flooded roads could have significant damage hidden by floodwaters. NEVER drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads. If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Water only two feet deep can float away most automobiles.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly when threatening conditions exist.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio or your local media for vital weather related information.



More information on flood safety is available through the National Weather Service, www.noaa.gov/floods.htm, or the Federal Alliance For Safe Homes, www.flash.org. Call their toll-free help desk at **1-877-221-SAFE** or email

2018 QUARTERLY TRAINING

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| March 22 | 6:30 pm | Thursday | Holiday Inn |
| June 28 | 7:00 pm | Thursday | County EMA Office |
| September 27 | 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)
570-329-4061 (local)

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

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