

EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

Volume 23, Issue 3

Fall 2023

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:

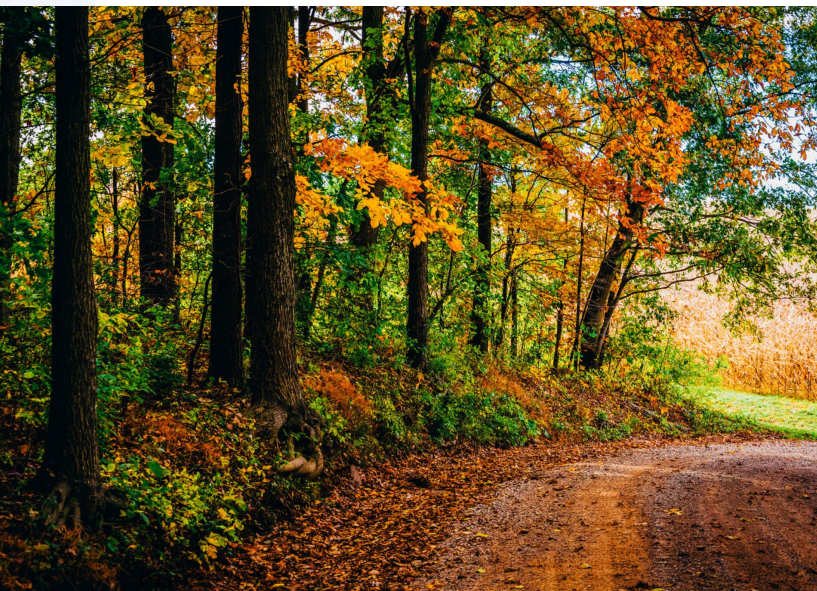
THURSDAY - September 28th, 2023—7pm
QUARTERLY EMA TRAINING

at

**Lycoming County Department of Public Safety
542 County Farm Road Montoursville, Pa 17754**

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NOTES FROM THE CLERK

It's hard to believe that summer is just about over!! Hopefully you were able to get out there and enjoy the wonderful weather we had despite a few rain showers!

With the end of summer comes the peak of hurricane season in the Atlantic Ocean, and this is the time we often see the tropical moisture from these storms. NOAA expects and above avg. rainfall with above-normal temperatures the next couple months. We will continue to send significant weather information out from the National Weather Service as it becomes available.

If you encounter any damages from storms, please be sure to report them to the EMA office as soon as possible. As always, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

September is also National Preparedness Month. While Emergency Management personnel think about preparedness every day, most of our community members do not. **Ready.gov** has some great resources for you to pass along to your family, friends and neighbors including how to make a plan and build an emergency kit. Our office is also looking for any opportunities this fall to get out into the community with our public education & outreach program, and we would appreciate it if you could pass along any information about events in your municipalities.

Please make sure you are working on updating your Municipal Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). One of the most important parts of the plan is the Notification & Resource Manual (NARM). Make sure the contact information in that document is up-to-date! Copies of your updated plans then need to be submitted to our office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the us.

Finally, the county is looking to hire an Emergency Management Coordinator.

If you or you know anyone interested please visit the job posting on lyco.org homepage.

Thank you for everything you do and stay safe!



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Preparedness month is upon us and its always a good reminder that natural disasters as well as man– made disasters can happen at anytime. Being prepared before an event happens can not only minimize injuries, it could save your life.

Here are some tips from the National Safety Council on general precautions that apply to many disaster situations.

- Make sure at least one family member knows first aid and CPR
- Download the FEMA app for resources, weather alerts and safety tips
- Have a family communication plan in place; all members of the family should review and practice the plan
- Have all family members' and other important phone numbers written down or memorized
- Have an emergency kit in your car and at least three days of food and water at home
- Be sure to store all important documents – birth certificates, insurance policies, etc. – in a fire-proof safe or safety deposit box
- Know how to shut off utilities





FCC Allenwood Emergency Preparedness Day 05/18/2023

Equipment and personnel from Montgomery Borough EMA and Lycoming DCS/ACS

Below is (Seated) Dale Brendle (N3ZIO), Greg Gruver, (Standing) Dennis Gruver.





See Above John Mummert (WJ3OM)
at
Fern Rock Aid Station



Worlds End Ultramarathon
Forksville, PA 06/02/2023

Fern Rock Aid Station
(Left to right) Dale Brendle (N3ZIO), John
Mummert (WJ3OM), Bill Welter (KC3UYG)

Are you ReadyPA?

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

How can parents and students Be Ready?



Before

- Stay away from traffic while you are waiting for the bus.
- Always walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus when crossing so the bus driver can see you.
- Wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping out onto the road.
- Never cross the street behind the school bus.



During

- When the school bus is moving, always stay in your seat and sit facing forward.
- Keep school bus aisles open. If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- Always obey your school bus driver's instructions.
- Never play with emergency exits.

PENALTIES

More than 700 Pennsylvania drivers are convicted for passing a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing every year.

If you are convicted of violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law, **you will receive all of the following penalties:**

- 60-Day Driver's License Suspension
- Five (5) points on your driving record
- \$250 Fine



You **MUST STOP** on roadways with ridged/grooved dividers.



You **MUST STOP** at an intersection, whether it is or is not marked with a stop sign. All traffic **MUST STOP**.



You **MUST STOP** on roadways with painted lines.



www.pema.pa.gov

Be Informed, Be Prepared, Be Involved



www.ready.pa.gov

With **HALLOWEEN** just around the corner, our kids excitement for candy can blind them from the dangers around them. Here are a couple safety tips to help them have a fun and safe holiday!



WALK SAFELY:

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, tell them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

COSTUMES FOR A SAFE HALLOWEEN:

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

DRIVE EXTRA SAFELY ON HALLOWEEN:

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Get rid of any distractions - like your phone - in your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Be especially alert for kids during those hours.

FOG SAFETY

Disabled Vehicle in Dense Fog




1. Pull well onto the shoulder
2. Turn off all lights except "flashers"
3. If possible leave your vehicle and move away from the road



DRIVING DURING STRONG WINDS



Maintain a safe distance from high-profile vehicles




Keep a firm grip on the wheel with both hands



Look out for fallen/falling trees, powerlines, or debris



Use caution on bridges and overpasses

weather.gov 



Tips for Fire Safety in the Outdoors

Be aware, prepare and douse the flames!

By Janelle Smith, Recreation.gov

The keys for staying fire safe outdoors is to prepare for whatever conditions you may encounter, be aware of your surroundings and build and extinguish fires properly. Some fires have natural causes, but people cause an overwhelming number of brush, grass and forest fires. Most of these fires are accidental and are due to the careless disposal of hot embers, ash or cigarettes. Do your part to stay fire safe! As a start, you can use Smokey Bear's App and watch this Smokey Bear video on how to properly build and extinguish a campfire.

Four Tips for Campfire Safety

You can also follow these simple steps:

- 1. Pick Your Spot Wisely:** Use existing fire circles or pits if available. Do not build a fire in dry or windy conditions, especially if there are fire restrictions in place (check with local authorities). Build fires at least 15 feet away from tent walls, shrubs, or other flammable materials.
- 2. Prepare Your Pit:** Choose a spot for your campfire that is downwind from your tent and gear, and protected from wind gusts. Clear a 10-foot-wide diameter area around your site, and make sure there are no limbs or branches hanging over your pit. Always circle the pit with rocks.
- 3. Build A Campfire:** Once you have a prepared pit, you are ready to build the campfire. It is recommended to use three types of wood. Tinder, which is made of small twigs, dry leaves or grass, will get the fire started initially. Kindling, consisting of twigs smaller than one inch around, will help to light the larger pieces of wood. Fuel—the large pieces of wood—will provide the heat and sustained flames once the tinder and kindling are consumed.
- 4. This is the most important step! EXTINGUISH THE FIRE:** Campers need to properly maintain and extinguish campfires when going to bed or leaving the area. If possible, let the campfire burn down to ashes. Pour water on the fire to drown all embers, not just the red ones. Once this is done, stir everything in the pit with a shovel and test for heat with the back of your hand.

Combating Forest Fires and Suppression

How does the nation combat fires? The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho, is the nation's support and logistics center for wildland firefighting.

NIFC is responsible for setting the National Preparedness Level. The preparedness level helps to assure that firefighting resources are ready to respond to new incidents. Fuel and weather conditions, fire activity and resource availability dictate the preparedness level.



GET READY!

HOME FIRES

Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as two minutes to escape safely once the alarm sounds. Your ability to get out depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning—a home fire escape plan that everyone in your family is familiar with and has practiced.

Before

- Install smoke alarms on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area. For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in each bedroom and throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test alarms once a month. Change batteries at least once a year. Replace alarms every ten years.
- Consider installing smoke alarms with a "long-life" (10-year) battery. These alarms must be tested once a month.
- Consider installing a residential automatic fire sprinkler system.
- Plan and practice your family's escape route. Make sure every room has two ways out. Make sure all doors and windows open easily. Consider escape ladders for upper floors and make sure security bars on your doors and windows open easily from the inside. Remember to plan for your pets.
- Never use flammable liquids inside and store them in approved containers in well-ventilated areas. Safely discard all rags or materials that have been soaked in flammable liquids outside in a metal container.
- Inspect your chimney regularly. Clear any branches and debris from the chimney area. Make sure your chimney is at least three feet taller than the roof, insulated, and equipped with spark arresters on top.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet from combustibles and away from open flames.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, away from children's sight and reach.
- If you smoke, smoke outside. Use large deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove. If you are simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.

- Have an electrician check and maintain the wiring in your building. Inspect cords for frayed or exposed wiring and loose plugs. Do not run wires or cords under rugs, over nails, or across high-traffic areas. Do not overload extension cords. Make sure insulation does not touch bare electrical wiring.
- Inspect and clean dryer filters and exhaust frequently.

During

- Get out and stay out. Call the fire department from outside the home and do not return into the building until firefighters give the okay.
- If fire or smoke blocks your escape route, use your second way out. If you must pass through smoke, get low and go under the smoke and close doors behind you.
- If you need to open a closed door, feel the door. If it's hot, use your second way out.
- If smoke, heat, or flames prevent you from exiting a room, keep the door closed, call for help and wait by the window for rescue.

After

- Evacuate immediately if you detect heat or smoke in a fire-damaged building.
- If you are a tenant, contact the landlord.
- If you have a safe or strongbox, wait several hours before opening it. It can hold intense heat and if you open it before it is completely cool, the contents could burst into flames.
- If you must leave your home after a fire because the building inspector has deemed it unsafe, ask someone you trust to watch the property in your absence.



**In memory of the lives lost
9-11-2001**



WE WILL NEVER FORGET!!!

Welcoming Newcomers

Stacey Folk (below) graduated with honors from the Pennsylvania College of Technology in May of 2023 with a bachelor's degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Stacey interned with TE Connectivity, a global technology company, where she led several teams in the revision of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), including the facilitation of tabletop exercises and functional drills, for operational locations in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and California. Upon completion of her internship, Stacey joined the Lycoming County Emergency Agency as the EMA Specialist Planner in July of 2023.



Welcome Emmalynn Gillen (to the left) the Lycoming County EMA office! You may have seen her at the front desk when you came into the office already. She is our new clerk III.

PEMA CERTIFICATION RECEIVED

William Miller, Emergency Management Specialist, as well as Jeff Hutchins, Director of Public Safety, earned their County Professional Level Certification in 2023.

Please join us in congratulating William & Jeff on this great accomplishment!

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Exterior Firefighting:

Sept. 19, 21, 26, 28, 2023 @ 1830-2230

Sept. 30, 2023 @ 0800-1600

Oct. 1, 2023 @ 0800-1600

Oct. 3, 5, 2023 @ 0800-2230

Classes held at Old Lycoming Township VFC

Registration deadline: Sept. 5, 2023

MAMA Emergency Services Training Weekend:

Oct. 14, 15, 2023

ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT PRESIDENT MARK WINDER AT
mwinder24@hotmail.com

Hazardous Material Operations:

Oct. 10, 12, 2023 @ 1830-2230

Oct. 14, 15, 2023 @ 0800-1600

Classes held at Old Lycoming Township VFC

Registration due Sept. 26, 2023

EMT PROGRAM:

Oct. 3, 2023 – Feb. 15, 2024

Every Tuesday & Thursday 6-10pm

Every other Saturday 8am –5pm

Muncy Twp. Vol. Fire Dept. (Lycoming Co)

Register at hack.edu/EMT

Interior Firefighting w/ Live Fire Exercises:

Oct. 19, 24, 26, 2023 @ 1830-2230

Oct. 28, 29, 2023 @ 0800-1600

Nov. 4, 11, 2023 @ 0800-1600

Nov. 7, 2023 1830-2230

Classes held at Old Lycoming Township VFC

Registration due Oct. 5, 2023

Talen Radiological Monitoring/ Decontamination Team Training:

Oct. 11, 2023 @ 1800-2000

Class will be held at Lycoming Co Department of Public Safety

Registration deadline: Oct. 1, 2023

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

www.lyco.org

[FEMA IS Training](#)

[NERRTC Online Training](#)

[CDP Online Courses](#)

[Train PA](#)

[PEMA Training Calendar](#)

[PEMA Student Training Manuals](#)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

Trench Rescue Operations II

Oct. 17, 19, 2023 @ 1830-2230

Oct. 21, 2023 @ 0800-1600

Class will be held at Duboistown Fire Dept.

Preregistration is required.

Firefighting 1 Testing:

Written testing– Nov. 16, 2023 @ 1830 at Old Lycoming Township VFC

Skills Testing– Nov. 18, 2023 @ 0800 at CAFCA Training Grounds

Registration deadline: Oct. 29, 2023

Trench Rescue Operations 1

Oct. 3, 5, 2023 @ 1830-2230

Oct. 7, 2023 @ 0800-1600

Class will be held at Duboistown Fire Dept.

Preregistration is required.

EMA training questions can be directed to William Miller.

William Miller
Lycoming County Department of
Public Safety
Phone: 570-433-4461
Email: wmiller@lyco.org

2023 QUARTERLY TRAINING

September 28	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
December 14	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office

Municipal EMC In Service Training (Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators)

October 26, 2023 at 7:00pm Thursday Regular IST Meeting	County EMA Office
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Auxiliary Communications Service County Amateur Radio Volunteers

October 11, 2023 at 7:00pm Wednesday OPEN MEETING	County EMA Office
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Radiological Team (County Radiological Protection Volunteers)

September 13, 2023 at 7:00pm Wednesday	Radiological Staff Meeting	County EMA Office
October 11, 2023 at 6:00pm Wednesday	Mon/Decon Team Training	Chapel
November 8, 2023 at 7:00pm Wednesday	Radiological Staff Meeting	County EMA Office

LEPC Quarterly Meeting (Local Emergency Planning Committee)

October 10, 2023 at 8:30am Tues- day	County EMA Office
Regular Quarterly Meeting	

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please tell us what you would like to see in the next EMA News & Views. We want to print your stories and issues important to you.



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 any time.

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