

# EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

Volume 21, Issue 2

Spring 2021

## 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 - June 24, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

*at*

**LYCOMING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**542 County Farm Road  
Montoursville, PA 17754**

**TOPIC: UPMC Special Response Vehicle**

## MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

Jim Slotterback, UPMC Susquehanna Emergency Preparedness Manager, will be on hand at the June EMA Quarterly Training to give Lycoming County EMCs a presentation on the capabilities of the new UPMC Special Response Vehicle that was unveiled this past winter. This new resource located in North Central PA will be an invaluable asset if we are ever faced with a mass casualty incident or need to evacuate hospitals/long term care facilities. It will also be used to support community health programs along with public education & outreach events.



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## NOTES FROM THE EMC

As 2021 moves along, we begin to see more “normalcy” throughout the county and the country. More and more restrictions are being lifted, so the County EMA office has been able to focus more of our efforts on “normal” EMA activities.

Here is a brief recap of what we have been working on over the past 3 months:

- In the world of automatic stream/rain gauges, the gauge at Barbours has been replaced and is operational again. We continue to monitor along all watersheds on a regular basis. We are currently working to make sure manual readings match what we are seeing through our software. There may come a time where we ask for your assistance for manual readings if a watershed is in your municipality, so stay tuned!
- COVID-19 vaccinations are now available throughout the state to all who want them. Restrictions on gathering sizes (both indoor & outdoor) will be loosened on Monday, May 31, 2021. This will allow for ease in scheduling in person meetings & classes once again. Look for upcoming EMA classes for those who are still working on their PEMA certifications.
- Don't forget to be checking your municipal EOPs & NARMS and making any necessary updates. Any updates should be submitted to the County EMA office. Our office has been working on making sure schools & day cares in your municipalities have updated plans in our office. If you do not have an updated copy of any school or day care plans, please let us know, and we can make sure you receive it.

Stay safe and we'll see you on June 24<sup>th</sup>!!

*Kelle*

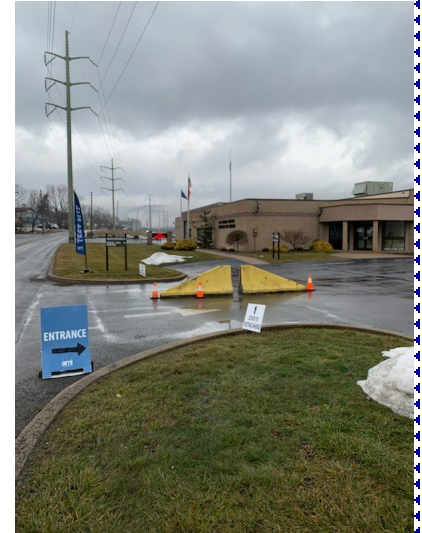


## POP-UP COVID-19 TESTING

On March 1-3, 2021, Lycoming County in coordination with PA DOH, opened a drive-thru COVID-19 testing clinic at the Old Lycoming Township Volunteer Fire Company. This was the last of a 12-week testing initiative to offer free COVID-19 pop-up testing at sites within 61 Pennsylvania counties through a contract with AMI Expeditionary Healthcare (AMI).

Anyone from the public was able to drive up and receive a COVID-19 test without scheduling an appointment. In total, 41 tests were administered to residents.

We would like to send a special Thank You out to the Old Lycoming Township Volunteer Fire Company for the use of their building and parking lot.



Entrance to OLVFC on the south side of the building



Public was directed to drive to the back of the station



Then proceed north behind the building

Testing was completed on the north side of OLVFC where AMI staff came out to provide the free testing

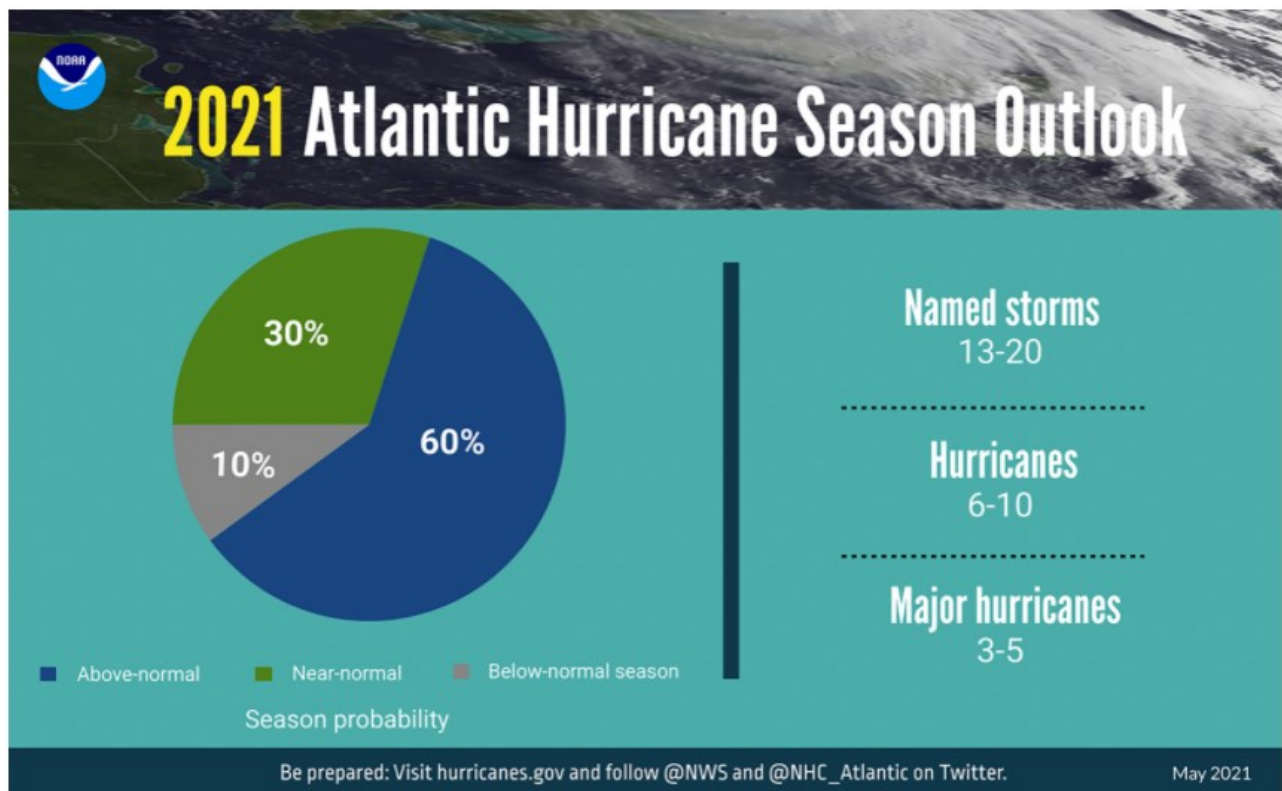


## NEW MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS

Lycoming County EMA would like to announce new municipal emergency management coordinators to our community.

Mark Barbier—Clinton Twp—appointed 3/19/21  
Denny Buttorff—Anthony Twp—appointed 3/19/21  
Gregory Gruver—Montgomery Boro—appointed 3/19/21  
Raymond Lunger—Franklin Twp—appointed 3/19/21.

Please help us welcome our new  
Emergency Management Coordinators to the TEAM!



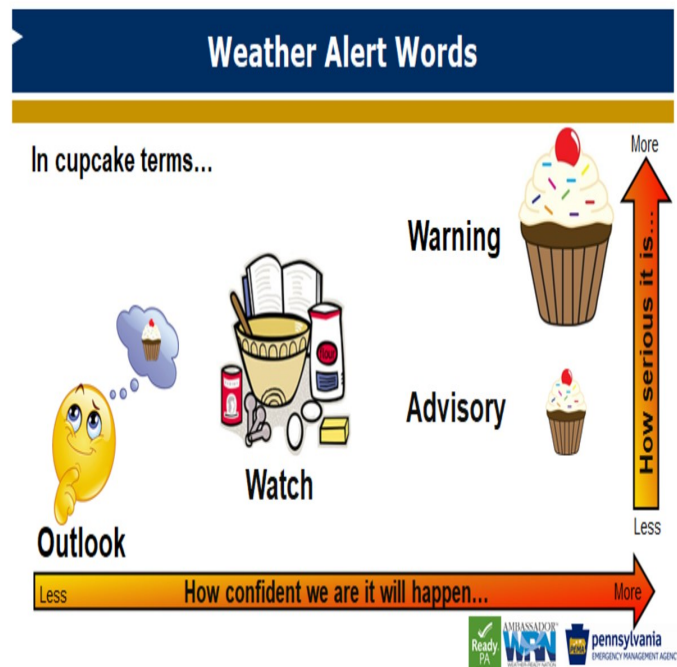
A summary infographic showing hurricane season probability and numbers of named storms predicted from NOAA's 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook. (NOAA)



## ***PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO UPGRADE***

The Public Safety Radio Upgrade is progressing with anticipated go live in early to mid-2022. The leasing, zoning, planning, variance, and FCC licensing process has taken a considerable amount of time. Beth Baylor, Communications Manager, and the project team has worked diligently to get these items resolved. While all eight current tower sites are receiving all new equipment, we are also adding eight additional sites totaling sixteen. The 250' towers have been order for the full build Hughesville and Hesker Hill (Piatt Twp.) sites and the shelters will be ordered soon while construction is going to RFP. Radio equipment is arriving and being staged for deployment by Keystone and Motorola. While the radio you use today will work on this new system, there will be some re-programming of frequencies needed (the numbers). Information will be forthcoming on the new frequencies and timeline.

*The National Weather Service has been looking at other ways to help the public understand the commonly used weather alert terms they use. They have envisioned a creative way to help you remember the Outlook vs Advisory and Watch vs Warning alerts. An Outlook is where you would think about making a cupcake or storm, where the Advisory would be you have a small cupcake or light storm is happening right now. Then the Watch would be you have everything ready to make cupcakes or the environmental factors has everything need to produce a storm, where the Warning would be you have a larger cupcake or the storm is more intense and happening right now.*



# Are you ReadyPA?

TIP SHEET

## Hurricanes and Tropical Storms During COVID-19

### Annual Hurricane Season

June	July	August	September	October	November
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Tropical systems have a long history of bringing significant river and flash flooding to Pennsylvania. These storms can also bring a variety of additional hazards such as damaging winds and tornadoes. Here are some tips to better prepare for Hurricane Season while living in a new COVID-19 environment.

### Hurricane Season with COVID-19 To Do's

To do...



#### Know Your Risk

Hurricane hazards can impact everyone—understand your threat for river and flash flooding, strong wind, and tornadoes.



#### Develop an Evacuation Plan

Make a plan for two ways out of town—plan for short and long-term stays. Consider how your evacuation or sheltering plans may need to change due to the pandemic. Remember to wear your mask and social distance.



#### Assemble Disaster Supplies

Prepare a disaster kit and include items that can help protect you and others from COVID-19, such as hand sanitizer, bar or liquid soap, disinfectant wipes, and two cloth face coverings for each person.



#### Get an Insurance Check-Up

Make sure your insurance policy covers all hazards, especially flooding which is most often not covered by homeowners or renters insurance.



#### Help Your Neighbor

When you check on neighbors and friends, be sure to follow social distancing recommendations (staying at least 6 feet from others) and take precautions to protect yourself and others.



#### Complete an Emergency and Communications Plan

Understand your plan may be different because of the need to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Write it all down and keep it in a safe place.

## VACANT EMC POSITIONS

In accordance with Title 35, all municipalities in the Commonwealth must have an Emergency Management Coordinator. Currently, the following do not. If you or anyone you know would be interested in this position, please contact the Lycoming County EMA office at 570-433-4461.

**Brady Twp  
Cogan House Twp  
Gamble Twp  
McHenry Twp  
Upper Fairfield Twp**

## STAY SAFE DURING STORMS

Visit [WWW.PUC.PA.GOV](http://WWW.PUC.PA.GOV)  
for more utility  
safety tips

**PAPUC**  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION



Call your utility hotline to report outages



Do not touch trees or limbs on power lines



Stay away from objects or puddles near power lines



Do not call 9-1-1 to report outages - call your utility hotline



If you see a downed power line, immediately call your electric utility and/or 9-1-1

## *FEMA Recognizes Emergency Management Institute's 70 Years of Training*

This year, FEMA commends the Emergency Management Institute on their 70 years of training those who serve our nation.

The Civil Defense Staff College opened April 1, 1951 with the intention of teaching civil defense courses during the Cold War. Concerns about a potential attack led the college to relocate the campus from Olney, Maryland to St. Joseph's campus in Battle Creek, Michigan.



When FEMA was created in 1979, the Civil Defense Staff College joined with several other federal agencies focused on disaster response, including the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency. In the same year, the Civil Defense Staff College closed and merged its programs and students with the National Emergency Training Center.

President Jimmy Carter dedicated the former Mount Saint Mary's University, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, as the FEMA National Emergency Training Center. The training center was later changed to the Emergency Management Institute, a broader name that included the National Fire Academy and reflected the nation's readiness posture. The Emergency Management Institute moved from Battle Creek, Michigan to Emmitsburg, Maryland a year later, and in 1981, the Institute held its first class.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew highlighted the need to address the training implications for emergency managers at all levels of government when it devastated portions of South Florida, Louisiana, and the Caribbean. After careful consideration, it became apparent that the Institute could no longer serve as both a training and an educational institution.

To address this, FEMA develop a plan to transition the institute's educational mission to colleges and universities to foster a higher level of commitment to emergency management. A year later, FEMA launched the Emergency Management Higher Education Project. The name of was changed in 2008 to Emergency Management Higher Education Program.

At that time, only three higher education institutions offered emergency management programs. This repositioning encouraged and supported the teaching of emergency management in colleges and universities across the country to help ensure that the next generation of emergency managers come to the job with a degree in emergency management.

In 2017, the Higher Education Program was reassigned from the Emergency Management Institute to the [National Training and Education Division](#) at FEMA headquarters to raise its profile and expand the reach of the program. The move also helped build closer relationships with FEMA's training and education programs.

*Continued on page 9*




## 70 Years of Training, continued

There are currently more than 721 emergency management programs throughout the United States and offered across the globe. Of the almost 8,000 graduates who earned an emergency management degree in 2020, nearly half of those graduates move on to public sector emergency management positions. The remaining graduates chose jobs as part-time faculty.

Emergency managers are integral to FEMA's efforts to protect the nation and help families and communities feel cared for and more resilient when a disaster strikes.

Having the tools, resources and space available to train emergency management professionals is critical. The ability of the Emergency Management Institute and the Higher Education Project to provide these is vital to the country's future.

The [Emergency Management Institute](#) will host its 70th anniversary celebration on its website in the upcoming weeks. Stay tuned for upcoming notices and events.



## Are you ReadyPA?

### Lightning

According to the National Weather Service, lightning is one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. In Pennsylvania, there have been eight deaths from lightning since 2007, all occurring outdoors.

#### What should you Be Ready for?

**Health Hazard**


- Electrocutation or shock

**Utility Outages**

- Loss of electricity, cable, internet
- Surge causing damage to electronics

Lightning is **hotter** than the surface of the Sun and can reach temperatures around

50,000° F



#### Know The Facts

**MYTH:** Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

**FACT:** Lightning can strike the same location many times.

**MYTH:** A car is safe because of the tires.

**FACT:** Cars are safe because the electricity travels around the frame *through* the tires into the ground.

**MYTH:** I can't touch someone struck by lightning because I will be shocked.

**FACT:** A lightning strike victim carries no electric charge. Call 911, and begin CPR, if trained. Try to move the victim to a safe place.


#### How can you Be Ready?


**Before**

- Pay attention to the forecast, especially if you have outdoor plans
- Postpone activities, if storms are in the forecast

**During**

- "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!"
- "When You See a Flash, Dash to Safety" (Phrase for deaf and hard of hearing)
- Avoid anything with a wire, such as phones, computers, and lights.
- Wait at least 30 minutes, after the last rumble of thunder, to go outdoors.
- Stay away from water, wet items, such as ropes, and metal objects, such as fences and poles. Water and metal do not attract lightning but they are excellent conductors of electricity.

 **pennsylvania**  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov) 

## 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.

### **Highway Incident Scene Safety and Management**

June 5 and 19, 2021 0800-1700  
Classes held at Independent Fire Company  
Registration deadline: May 26, 2021

### **Hazardous Materials Operations**

June 1, 3, 8, 10, 2021 1830-2230  
June 12, 2021 0800-1600  
Classes held at the Montgomery Fire Co  
Registration deadline: May 26, 2021

### **Engine Company Operations**

July 6, 8, 13, 15, 2021 1830-2230  
Classes held at the Montgomery Fire Co  
Registration deadline: June 26, 2021

### **Hazardous Materials Operations**

July 6, 8, 12, 13, 2021 1800-2200  
July 18, 2021 0800-1600  
Classes held at Independent Hose Co #1  
Registration deadline: June 26, 2021

### **Structural Fire Rescue**

July 20, 22, 27, 29, 2021 1830-2230  
Classes held at Montgomery Fire Co  
Registration deadline: July 10, 2021

### **Rapid Intervention Teams (RITC)**

August 4, 2021 1830-2230  
Class held at Montgomery Fire Co  
Registration deadline: July 24, 2021

### **Rapid Intervention Team Basic Training**

August 5, 9, 12, 17, 2021 1830-2230  
Classes held at Montgomery Fire Co  
Registration deadline: July 26, 2021

### **Rapid Intervention Team Advanced Training**

August 20, 23, 25, 30, 2021 1830-2230  
Classes held at Montgomery Fire Co  
Registration deadline: August 10, 2021

### **Advanced Line Systems Rescue-PA Fish & Boat Commission**

August 28 & 29, 2021 0800-1600  
Class: held at the Williamsport Bureau of Fire  
Registration deadline: August 18, 2021

EMA training questions can be directed to Paula Young.

Paula Young  
Emergency Management Specialist:  
Training  
Lycoming County Department of  
Public Safety  
Phone: 570-433-4461  
Email: PYoung@lyco.org

### **Additional Online Training Resources:**

[PEMA Training and Exercises](#)

[TRAIN PA](#)

[FEMA Emergency Management Institute](#)

## **2021 QUARTERLY TRAINING**

June 24	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
September 23	6:30 pm	Thursday	Holiday Inn
December 16	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office



**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.

**TELEPHONE:** 570-433-4461  
570-329-4061

**EMAIL:** ema@lyco.org (general department email)

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