

# EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

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Winter 2022

## 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, 2022**  
**QUARTERLY EMC TRAINING**

at

Williamsport Armed Forces Reserve Center,  
1307 Grove Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

**TOPIC:** National Guard Program Overview and Tour of Facility & Equipment

### MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

\*Please note: Change of Meeting Location\*

The Lycoming County EMA Quarterly Training this quarter will be held at the PA National Guard Armory on Grove Street in Williamsport. SFC Christopher Herb will be presenting an overview of the National Guard Program. He will then give a tour of the facility and the equipment they have available to assist municipalities when requested during an emergency or disaster. There will be light refreshments available for everyone in attendance. Please plan to attend this very informative program. Hope to see you there!

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## **NOTES FROM THE EMC**

Another year is quickly coming to an end and we would like to thank each of you for your dedication to the residents of your municipalities over the past year. Your willingness to serve your communities is something that should be praised, and we appreciate all of the time & effort you put into your position.

Looking forward to 2023, here is what the County EMA office will be working on:

- ◆ Trainings will continue as in years past. Some of the PEMA certification classes are now available through Train PA, but if you prefer to have a classroom course, we will still be offering them. Stay tuned for a schedule in early 2023.
- ◆ Upon approval from the Commissioners, we will be working with Keystone Communications to install a camera system (similar to PennDot's) at a couple stream gauge locations. The cameras will be turned on & off when needed at these sites, and will show us gauge readings in real time at those locations. This will be utilized during high water events and especially when there is a stream gauge anomaly or failure.
- ◆ For those who are interested, our office will be starting a Drone Team. These individuals will be duly enrolled County volunteers, and will assist with using the County's newly purchased drone for damage assessments, search & rescue operations, etc. The team will need licensed operators as well as others who are willing to support operations. If you would like more information, please let me know.

Again, thank you for all that you do, and I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season!!



*Kelle*

## SENIOR EXPO OUTREACH

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Lycoming County EMA and the LTS EMS Council set up a table for 2022 Senior Expo at the Community Baptist Church in Montoursville. Hundreds of seniors received information on how to prepare for emergencies and personal health preparedness. It was a great time to get out and discuss current health precautions and what residents should have in their emergency supply kit.



If you know of a group or organization that would be interested in emergency preparedness information or a table presentation, please have them contact our office.

### INTRODUCING THE EMI STUDENT PORTAL

Did you know that FEMA Emergency Management Institute now has a [Student Self Service Portal](#)? This portal allows students to print or download Independent Study (IS) Completion Certificates, Student IS Transcripts (for personal or employer use) and Official IS Transcripts (for educational institutions only).

Students who have taken courses in the past under their social security number can contact the Independent Student Portal office at 301-447-1200 or [Independent.Study@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Independent.Study@fema.dhs.gov) to have their records merged under their FEMA SID Number. For more information to frequently asked questions, you can go to: <https://training.fema.gov/is/isfaq.aspx>

We at West Branch Emergency Management would like to introduce you to our two newest members. They are Bruce Body, he lives in Jersey Shore, is a retired Physician Assistant, licensed Ham Radio Operator and soon to be a licensed Drone Operator. He comes to us with great interest in helping us grow and be able to serve our areas better equipped and with more knowledge. The second new member is Susan Miller, she lives in Jersey Shore, is presently a Disaster Coordinator for Geisinger-Jersey Shore and the new Geisinger-Muncy facilities. She has a Masters Degree in Emergency Management, is a licensed Ham Radio Operator and brings lots of knowledge to the table.

We also lost one member, Paul Stitzer retired from Emergency Management from Watson Township and from West Branch Emergency Management as Watson Township's Representative. It is with regret to see Paul leave because he contributed great to the organization. We wish Paul the best of luck in his future whatever he may choose to do. Paul will however remain as an Associate Member of West Branch Emergency Management. If he ever wants to assist our organization he is welcome to come and help us.

We at West Branch Emergency Management have discussed many changes to be made in order for us to better serve our areas. We have several projects on the table at this time. As we get the work done we will share them with all of you out in EMA land.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

From all of us at West Branch Emergency Management





On Saturday and Sunday 08/13 – 14/2022, the Eastern States 100 Trail Run was held in the Pine Creek area. This national level trail run requires runners to run over 103 miles and finish within a 36 hour time limit. To give you an idea of the monumental challenge facing the runners and the elite status of these athletes, the Men's Course Record set in 2019 was 18:23:47 and the Women's course record set in 2021 was 24:34:14 (2021) There are multiple Aid Stations along the course and these Aid Stations are staffed by volunteers, including Amateur Radio Operators. Aid Stations are open as little as 2-3 hours to 18 hours and normally two Radio operators are at each Aid Station.

Amateur Radio operators are responsible for communicating with the Command Post at Little Pine State Park. Operators report bib numbers of runners as they pass through each Aid Station, medical assistance requests for anyone, equipment and supplies needed and reporting bib numbers of runners who have chosen to withdraw from the event.

This year, approximately 500 hours of time was donated by Multiple Amateur Radio operators from around the county, region, state and country.

For more info on the Eastern States 100, see their web site at [Easternstates100.com](http://Easternstates100.com)

On Monday August 22, 2022, Lycoming ACS participated in an exercise simulating the loss of Communications capability at the Little League World Series. ACS members deployed to multiple locations and tested communications capability between those locations, the EOC and Little League Operations on Amateur Radio Repeater as well as Simplex (radio to radio) frequencies. The ACS Radio Room at the County EOC was able to establish contact with PEMA ACS via WINLINK (Digital Email sent via Hf radio). Thanks to all who participated.

On Saturday 10/15/2022, Lycoming County EMA offered a "Ham in a Day" review and test session for those interested in getting their amateur radio technician class license. Lycoming County ACS and Bald Eagle Repeater Association, a local amateur radio club provided instructors and Volunteer Examiners.

Fourteen students, including two from the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety (Abby Houseknecht & William Miller) attended the class with all fourteen obtaining their Technician class Amateur Radio license and one obtaining their General Class amateur radio license. Congratulations to those who passed and are now licensed amateur radio operators.





On Saturday 10/01/2022, Lycoming DCS/ACS members participated in the ARRL EPA (Eastern PA Section) SET (Simulated Emergency Test).

The SET this year simulated a response to a Hurricane affecting all counties in the EPA Section. It was ironic that Hurricane IAN made landfall for the second time in the last 24 hours along the east coast, battering Florida and then South Carolina.

In our County, we simulated deployment to four shelters (Montgomery, Hughesville, Williamsport, Jersey Shore). ICS-213 forms were transmitted from each of the shelters to KB3DXU (Lycoming DCS/ACS Radio Room).

We transmitted the ICS-213 forms via Winlink over HF Radio, WINLINK VHF Peer to peer, WINLINK VHF Repeater (Huntersville 145.450). We also received a voice message from ARMY MARS through Travis Best (W3TMB).

During the test, we transmitted a total of seven ICS-213 messages and received one voice message.

At the conclusion of the simulation, an ICS-213 with our report to EPA leadership as well as an ICS-213 reply receipt to ARMY MARS was sent via WINLINK HF through K1EHZ in Bedford, NH.

We had a couple of minor glitches as this was our first attempt at WINLINK VARA FM Peer to Peer transmissions, but we were able to work through those.

The following DCS / ACS Amateurs participated in the exercise - WJ3OM (John Mummert @ the Radio Room), N3ZIO (Dale Brendle @ Montgomery, PA Shelter), AC3EU (Cliff Allen @ Hughesville, PA Shelter), KC8T (Tom Inman - Jersey Shore Shelter - Note that Tom actually deployed to Jersey Shore Elementary School), Travis Best (PEMA ACS Officer - ARMY MARS), KB3IPZ (Bob Brown @ Williamsport Shelter & DCS / ACS Radio Room)



# Are you ReadyPA?

## TIP SHEET

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
STATE COLLEGE, PA

#SnowSquallSafetyPA

# SNOW SQUALLS

### WHAT ARE THEY?

- Intense short-lived moderate to heavy snowfall bursts
- Quick reduction in visibility and whiteout conditions from gusty winds
- Associated with strong cold fronts which bring Arctic air during winter



### WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS?

- Rapidly deteriorating conditions can cause roads to become icy and slick in a matter of minutes; "Flash Freeze"
- Often lead to chain-reaction accidents and treacherous travel

### SAFETY:

- There is no safe place on a highway during a snow squall event
- Consider an alternate route or delaying travel, reduce speed and turn on headlights
- **STAY ALERT AND WEATHER AWARE!**



## THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE ON A HIGHWAY DURING A SNOW SQUALL

<h3>What is a snow squall?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief but intense period of heavy snow, strong winds, and whiteout conditions.</li> <li>• Can cause roads to become icy.</li> </ul>	<h3>If a snow squall warning is issued, what should I do?</h3> <p>Avoid or delay motor travel until the squall passes through your location.</p>	<h3>511PA App</h3> <p>iPhone</p> <p>Android</p> <p>Download this <b>FREE</b> app to get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic conditions</li> <li>• Traffic speeds</li> <li>• Live traffic camera images</li> <li>• Highway construction updates</li> <li>• <b>Weather conditions and alerts</b></li> </ul>
<h3>What is a snow squall warning?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued for areas that will be impacted by snow squalls.</li> <li>• Will trigger an alert on your cell phone.</li> </ul>	<h3>What if I am already traveling?</h3> <p>Safely exit the road at the next opportunity.</p>	
<p><a href="http://pennot.gov/winter">pennot.gov/winter</a> <a href="http://weather.gov/safety/winter-snow-squall">weather.gov/safety/winter-snow-squall</a></p>	<h3>What if I cannot exit the road in time?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow down gradually.</li> <li>• Turn on your headlights and hazard lights.</li> <li>• Stay in your lane.</li> <li>• Increase your following distance.</li> <li>• <b>Avoid</b> slamming on your brakes.</li> </ul>	



**RDPC**  
Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium

**"Prepare for the worst. Train to be the best."**

[www.ruralttraining.org](http://www.ruralttraining.org) | 877-855-RDPC (7372)

## AWR 232: Mass Fatalities Planning and Response for Rural Communities-Virtual Zoom Delivery

AWR 232 is an 8-hour, DHS/FEMA-certified, tuition-free, awareness-level course. The goal of this course is to teach participants the basics of mass fatality response while providing opportunities to exchange rural perceptions and brainstorm solutions to simulated emergencies. Responding to a mass fatality incident, which includes the recovery, identifications, and reunification of the deceased, is one of the most difficult aspects of disaster response. In times of crisis, small, rural, and tribal communities are often ill-equipped with facilities to manage large numbers of casualties. When the time comes, communities must be prepared to use available resources to properly manage the remains that will result. Regardless of the agencies or organizations that respond, whether they be governmental agencies or private or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the responsibility to coordinate and manage these outside resources rests with local authorities

Topics include (but not limited to):

- Define mass fatality and possible scenarios
- Identify methods of obtaining Federal resources.
- Identify issues to be considered in mass fatality response planning.
- Explain the importance of mass fatality response planning.
- Identify potential resources that should be included in a response plan.

Who Should Attend:

- All First Responders
- Public Health Officials
- Community Stakeholders
- Citizen/Community Volunteers
- Funeral Service Providers
- Hospital Staff
- Coroner/Medical Examiners
- Emergency Management Personnel



The Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC) now offers virtual, instructor-led training opportunities using Zoom for Government. This new training modality offers a secure, encrypted environment so that emergency responders can train virtually anywhere.

This 8-hour course will be presented over two consecutive days. Each day will consist of one 4-hour training session. Participants are required to use their own computer, tablet, or smartphone during the course. Each participant should log in a few minutes early to test the audio and/or video connection. While downloading the latest Zoom client app is beneficial, it's not required.

Sponsoring Agency:

Course Date:

Course Time:

Course Registration Deadline (date/time):

*Non-U.S. citizens are required to complete a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request form 30 days in advance. Contact RDPC at 877-855-RDPC (7372) for more info.*

Registration is **required** through the RDPC website. Register for this course by visiting the following link:

Participants are required to register no later than **24 hours** in advance. A **minimum of 25 registrations** must be received to ensure the class will be held.

**FEMA S.I.D. REQUIRED.** Register for your FEMA Student Identification Number by visiting <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>

*For more information regarding this course, please contact the following:*

Course Contact Person

Course Contact Phone#

Course Contact Email Address

Additional Course Information



**FEMA**



Special Consideration: For participants requiring a printed course manual, registration is required 7 business days in advance. For assistance in obtaining a printed course manual, please call the course contact person listed above.



## **NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST: PLANNING**

The staff of Lycoming County EMA welcomes Logan Laidacker as our new Emergency Management Specialist: Planning. Logan joined the 9-1-1 Center directly after his high school graduation as a Telecommunicator. He spent a little over 5 years dispatching fire, city police and county police before being promoted to the 9-1-1 Communications Training Coordinator for the last 3 years.



Logan lives in Muncy with his wife, Molly, and their dog Kizzy. He has been a member of the Muncy Area Volunteer Fire Company for 12 years where he currently holds the position of Assistant Chief. He has also received his County Basic Certification from PEMA and is finishing up classes to receive his County Advanced Certification.

Please welcome Logan to our emergency management community when you see him at our next meeting!

## **SSES EOC EXERCISE**

For the first time since FEMA granted an exemption for the 2020 exercise due to COVID-19, the Lycoming County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) had a successful Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) federally evaluated EOC exercise. We were able to exercise with minimal staffing to simulate what our EOC would have looked like in the 2020 Pandemic year.



Lycoming County is a support county to the Berwick Power Plant. Our primary function is to test our abilities to protect the public's health and safety if a nuclear

event were to happen.

Thank you to all the groups and volunteers who were able to make this year's SSES Exercise a successful one!





# Where Can You Check Road Conditions?



Search "511PA" in your App Store

- Download the 511PA App for Apple or Android or visit [511pa.com](http://511pa.com) for free.
- Get traffic conditions, traffic speeds, live traffic camera images, highway construction updates, and weather conditions & alerts.



#SnowSquallSafetyPA



## 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.

### **Vehicle Rescue Safety Update**

Dec 15, 2022 1830-2230

Classes held at Loyalsock Twp VFC

Registration deadline: Dec 5, 2022

### ADDITIONAL TRAINING

[FEMA IS Training](#)

[NERRTC Online Training](#)

[CDP Online Courses](#)

[Train PA](#)

[PEMA Training Calendar](#)

[PEMA Student Training Manuals](#)

EMA training questions can be directed to Paula Young.

Paula Young

Lycoming County Department of Public Safety

Phone: 570-433-4461

Email: PYoung@lyco.org

**2022 QUARTERLY TRAINING**

December 8      7:00 pm      Thursday

**2023 QUARTERLY TRAINING**

March 23	6:30 pm	Thursday	EMA Banquet
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**

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  
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