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 12, 2013 - 7:00 pm
At
LYCOMING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
542 COUNTY FARM ROAD, SUITE 101
MONTOURSVILLE, PA   17754

TOPICS: New Red Cross Disaster Response Vehicle, Al Smith
Penn College Emergency Management Technology Program, David Bjorkman

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS
At the next EMA quarterly training, there will be 2 presentations.

For the first presentation, Mr. Al Smith, from the American Red Cross, will be giving an overview and tour of the new Disaster Response Vehicle. Following the tour, Mr. Smith will be giving a small Red Cross presentation.

The second presentation will be given by Mr. David Bjorkman. Mr. Bjorkman will be presenting information for the new Emergency Management Technology Bachelor of Science degree program now being offered at the Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Hope to see everyone there!

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE IN MS-1 EXERCISE

On October 1, 2013 at 9:00 am, the Susquehanna Regional Medical Center and an EMS crew from Susquehanna Regional EMS successfully participated in an MS-1 Exercise (Medical Services Exercise). The MS-1 Exercise is conducted yearly. This year the exercise was evaluated by PEMA officials with assistance from PPL staff. The exercise is required to allow the medical center to maintain its designation as a resource hospital to receive radiologically contaminated/injured personnel from a Berwick Nuclear Power Facility based incident. The scenario for this exercise was that a radiologically contaminated citizen was injured when entangled in the leashes of dogs evacuated to the reception center. The citizen requires transport to the appropriate receiving facility/hospital for treatment.

The scenario began at the Almond Street SREMS facility where an on-duty crew from Susquehanna Regional EMS evaluated and transported the victim to the Ambulance Service Center at the Williamsport Regional Medical Center. The emphasis in this exercise is to provide medical treatment as soon as possible and not get overwhelmed by the possibility of radiological contamination. The on-scene crews work very hard at isolating the suspected contaminated areas and make sure that while at the scene no cross-contamination occurs.

When the patient arrived at the Ambulance Service Center, he was treated and decontaminated prior to entering the hospital, thus preventing possible contamination of the Emergency Room. This procedure is performed by ER staff and staff from the Radiology Department of the Williamsport Regional Medical Center.

This year, according to the evaluator report from PEMA and PPL, everyone did another great job and the exercise was deemed highly successful and educational. This is contributed to the dedication and skill level of all of those involved in this radiological exercise.
As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

**PICKING THE TREE**
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

**PLACING THE TREE**
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2” from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

**LIGHTING THE TREE**
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

**After Christmas**
Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

**FACTS**
- One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical failures.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every six of the fires.

Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education
BASIC CERTIFICATION RECEIVED

Lycoming County Department of Public Safety employee, Debb Berninger, received her PEMA Basic Certification. Debb is a Clerk at DPS and helps out in our EOC during exercises and incidents.

Director John Yingling, and several DPS staff members, presented the plaque to Debb in our office on November 5, 2013.

Please join the DPS staff in congratulating Debb on this great

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.

CUMMINGS TOWNSHIP
DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH
MCNETT TOWNSHIP
# Winter Storm Safety Checklist

## Winter Storms
Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet, and freezing rain.

## What should I do?
- **Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, wear mittens and a hat (preferably one that covers your ears).**
- **Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.**
- **Minimize travel. If travel is necessary, keep a disaster supplies kit in your vehicle.**
- **Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or other local news channels for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS).**
- **Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.**
- **Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.**
- **Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.**
- **Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.**
- **Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.**
- **All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside and kept clear.**

## What supplies do I need?
- **Water—at least a 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day.**
- **Food—at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food.**
- **First aid kit.**
- **Medication (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, canes).**
- **Multi-purpose tool.**
- **Sanitation and personal hygiene items.**
- **Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies).**
- **Cell phone with chargers.**
- **Family and emergency contact information.**
- **Extra cash.**
- **Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers).**
- **Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl).**
- **Tools/supplies for securing your home.**
- **Sand, rock salt or non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery.**
- **Wax, coats, gloves or mittens, hats, boots and extra blankets and warm clothing for all household members.**
- **Ample alternate heating methods such as fireplaces or wood- or coal-burning stoves.**

## What do I do after a storm?
- **Go to a designated public shelter if your home loses power or heat during periods of extreme cold.**
- **Avoid driving when conditions include sleet, freezing rain or drizzle, snow or dense fog.**
- **Before tackling strenuous tasks in cold temperatures, consider your physical condition, the weather forecast and the nature of the task.**
- **Protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia by wearing warm, loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in several layers. Stay indoors, if possible.**
- **Help people who require special assistance such as elderly people living alone, people with disabilities and children.**
- **Check on your animals and make sure that their access to food and water is not blocked by snow drifts, ice or other obstacles.**

### Caution: Carbon Monoxide Kills
- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning device inside a home, garage, basement, crawl space or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- The primary hazards to avoid when using alternate sources for electricity, heating or cooking are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide.
- If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door.
- Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

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**Let Your Family Know You’re Safe**

If your community experiences a severe winter storm or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well® Web site available through RedCross.org to let your family and friends know that you are safe. If you don’t have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.

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For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org).
Notes from the Director…

I thank you all for your efforts and your dedication during 2013. Although the year featured minimal tropical activity, numerous thunderstorms and an occasional Tornado Warning continued to remind us of our vulnerability to Mother Nature. As we transition into 2014, the Department of Public Safety will be working on the following projects: The completion of the County’s alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the completion of the first phase of our microwave system replacement project, and to provide timely and high quality training and informational programs to you.

I was very appreciative of the extent of participation by Local EMC’s with the September 2013 County EMA training exercise. I personally wish to thank all who participate and tested your equipment and opened your EOC’s. A JOB WELL DONE!

A special thanks to the Montgomery EMA for their support of the Lycoming County Health Care Improvement Coalition flu shot clinic program. That group opened up a Point of Distribution operation, based upon an existing plan, to provide the vaccines. An excellent test!

Many local governments have elected NEW officials as Supervisors, Mayors, and Council members, now is a great time to introduce yourself and the role of the EMC. DPS is planning to provide training programs for new (and existing) local officials early in 2014. Please pass on training information to the newly elected and encourage their participation.

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 online for your convenience.

Don’t forget to update YOUR Emergency Operating Plan for your municipality and make sure to keep the County EMA “in the loop”!

THANKS!

John
UPCOMING EMA CLASSES

The classes listed below are being offered within the County. Preregistration is required for these classes. You can register online at www.lyco.org, under “Top 10 Links” pick “Public Safety Training Courses”. Contact Kelle Robinson with any questions concerning these classes.

The following classes are being provided by the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety and the North Central Task Force:

COMMUNICATIONS FOR FIRE POLICE (Must attend all 4 days)

    Thursday, January 2, 16, 23, 30, 2014
    6:30pm–10:30pm, Independent Fire Dept, South Williamsport

ELEVATOR RESCUE AWARENESS

    Monday, January 13, 2014
    6:30 pm– 10:30 pm, Muncy Area VFD, 35 S. Main Street, Muncy

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR RESPONSE

    Saturday, February 1, 2014
    6:30 pm–8:30 pm, Old Lycoming Twp. FD, 1600 Dewey Ave., Wmspt.

NIMS/ICS-300 (Must attend all 4 days)

    Tuesday, February 18, & Thursday, February 20, 2014
    6:00pm–10:00pm, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety

    Saturday, February 22, & Sunday, February 23, 2014
    8:30am–4:30pm, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

    Wednesday, February 19, 2014
    1 afternoon class and 1 evening class will be offered
    Time to be Determined, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety

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
On Thursday November 7, 2013, Lycoming County Dept of Public Safety, Range Resources and EQT co-sponsored a training session related to IED & Suspicious Package Awareness. Covenant Security, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Philadelphia Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) presented an Industry Outreach Workshop for some of the area’s law enforcement and gas industry safety & security personnel. The workshop was designed to raise the awareness of the use of Improvised Explosives Devices (IEDs).

The classroom portion of this training was held at the Pennsylvania’s College of Technology-Professional Development Center and included lectures focused on Counter IED initiatives, capabilities, the chemical threat and case studies. The second session consisted of an explosives demonstration of various improvised explosives which can be made using common chemicals. This demonstration is designed to underscore the potential danger of these chemicals.
Pennsylvania College of Technology is now offering a Bachelor of Science Degree in Emergency Management Technology. The Emergency Management Technology major prepares students for careers in emergency management and public safety. The curriculum provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the four phases of emergency management, levels of governmental responsibility, policies and procedures influencing coordinated/integrated efforts, and the appropriate roles and requisite skills of an effective emergency manager.

Graduates of this major may find employment in many areas directly and indirectly related to emergency management, such as emergency management specialists; environmental science and protection technicians; hazardous materials removal workers; occupational health and safety specialists; emergency medical technicians and paramedics; and police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers.

A graduate of this major should be able to:

- Assess, organize, and develop plans to facilitate the relationship between federal, state, and regional EMAs and the communities they serve.
- Collaborate within and between governmental entities, community service agencies, and health care provider organizations to ensure that effective disaster preparedness mitigation, capacity to respond to disasters, and disaster recovery planning are current and adequate to meet local and regional needs.
- Utilize best practices to facilitate and support leadership in response to natural and manmade emergencies.
- Communicate effectively and appropriately with professional emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, public officials, and affected citizens during all phases of a disaster.
- Demonstrate a commitment to continuous personal growth and professional development.
- Promote and support the profession through service activities and affiliation with relevant professional associations.

For more information, contact the Pennsylvania College of Technology.

From www.pct.edu.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FROM THE LYCOMING COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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 printed, 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
570-329-4061

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

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QUARTERLY TRAINING FOR YEAR 2013-2014

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