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 10, 2015 - 7:00 pm
At
LYCOMING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
542 COUNTY FARM ROAD, SUITE 101
MONTOURSVILLE, PA   17754

TOPIC: Kenneth Pochatko, Sr. Highway Maintenance Manager
PA Department of Transportation

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS
The speaker for the next Lycoming County EMA quarterly training will be Kenneth Pochatko, and staff, from the PA Department of Transportation. They will be discussing the Penn DOT winter maintenance plan, how it may effect your community, and how we can work together to make the upcoming winter season a safe one.

Additional information on upcoming training and events planned for the remainder of 2015 and for 2016 will also be discussed at this training.

Hope to see everyone there!
Avian Influenza
Where to Get Help

Where do I get help when I suspect a health problem in my poultry flock?
The Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System has several university-based veterinarians with advanced training and expertise in poultry diseases. They deal with all types of avian health problems, from the common to the unusual, and can help sort out individual bird problems from those that may cause sickness in the entire flock. Diseases that may spread to other animals and people can also be identified. Conditions that may impact food safety of poultry meat and eggs can be detected or ruled out. Please contact either of the labs below for consultation, preferably the one nearer your location:

Penn State Animal Diagnostic Laboratory
University Park, PA (Centre County)
Phone: 814-863-9837
vbs.psu.edu/adl

New Bolton Center Laboratory of Avian Medicine and Pathology, University of Pennsylvania
Kennett Square, PA (Chester County)
Phone: 610-444-3800 ext. 6710
www.vet.upenn.edu/research/academic-departments/pathobiology/avian-medicine-and-pathology

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services also has veterinarians on staff in the roles of keeping birds healthy and preventing disease spread. Some are based at the main offices in Harrisburg, and there are staff in each of seven regions in the state. You may know the PDA veterinarian in your region from fairs or certified poultry technician training courses. Contact phone information for these offices are as follows:

State Veterinarian, Harrisburg
717-772-2852
extension.psu.edu/flock-help

Regional PDA Veterinarians
1. Northwest (Meadville): 814-332-6890
2. North Central (Montoursville): 570-433-2640 ext. 2
3. Northeast (Tunkhannock): 570-836-2181
4. Southwest (Greensburg) 724-832-1073
5. Central (Martinsburg): 814-793-1849 ext. 218
6. South Central (Harrisburg): 717-836-3237
7. Southeast (Collegeville): 610-489-1003

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a national toll-free hotline to report significant illness or deaths consistent with avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease, both highly contagious viral diseases. These signs can include sudden death without clinical signs; lack of energy or appetite; decreased egg production; soft-shelled or misshapen eggs; swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, hocks; nasal discharge; coughing; sneezing; incoordination;

CONTINUED PAGE 3
and diarrhea. If applicable to your situation, call the USDA
Healthy Birds Hotline at 866-536-7593. Callers will be
routed to a state or federal veterinarian in Pennsylvania for a
case assessment.

Penn State Extension has experts in many other areas of keep-
ing poultry, including breeding, incubation, genetics, judging,
nutrition, housing, ventilation, etc. Many health problems are
related to these factors rather than infectious disease agents
alone. For contact information, go to extension.psu.edu/
animals/poultry/directory.

Private-practice veterinarians who are known to work
with poultry patients may also be contacted, especially with
reference to a single bird with specific problems. The uni-
versity-based veterinarians above are available as a resource
for private-practice vets to help guide sample selection and
diagnostic tests.

What else should I do when I suspect a
health problem in my poultry flock?
If birds are dying, the dead should be double-bagged and
refrigerated for possible testing. Meanwhile, until the prob-
lem is investigated further, diagnosed, and/or resolved, put
your flock on “voluntary quarantine.” This means operating
as a closed flock during this time. Do not buy, sell, trade, or
otherwise move birds to or from your premises. Do not visit
other flocks, poultry auctions, or shows, or receive visitors
who have their own birds. These measures will help prevent
potential disease-causing agents from being transmitted
other flocks and new agents from being introduced into
yours. A general resource for backyard bird health informa-
tion is online at www.healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov.

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VACANT EMC POSITIONS

In accordance with Title 35, all municipalities in the Commonwealth must have an
Emergency Management Coordinator. Currently, the following municipalities do not:

ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP
MCHENRY TOWNSHIP
PINE TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

If you or anyone you know would be interested in this position, please contact the Lycoming
County EMA office at 570-433-4461.
On Saturday, October 24, 2015, Duke Energy and the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety coordinated a medical emergency response exercise at the Laurel Hill Wind Farm in McIntyre Township. The exercise was intended to test the communication capabilities from a wind turbine within the wind farm. It was also intended to test the ability of the Ralston VFC to gain access to the tower.

The scenario of the exercise was that a Duke Energy worker is experiencing chest pain and has fallen sustaining a broken leg. Another worker then placed a call to the Duke Energy emergency call center. The call center then contacts the Lycoming County 9-1-1 communications center to coordinate emergency response to the site.

Ralston VFC then responds to the site to stabilize and transport the worker to the nearest medical facility. Aside from the need to access this remote location, the volunteer responders also had to maneuver the patient out of the tight area within the wind tower.

The exercise was a great success with everyone gathering information that will be helpful should a real emergency take place on the Wind Farm.

Thank you to Duke Energy for hosting this exercise and to Ralston VFC volunteers for participating! Lycoming County Public Safety looks forward to coordinating more exercise in the future!
Notes from the Director…

I thank you all for your continued efforts and dedication during 2015. As of November 9th, this year has featured minimal tropical activity. However, as in previous years, numerous thunderstorms and the occasional Tornado Warning continued to remind us of our vulnerability to Mother Nature.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the Emergency Management staff at DPS for their efforts to renew the STORM READY recognition for the County. An additional Thank You/Job Well done is to be extended to the EMA staff, Jeff Dawes from the PRC Center, and others who assisted with the repainting of multiple staff stream level gauges on the watersheds.

Most local governments have elected NEW officials such as Supervisors, Mayors, and Council members. Now is a great time to introduce yourself and the role of the EMC. DPS is planning to again provide training programs for new (and existing) local official’s early in 2016. 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 on-line for your convenience. Don’t forget to update YOUR Emergency Operations Plan for your municipality and make sure to keep the County EMA “in the loop”!

THANKS!

John

NATURAL GAS ACTIVITY

Natural Gas Activity within Lycoming County as of November 23, 2015:

- Named Wells—1506
- Addressed Wells—1469
- Permitted Wells—1357
- Spudded Wells—907
- Wells within 1/2 mile interface zone—602
- Compressor/meter/interconnect Stations—70
- Water impoundments and withdraw sites—102
- Active drill rigs—0

13 Operators (Top 3 of addressed well pads)
   1. Anadarko - 120
   2. Range - 57
   3. Exco - 53

31 Municipalities (Top 3 with activity)
   1. Cogan House - 60
   2. Cummings - 58
   3. Penn - 25

Please contact Craig Konkle if you need any additional information concerning Energy Development within Lycoming County.
LYCOMING COUNTY RECEIVES
STORMREADY DESIGNATION

Lycoming County’s designation as a StormReady county was renewed for another three years on November 1, 2015. The county began their designation in 2000 with renewal occurring every three years.

StormReady is a program offered by the National Weather Service (NWS) with a focus on building community resilience in the face of extreme weather events.

Each year, Americans cope with over 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 flooding events, and nearly 1,000 tornadic events. 98% of all Presidential Disaster Declarations are weather related. Lycoming County is no exception. Severe weather and flooding are major vulnerabilities and risks to our County. Since no county is storm proof, this program can help make a difference.

The Lycoming County system of rain and stream gauges, combined with redundant warning capabilities, are a part of this program. To further enhance our program, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety conducts multiple training and awareness events to help educate the public. These include hosting Skywarn Spotter classes and assembling displays at various public health fairs and venues.

Thank you to Richard Knecht and the EMA staff for their efforts and diligence to renew this important NWS designation for Lycoming County.
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.

SOLAR PANEL AWARENESS

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm, Nisbet VFC

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS REFRESHER (HMAR)

Monday, January 11, 2016 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Independent VFC, S. Wmspt.

Tuesday, January 13, 2016 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Northumberland Fire Police Assoc.
35 Water St., Northumberland, PA 17857

* G-191: ICS/EOC INTERFACE

Saturday, January 23, 2016 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Department of Public Safety

Other Training Resources:

PEMA TRAINING CALENDAR:
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=50511&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
HOLIDAY HOME FIRES

Fast Facts

- Nearly 47,000 fires occur during the winter holidays claiming more than 500 lives, causing more than 2,200 injuries, and costing $554 million in property damage.**

- On average, one of every 22 home fires started by Christmas trees result in death.***

- Candle fires are four times as likely to occur during the winter holidays.**

- During the winter holiday season, an average of 40 home fires per day are caused by children playing.**

- The number of home fires the American Red Cross has responded to has risen 10% since 2000.*

- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half.**

Preparedness Tips

- Place Christmas trees, candles, and other holiday decorations at least three feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, portable heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles.

- Purchase flame retardant metallic or artificial trees. If you purchase a real tree, make sure that it has fresh, green needles that aren't easily broken. Keep live trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water.

- Make sure that light strings and other holiday decorations are in good condition. Do not use anything with frayed electrical cords and always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

- Always unplug tree and holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed.

- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree. Always extinguish candles before leaving the room or going to bed.

- Use only sturdy tree stands designed not to tip over. Keep curious pets and children away from Christmas trees.

- Keep anything that can catch on fire—pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains—away from your stove top.

- Designate one person to walk around your home to make sure that all candles and smoking materials are properly extinguished after guests leave.

- Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm near your kitchen, on each level of your home, near sleeping areas, and inside and outside bedrooms if you sleep with doors closed. Use the test button to check it each month. Replace all batteries at least once a year.

- Visit www.redcross.org/homefires for more information on how to keep your home fire safe during the holidays.

Sources: American Red Cross,* U.S. Fire Administration,** and the National Fire Protection Association.***
GETTING TO KNOW OUR EMCs

For the next edition in the series of “Getting to Know Our EMCs”, we are featuring Mr. Frank Welsh. Frank was appointed EMC for Fairfield Township in 1992. He holds the PEMA Basic, Advanced and Professional levels of Certification in Emergency Management.

Mr. Welsh has been a resident of Lycoming County for over 50 years. Along with being a municipal EMC, Frank is a former member in good standing of the Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department and is currently an inactive member of the North Central Task Force Incident Management Team.

In addition for his PEMA certifications, Frank holds an Advanced Safety Certification through the National Safety Council. He is also a Origin and Cause Investigator with the State Fire Academy.

Frank characterizes his wife of 39 years, Barbara, as “the sunshine in my day”. They are the proud parents of three children who also live in the Lycoming County area.

Lycoming County would like to thank Mr. Frank Welsh for his many years of service!

Getting Your Vehicle Ready for Winter
Motorists should ensure that...

- Pre-winter mechanical inspection is completed
- Your radio is working properly
- Your wipers don’t streak
- Fluid levels are full
- Tires are properly inflated
- Tires have proper tread depth
- Dedicated snow tires for heavy snow areas
- All lights are working
SUPPORT FOR THE
14TH ANNUAL 9-11 MEMORIAL RIDE

On Friday, 09/11/2015, Montgomery EMA and Lycoming County ACS members, Les Gruver (N3LEQ) and Dennis Gruver (KB3FCO) set up IMU-630 to provided Ride communications for the 9/11 Memorial Coalition’s 14th Annual Memorial Motorcycle Ride. This event is attended by a large number of bikers and passengers (this years estimate was over 10,000 bikes) and the route is lined with thousands of spectators.

Les and Dennis provided communications with lead and tail units in the procession via a VHF County-Wide frequency as well as asking local ACS members/Amateur Radio operators who were along the route to pass info to them via a County Amateur Radio Repeater (145.33 mhz) when the procession passed their location.

Five (5) ACS members, as well as a local Amateur Radio operators, took time to provide Les and Dennis with procession location information. In addition, at least three (3) ACS members took part in the procession.

Lycoming County thanks the Montgomery EMA and Lycoming County ACS members for their efforts in ensuring the safety of everyone who came out to enjoy this annual event.
EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE IN MS-1 EXERCISE

On October 21, 2015, 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 officials from both the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), 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.

This year, according to the evaluator report from FEMA, 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.

CERT CLASS HELD

This fall, Craig Konkle instructed a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class to a group of students at the Loyalsock Township High School. This class ran for several days in October and November with the final class being held at the Loyalsock Township Fire Station.

These CERT classes train the students on several aspects of emergency preparedness. Participants are given instruction on basic first aid, how to help during different types of emergencies, and how to prepare their families for an emergency. Each class participant received a CERT emergency kit with items to help during an emergency incident.

The Lycoming County Department of Public Safety would like to thank the staff at the Loyalsock Township High School for giving us the opportunity to teach the next generation how to be better prepared for an emergency.
**DUPONT “THERMO MAN” DEMONSTRATION**

At the last quarterly meeting of the Lycoming County Natural Gas Task Force Training & Safety Consortium on October 27, 2015, the Dupont Company was on hand to demonstrate their Thermo Man tester. The demonstration was held at the Penn College campus. The Thermo Man is designed to test the fire retardant capabilities of clothing worn by workers within various industries, including the natural gas industry.

The Thermo Man mannequin is equipped with sensors to tell where the most heat is observed and how hot that area gets. This information can tell garment producers where they may need to improve their products and can let employers know which FR products are best for their employees. Members of the Consortium were encouraged to bring the FR clothing their employees use to see how much protection they would actually have should a fire related accident occur at their job site.

Thank you to Dupont for bringing this display and to Penn College for hosting this event.

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**MONTGOMERY EMA ASSISTS AT MILITARY BLIMP CRASH SITE**

By: Dennis Gruver, Montgomery Borough EMC

On Wednesday October 28, 2015 at 20:00 hr. PEMA, through the Lycoming County 911 Center, requested Personnel and Light Tower 630 from Montgomery Emergency Management to respond to Kepner Hill south of Muncy to light the site where a military blimp had crashed earlier that day.

On a Dark and stormy night Dennis and Greg Gruver responded with the requested equipment. As we approached the area there were (2) check points set up by Fire personnel and PA State Police. When we arrived at the scene we found a crew from the Washingtonville Fire Department set up under a 10/10 ft. shelter at the rear of their equipment truck serving as the command post, the fellows were tired and wet from the wind and rain which had fallen most of the afternoon.

When the Light Tower was up and running the Fire Department was released. An IMU trailer from Columbia County was brought to the site for the State Police to operate from. Thru the night many agencies arrived to set up their operations. With all the training we have had and all the agencies present I did not see any type of an incident command system in place.

Thru the night the Light Tower worked not only for lighting but also as a power source for the American Red Cross which was set up next to us. At 09:15am on Thursday we were released By the Columbia County EMC, The Red Cross transferred their power cable to another Light Tower that had been brought in overnight, We had about 14 hours run time on the equipment. This was a great training exercise and for the time of year the weather could have been much worse on top of Kepner Hill.
BASIC CERTIFICATION RECEIVED

Recently, several Lycoming County Department of Public Safety employees earned their PEMA Basic Certification. The employees are: Sandy Holdren, Deputy Director/9-1-1 Manager; Darla Greiner, Chief Emergency Preparedness Planner; Beth Baylor, Communications Training Coordinator; Stephanie Andrus, 9-1-1 Telecommunicator. Darla and Stephanie were presented their plaques at the September 24, 2015 EMA quarterly training by EMA manager Richard Knecht.

Please join the DPS staff in congratulating these outstanding employees on this great achievement!

EMERGENCY TRAVEL KIT...DON’T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

Also remember to include warm clothing and gloves, blanket, ice scraper, sand, non-perishable food and anything else you may need to accommodate family traveling with you (special medication, baby supplies, pet food, etc.).
2015 QUARTERLY TRAINING

December 10  7:00 pm  Thursday  County EMA Office

TENTATIVE 2016 QUARTERLY TRAINING

March 31   6:30 pm  Thursday  Holiday Inn
June 23    7:00 pm  Thursday  County EMA Office
September 22  7:00 pm  Thursday  County EMA Office
December 8  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

COUNTY EMA STAFF          PHONE          EMAIL
Richard Knecht,  
EMA Manager     570-329-4732  rknecht@lyco.org
Craig Konkle,  
Energy Development Emergency 
Response Coordinator  570-329-4724  ckonkle@lyco.org
Kelle Robinson,  
Training & Operations Coordinator  570-329-4723  krobinson@lyco.org
Tommie Smith,  
Administrative Assistant  570-329-4722  tsmith@lyco.org