

EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

Volume 18, Issue 4

Fall 2018

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 13, 2018 - 7:00pm

At

LYCOMING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
542 COUNTY FARM ROAD, SUITE 101
MONTOURSVILLE, PA 17754

TOPIC: Stop the Bleed Training, Presented by: EMA Staff

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

For the next EMA quarterly Training, EMA Staff will be presenting Stop the Bleed training. Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign and call-to-action. It is intended to cultivate grass roots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.

Please join us for this important training. No medical or EMS background is needed.

Hope to see you there!



IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

Federal Aid Received-Aug Storm	2
Happy Retirement Jimmy!	3
SSES Exercise	3
EMA Visits Open Houses	4
Winter Driving Tips	4
Notes From the Director	5
STC: Basic Tips and Advise	6-7
Upcoming EMA Classes	8
Safety Reminder: Outdoor Vents	8
Generator Safety	9
Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze	10
Quarterly Training Schedule	11
We Want to Hear From You	11
Contact Us	11

Commonwealth Receives Federal Aid for Severe Storms in August

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2018

Harrisburg—Governor Tom Wolf today announced the federal government has granted his request for Public Assistance to Reimburse State agencies, county and Municipal governments and other eligible private non-profits for costs associated with severe storms that brought heavy rainfall and severe flash flooding to parts of Pennsylvania from August 10 to 15, 2018.

“Historic rainfall this summer created a financial disaster for many communities across the state,” Governor Wolf said. “We hope that our request for Individual Assistance, which was submitted at the same time, is also, granted.”

Public Assistance was awarded to the following counties: Bradford, Columbia, Lackawanna, Lycoming, Montour, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming. The governor’s request for Individual Assistance, which would make a variety of programs available to citizens to meet their recovery needs, is still under review by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Through the Public Assistance program, applicants can be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the costs incurred on eligible expenses, such as but not limited to: costs associated with paying overtime, repairs to damaged infrastructure, equipment rentals and materials.

Over the coming weeks, staff from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency will hold meetings with applicants to thoroughly review all application documentation before forwarding it to FEMA. The process is expected to take several weeks, and all reimbursements are handled electronically.

In order to request Public Assistance, the commonwealth overall must meet a threshold of \$19,053,569. Estimated costs associated with this incident period total nearly \$62.8 million. The governor signed a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, which is a required step in order to request federal aid, for this storm on August 17.

MEDIA CONTACT:

J.J. Abbott, 717-783-1116
Ruth Miller (PEMA), ruthmiller@pa.gov

###



We would like to wish James Pfleegor, our EMC for Armstrong and Susquehanna Townships, a Happy Retirement for 34 years of service to the county as a Telecommunicator! You will be greatly missed on the daily radio, but happy to still be working with you as an EMC! Best Wishes for the next chapter of your life!



SSES EOC & Field Exercise

Once again, the Lycoming County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) had a successful Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) federally evaluated exercise. 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 and see you all in two years!



Radiological Team Member, Stephen Puzio, performing initial radiation testing.



Left: ACS members, Robert Brown & Travis Best, setting up Amateur Radio Communications. Right: Radiological Team Member, Susan Sprout, doing post cleaning radiation testing.



EMA Visits Open Houses

In October, the Lycoming County EMA office was requested to set up a table for fire prevention/open houses to discuss emergency preparedness with Lycoming County Residents. It was a great time to get out and discuss the recent flooding 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.

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

- Clean debris from your vehicle
- Use low gears on hills
- Allow more stopping distance
- Don't drive if you don't have to
- Be mindful of black ice
- Know skid and slide recovery
 - Take your foot off the pedals
 - Steer gently
 - As the vehicle regains traction, gently apply the brakes or the accelerator

Notes from the Director...

I thank you all for your untiring efforts and dedication to Public Safety during 2018. The year 2018 will make local history for one of, if not the, wettest summer and fall seasons on record. This past year included numerous outbreaks of severe thunderstorms that impacted our municipalities with flooding, mud slides, and power outages. The May 2018 primary election day severe weather outbreak resulted in several large scale / long-term power and communications outages in the County, however, the elections continued without interruption. .

Based upon assessments after these severe weather events, please continue to assess does your municipality offer mobile communications device (smart phones, tablets, and other similar devices) charging facilities for those without commercial power? It is by these devices that many of our residents receive news or make contact with one another or family members. The ability to offer “charging stations” is something to consider for future events and the importance of being able to relay information.

I would also ask that each municipality/EMC review their damage assessment and reporting capabilities. The DPS staff can assist with sample reporting forms, assessment recommendations, and training.

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 Operating Plan and your Notification and Resource Manual for your municipality and make sure to keep the County EMA “in the loop”!

THANKS!

John



STOP | THINK | CONNECT™

BASIC TIPS AND ADVICE

KEEP A CLEAN MACHINE

- **KEEP SECURITY SOFTWARE CURRENT:** Having the latest security software, web browser and operating system is the best defense against viruses, malware and other online threats.
- **AUTOMATE SOFTWARE UPDATES:** Many software programs will automatically connect and update to defend against known risks. Turn on automatic updates if that's an available option.
- **PROTECT ALL DEVICES THAT CONNECT TO THE INTERNET:** Along with computers, smartphones, gaming systems and other web-enabled devices also need protection from viruses and malware.
- **PLUG & SCAN:** USBs and other external devices can be infected by viruses and malware. Use your security software to scan them.

PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

- **LOCK DOWN YOUR LOGIN:** Fortify your online accounts by enabling the strongest authentication tools available, such as biometrics, security keys or a unique one-time code through an app on your mobile device. Your usernames and passwords are not enough to protect key accounts like email, banking and social media.
- **MAKE YOUR PASSWORD A SENTENCE:** A strong password is a sentence that is at least 12 characters long. Focus on positive sentences or phrases that you like to think about and are easy to remember (for example, "I love country music."). On many sites, you can even use spaces!
- **UNIQUE ACCOUNT, UNIQUE PASSWORD:** Separate passwords for every account helps to thwart cybercriminals.
- **WRITE IT DOWN AND KEEP IT SAFE:** Having separate passwords for every account helps to thwart cybercriminals. At a minimum, separate your work and personal accounts and make sure that your critical accounts have the strongest passwords.

CONNECT WITH CARE

- **WHEN IN DOUBT THROW IT OUT:** Links in emails, social media posts and online advertising are often how cybercriminals try to steal your personal information. Even if you know the source, if something looks suspicious, delete it.
- **GET SAVVY ABOUT WI-FI HOTSPOTS:** Limit the type of business you conduct and adjust the security settings on your device to limit who can access your machine.
- **PROTECT YOUR \$\$:** When banking and shopping, check to be sure the site is security enabled. Look for web addresses with "https://" or "shttp://," which means the site takes extra measures to help secure your information. "Http://" is not secure.

STOPTHINKCONNECT.ORG



@STOPTHINKCONNECT



STOPTHINKCONNECT



STOPTHINKCONNECT



TIPS AND ADVICE

BE WEB WISE

- **STAY CURRENT:** Keep pace with new ways to stay safe online: Check trusted websites for the latest information, and share with friends, family, and colleagues and encourage them to be web wise.
- **THINK BEFORE YOU ACT:** Be wary of communications that implore you to act immediately, offer something that sounds too good to be true or ask for personal information.
- **BACK IT UP:** Protect your valuable work, music, photos and other digital information by making an electronic copy and storing it safely.

BE A GOOD ONLINE CITIZEN

- **SAFER FOR ME, MORE SECURE FOR ALL:** What you do online has the potential to affect everyone – at home, at work and around the world. Practicing good online habits benefits the global digital community.
- **POST ONLINE ABOUT OTHERS AS YOU HAVE THEM POST ABOUT YOU:** The Golden Rule applies online as well.
- **HELP THE AUTHORITIES FIGHT CYBERCRIME:** Report stolen finances or identities and other cybercrime to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov) and to your local law enforcement or state attorney general as appropriate.

OWN YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE

- **PERSONAL INFORMATION IS LIKE MONEY. VALUE IT. PROTECT IT:** Information about you, such as your purchase history or location, has value – just like money. Be thoughtful about who gets that information and how it's collected through apps and websites.
- **BE AWARE OF WHAT'S BEING SHARED:** Set the privacy and security settings on web services and devices to your comfort level for information sharing. It's OK to limit how and with whom you share information.
- **SHARE WITH CARE:** Think before posting about yourself and others online. Consider what a post reveals, who might see it and how it could be perceived now and in the future.

STOPTHINKCONNECT.ORG



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.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS LEVEL ANNUAL REFRESHER

Monday, January 14, 2019 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Nisbet VFC, 166 W Village Dr

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Thursday, January 17, 2019 6:30pm-10:30 pm, Hepburn Twp FC, 615 State Rte 973 East

ARSON AWARENESS

Monday, January 28, 2019 6:30pm - 10:30pm, Nisbet VFC, 166 W Village Dr.

BASIC FIRE POLICE

Wednesday, February 6, 2019 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp FD, 1600 Dewey Ave
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp FD, 1600 Dewey Ave
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp FD, 1600 Dewey Ave
Wednesday, February 27, 2019 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp FD, 1600 Dewey Ave

Other Training Resources:

PEMA TRAINING CALENDAR:

<https://www.pema.pa.gov/planningandpreparedness/trainingandexercises/Pages/TrainingCalendar.aspx>

PEMA (ON-LINE) TRAINING:

<https://www.train.org/pa/welcome>

FEMA (EMI) (ON-LINE) TRAINING:

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>



Safety Reminder: Outdoor Vents

Clear away deep snow from the area around your vent.

- 1. Make sure that there is no extra build up around the vents for your home heating and water heater.**
- 2. This will allow for the safe and proper operation of your equipment.**





Generator Safety

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. For a temporary solution, many people turn to a portable electric generator. Many homeowners are unaware that the improper use of a portable generator can be risky. Keep safety precautions in mind when using this appliance.

SAFETY TIPS

- Generators should be operated in well ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- The generator should be placed so that exhaust fumes cannot enter the home through windows, doors or other building openings.
- Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for proper placement and mounting height. Should CO enter the home and pose a risk, an alarm will sound.
- The generator must not be refueled while it is running. It should be turned off and allowed to cool down before refueling.
- Fuel for the generator should never be stored in the home. Gasoline and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled safety containers.
- Appliances should be plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cord should be checked for cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- If the generator must be connected to the house wiring to power appliances, a qualified electrician should install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.



— Your Source for SAFETY Information —

10
Tips

Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze

It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these 10 tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

- Our **furnace has been inspected and serviced** by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. *(A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)*
- Our **chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected** by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote built-up. *(Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)*
- Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is **dry, seasoned wood**.
- Our **fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass**, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- We have a **covered metal container** ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. *(The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)*
- Our children know to stay at least **3 feet away** from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- Our portable space heaters have an **automatic shut-off**.
- Our portable space heaters will be **plugged directly into an outlet** *(not an extension cord)* and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. *(Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)*
- We have **tested our smoke alarms** and made sure they are working. *(You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)*
- We have **tested our carbon monoxide alarms** and made sure they are working. *(Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)*



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

2019 QUARTERLY TRAINING

March 28	6:30 pm	Thursday	TBD
June 27	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
September 26	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
December 12	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
Dan Dorman, <i>EMA Manager</i>	570-329-4732	ddorman@lyco.org
Craig Konkle, <i>Energy Development Emergency Response Coordinator</i>	570-329-4724	ckonkle@lyco.org
Kelle Robinson, <i>Training & Operations Coordinator</i>	570-329-4723	krobinson@lyco.org
Paula Young, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	570-329-4722	pyoung@lyco.org