

EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

Volume 19, Issue 4

Fall 2019

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, 2019 - 7:00 pm

At

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



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: STEVE LEUBER, AMERICAN RED CROSS

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

For the next EMA quarterly training, our presenter will be Steve Leuber, Senior Disaster Program Manager, from the American Red Cross. He will be presenting how the American Red Cross Responds to Mass Causality Incidents.

He has first hand experience on being deployed to the 2017 shooting at the Country Music Festival in Las Vegas, NV and the 2018 shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. He will be discussing case studies done for both mass shootings and what they have learned from them to respond to the next mass causality incident.

Hope to see you there!



American Red Cross

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FAMILIAR FACE, NEW POSITION



The Lycoming County Emergency Management Agency is pleased to announce that Kelle B. Robinson was promoted to County EMA Coordinator on September 8, 2019. Kelle has over 14 years of experience in EMA training support, planning, damage reporting, radiological team support, and data input collection during and after incidents.

Kelle graduated from Shepherd University in West Virginia with a bachelors degree in Sports Management. After several years of working for minor league baseball teams, she started her career at Public Safety in September 2005 as the front desk clerk. After about a year, she moved on to the EMA Administrative Assistant position. In August of 2011, Kelle transitioned to the EMA Training & Operations Coordinator. She has also been an essential member of the DPS/EMA team during events such as the flooding in 2011, 2016, 2018, and numerous EOC activations.

Please join us in congratulating Kelle on her new position within the EMA department!

FISH BEWARE!



John Yingling

Director of Public Safety

Is *O-Fish-Ally* Retiring

After 30 Years of Employment with Lycoming County

Please join us for an **OPEN HOUSE**

DATE: Wednesday, December 18, 2019

TIME: 1230 to 1430

PLACE: Chapel, Lysock View
542 County Farm Road,
Montoursville, PA 17754

RSVP by 12/11 /19 shamm@lyco.org

Light Refreshments will be served.



MUNCY CREEK / HUGHESVILLE STREAM BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT

2018 proved to be the wettest year on record for the state of Pennsylvania. In the summer of 2018, streams in the eastern end of Lycoming County left several roadways washed out and stream banks unstable.

One particular stretch of the Muncy Creek watershed, along the Hughesville Borough Water Authority property, had seen this erosion lengthen from 350 feet in 2017 to 725 feet in 2018. With this significant amount of wearing away, it was listed as the highest priority in the Muncy Creek Planning Area Plan due to the erosion approaching upon Pump House No. 102. This is the second highest producing well for the Water Authority and critical in supplying a majority of the local public water supply.

Several agencies, including: the Lycoming County Conservation District, Lycoming County Planning & Community Development, Hughesville Borough, Hughesville Water Authority, Wolf Township, Hughesville Camp Meeting Association, US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services, and the Department of Environmental Protection among others, were involved in obtaining funding to stabilize the stream bank and prevent further erosion at this site and sediment deposits down stream. Excessive sediment loss from this location had already contributed to the closing of the Muncy Boat Launch at the mouth of the Muncy Creek where it meets the Susquehanna River.

This project was completed in August of 2019 with R8 riprap along the 725 feet of actively eroding stream bank. Due to this project, it is expected that 7.5 miles of the Muncy Creek will now be restored and benefit from sediment and pollution reductions.

Picture to the Right: Restored Muncy Creek stream bank along the Hughesville Borough Water Authority



WEST BRANCH EMA WORKSHOP/ TRAINING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

On Thursday, November 14, 2019, West Branch EMA held a Workshop/Training with the Elected Officials, the Secretary and Township employees of Pine Township from 6pm to 8:30pm at the Pine Township EOC.

The attendees were introduced to NIMS and the duties of each position used in NIMS. They were then introduced to the operation of an EOC and received an explanation of the different EOC positions using checklists. At the end of the program, it was discussed about using numbered tags for identifying the volunteers that will be working a disaster or emergency in Pine Township. Iva Mae Guillaume collected enrollment forms from each person who will be assigned a position during an event and their number recorded. Iva Mae will implement the tag system into the EOP. The attendees will also be going online to take the NIMS courses and receive certificates.

This Workshop/Training was coordinated by Denny Buttorff and assisted by Iva Mae Guillaume. WB EMA hopes to reach out to Municipalities within the West



Branch to present this workshop/training program with the hopes of bringing out the importance of having an EOP and a Emergency Management Coordinator within the Municipalities.

Article Submitted by: Iva Mae Guillaume

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 TOWNSHIP
COGAN HOUSE TOWNSHIP
MCHENRY TOWNSHIP
MCNETT TOWNSHIP**

Notes from the Director...

I wish to extend a well-deserved THANK YOU to all the first responders and emergency management personnel who contributed immeasurably to the safety of the residents of and visitors to Lycoming County over the past 10 years. I am retiring from the position of the Director of the Department of Public Safety on December 20, 2019 after 30 years of service to the County. I am planning to remain active in local level emergency management within the county.

Looking into the future, I ask you all to be vigilant and steadfast with the mission of a local level EMC. Please keep your local officials informed on contemporary topics and potential risks and hazards. Please continue to get the message of emergency planning and preparedness to the residents both young and old alike.

Many municipalities will see a change in newly elected officials. Please take some time to review your local emergency operations plan and NARM with them in the first quarter of 2020.

On a closing note, I wish to thank the staff of the Department of Public Safety and our EOC support agency partners for their support and cooperation.

THANKS!

John



CHANGES TO LYCOMING COUNTY EMC & FLASH FLOOD COORDINATOR TEST

The Lycoming County EMC & Flash Flood Coordinator Test switched from every Tuesday night at 7:00pm to the **first Tuesday of every month** at 7:00pm effective November 5, 2019. EMC's should make their Deputy EMC's, who answer this test, aware of the changes. Please contact the EMA office with any questions you have regarding this change.



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.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR SEVERE WEATHER

Sunday, January 12, 2020 9:00am–12:00pm, Independent Fire Company, 306 Clark St.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS LEVEL ANNUAL REFRESHER

Monday, January 13, 2020 6:30pm–8:00pm, Nisbet Vol Fire Company, 166 W. Village Dr.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION PEDIATRIC ADVANCED EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT, RECOGNITION, AND STABILIZATION (PEARS) COURSE

Saturday, January 18, 2020 8:00am–4:00pm, UPMC Soldiers & Sailors, 32-36 Central Ave., Wellsboro, PA

Other Training Resources:

PEMA TRAINING CALENDAR:

<https://www.pema.pa.gov/planningandpreparedness/trainingandexercises/Pages/Training-and-Exercises.aspx>

PEMA (ON-LINE) TRAINING:

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

FEMA (EMI) (ON-LINE) TRAINING:

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



WINTER DRIVING WHILE ON THE ROAD

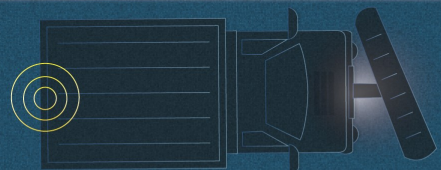
Don't crowd the plow.

The road behind an active plow is safer to drive on. Give them plenty of room to work and only pass when it is safe to do so.



Change the way you drive.

Drive slower than normal and leave more room between you and surrounding vehicles when roads are wet, snowy or icy. DO NOT use cruise control, brake quickly or take sharp turns.



Stay alert.

Make sure you keep your gas tank over half full and keep a close eye on road conditions, which can change rapidly. On road trips, take breaks often so you can stay focused on the road.





Wind Chill Temperature Index



National Weather Service

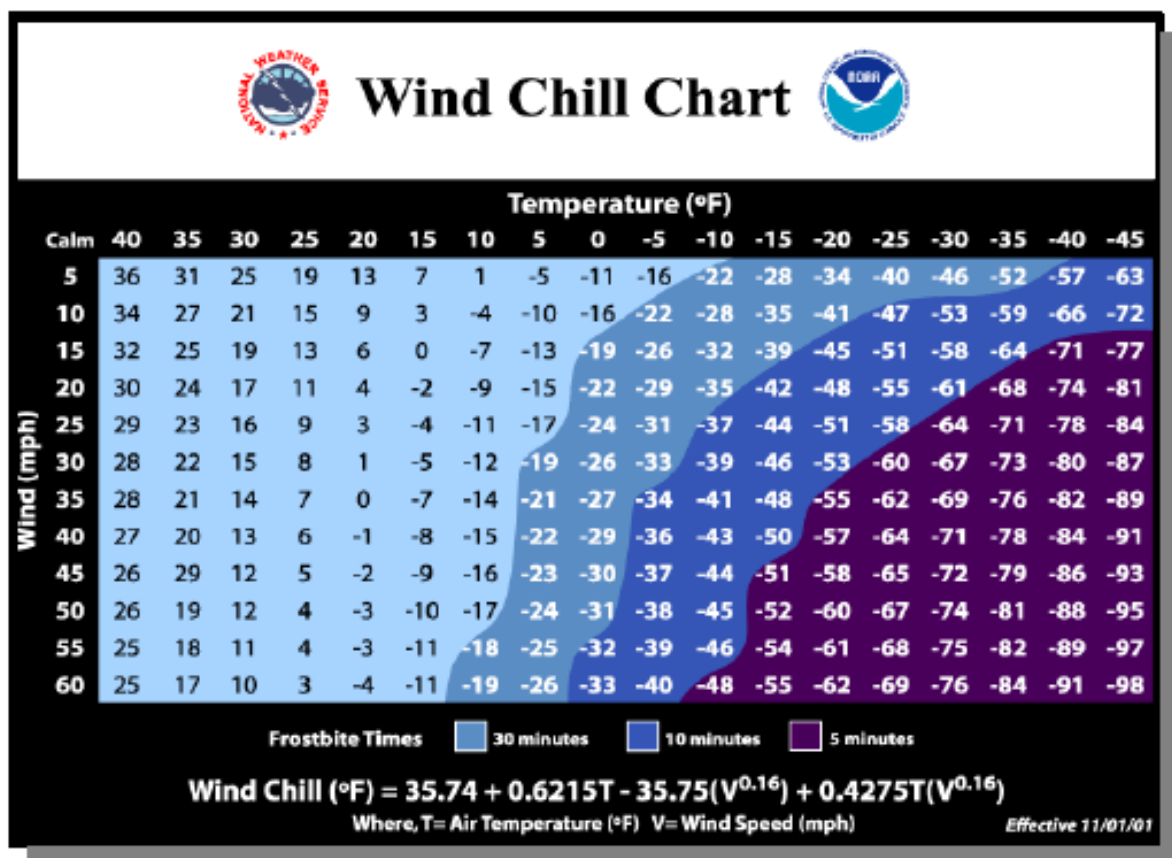


*Serving the Nation
Since 1870*



Wind Chill Temperature Index

On November 1, 2001, the National Weather Service implemented a new Wind Chill Temperature (WCT) index, designed to more accurately calculate how cold air feels on human skin. The former index used by the United States and Canada was based on 1945 research of Antarctic explorers Siple and Passel. They measured the cooling rate of water in a container hanging from a tall pole outside. A container of water will freeze faster than flesh. As a result, the previous wind chill index underestimated the time to freezing and overestimated the chilling effect of the wind. The current index is based on heat loss from exposed skin and was tested on human subjects.

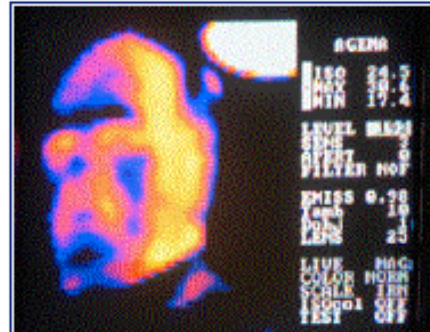


The Wind Chill Chart above includes a frostbite indicator, showing the points where temperature, wind speed and exposure time will produce frostbite on humans. The chart above includes three shaded areas of frostbite danger. Each shaded area shows how long (30, 10 and 5 minutes) a person can be exposed before frostbite develops.

For example, a temperature of 0°F and a wind speed of 15 mph will produce a wind chill temperature of -19°F. Under these conditions, exposed skin can freeze in 30 minutes.

Development of the New Wind Chill Temperature Index

During the fall of 2000, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) organized a joint U.S.–Canadian government-sponsored action group to develop, test and implement a new WCT Index. The group is called the Joint Action Group for Temperature Indices (JAG/TI). The goal of JAG/TI is to internationally upgrade and standardize the Wind Chill Index.



Early summer of 2001, human trials were conducted at the Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine in Toronto, Canada. The trial results were used to improve the accuracy of the new formula and determine frostbite threshold values. During the human trials, 6 male and 6 female volunteers were placed in a chilled wind tunnel. Thermal transducers were stuck to their faces to measure heat flow from the cheeks, forehead,

nose and chin while walking 3 mph on a treadmill. Each volunteer took part in four trials of 90 minutes each and was exposed to varying wind speeds and temperatures.

The new wind chill does the following:

- Calculates wind speed at an average height of 5 feet (typical height of an adult human face) based on readings from the national standard height of 33 feet (height of an anemometer)
- Is based on a human face model
- Incorporates modern heat transfer theory
- Lowers the calm wind threshold from 4 mph to 3 mph
- Uses a consistent standard for skin tissue resistance
- Assumes no impact from the sun (i.e., clear night sky).

What is Wind Chill Temperature?

It is the temperature it "feels like" outside and is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by the effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, the body is cooled at a faster rate causing the skin temperature to drop. Wind Chill does not impact inanimate objects like car radiators and exposed water pipes, because these objects cannot cool below the actual air temperature.



What does this mean to me?

The NWS will inform you when Wind Chill conditions reach critical thresholds. A Wind Chill Warning is issued when wind chill temperatures are life threatening. A Wind Chill Advisory is issued when wind chill temperatures are potentially hazardous.

What is Frostbite?

Frostbite is an injury to the body caused by freezing body tissue. The most susceptible parts of the body are the extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the tip of the nose. Symptoms include a loss of feeling in the extremity and a white or pale appearance. Medical attention is needed immediately for frostbite. The area should be SLOWLY re-warmed.

What is Hypothermia?

Hypothermia is abnormally low body temperature (below 95 degrees Fahrenheit). Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. Medical attention is needed immediately. If it is not available, begin warming the body SLOWLY.

Tips on how to dress during cold weather.

- ✓ Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Trapped air between the layers will insulate you. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent, and hooded.
- ✓ Wear a hat, because much of your body heat can be lost from your head.
- ✓ Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold.
- ✓ Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves.
- ✓ Try to stay dry and out of the wind.

For more Information on cold-related health problems and outdoor safety visit the web site from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/guide.asp>

Visit the National Weather Service Wind Chill web page at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/windchill/>

Visit Environment Canada's Wind Chill web page at: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=5FBF816A-1>



National Weather Service



WINTER WEATHER SAFETY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

BEFORE A WINTER STORM

Before the storm strikes, make sure your home, office and vehicles are stocked with the supplies you might need if stranded in a winter storm. Know how to dress for varying degrees of cold weather.

AT HOME AND WORK.

- ✓ Your primary concerns at home or work during a winter storm are loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day. In either place, you should have **Home & Work Winter Storm Survival Kit**.

IN VEHICLES.

- ✓ Before you leave the house, call 511 for the latest traffic weather conditions. **TAKE IT SLOW IN THE SNOW.**
- ✓ Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins. Carry a [Car Winter Storm Survival Kit](#).

ON THE FARM, PET OWNERS.

- ✓ Move animals to sheltered areas or bring pets inside.
- ✓ Haul extra feed to nearby feeding areas.
- ✓ Have water available. Most animals die from dehydration in winter storms.
- ✓ Make sure pets have plenty of food, water, and a warm shelter.

DURING A WINTER STORM

When caught in a winter storm, there are life-saving actions you can take to protect yourself outside, in a vehicle and inside your home or office.

OUTSIDE

- ✓ **Find Shelter.**
- ✓ **When There Is No Shelter Nearby:** Build a simple temporary shelter or snow cave for protection from the wind.
- ✓ **Melt Snow for Drinking Water:** Eating unmelted snow will lower your body temperature.
- ✓ **Exercise:** From time to time, move arms, legs, fingers and toes vigorously to keep blood circulating.

IN VEHICLES

- ✓ Slow down!
- ✓ Make sure your vehicle is completely clear of ice or snow before starting the trip.
- ✓ Let someone know where you are going and what route you will take.
- ✓ Don't leave the house without the following: a fully charged mobile phone, car charger, and an emergency supplies kit in your car.
- ✓ If your car gets stuck during a storm, stay in the vehicle!
- ✓ Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat.
- ✓ Clear snow from the exhaust pipe to avoid gas poisoning. While running the motor, open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ✓ Turn on the dome light at night when running the engine.
- ✓ After snow stops falling, raise the hood to indicate you need help.

INSIDE

Stay Inside: When using a fire place, wood stove, space heater, or other heating device, use fire safeguards and properly ventilate. If you have a gas furnace, make sure it is not blocked by a snowdrift. If you have an upstairs gas furnace that vents out the roof, you may need to turn off the upstairs unit the snow melts from your roof.

AFTER A WINTER STORM

Caution! Winter Storm Dangers Linger

When the snow and ice melt, it's tempting to relieve that cabin fever and hit the roads. But melting snow can cause floods, partially cleared roads may be icy or blocked, and creeks and rivers often overflow from the rush of melting snow and ice. Heavy snow may have knocked down power lines and caused gas leaks, both of which can be deadly, but are not obvious at first glance. Follow the tips below to stay safe.

- ✓ **Stay Informed.** Stay tuned to your local news or 511 for updated information on road conditions.
- ✓ **Avoid Flooded Roads and Heed Road Danger Signs.**
- ✓ **Check Your Home, Contact Family and Isolated Neighbors.**
- ✓ **Roadway Hazards.**

For more information, visit [weather.gov/safety/winter](https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter)



National Weather Service

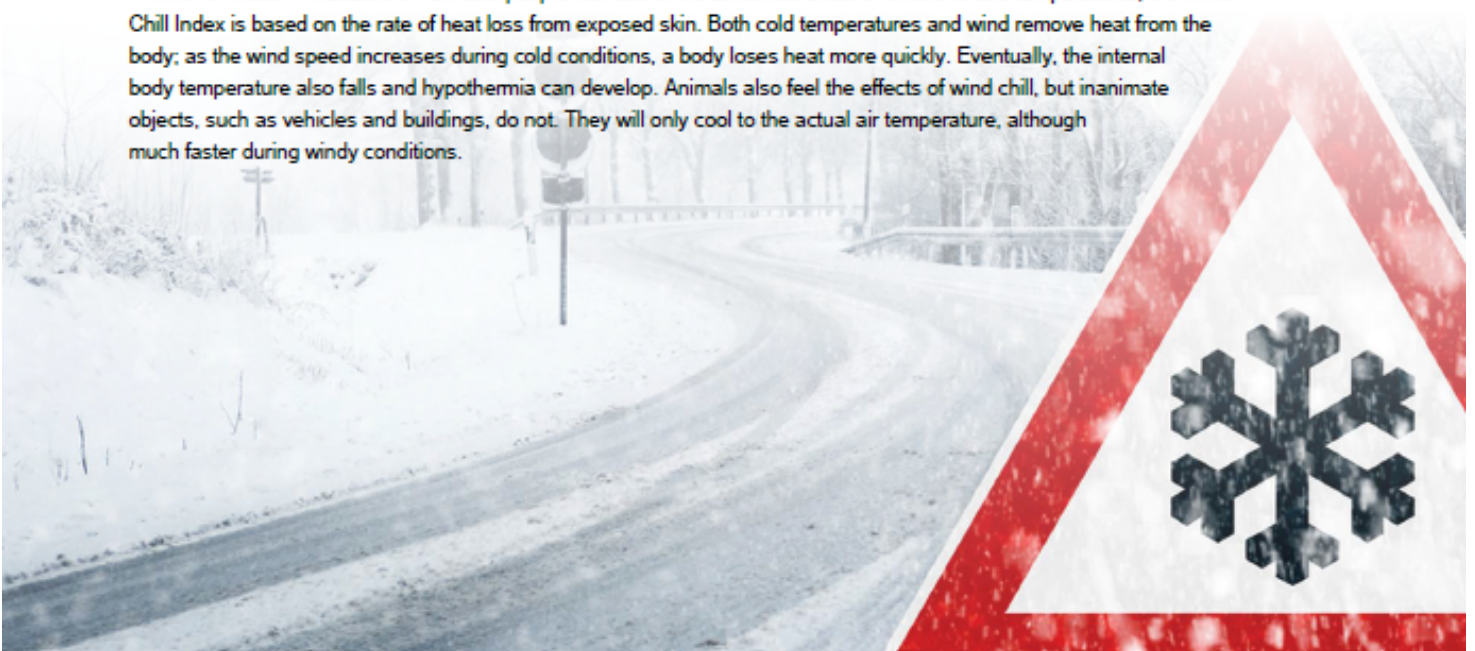
WINTER WEATHER ALERTS

Winter weather-related Warnings, Watches and Advisories are issued by your local National Weather Service office. Each office knows the local area and will issue Warnings, Watches or Advisories based on local criteria. For example, the amount of snow that triggers a "Winter Storm Warning" in the Northern Plains is typically much higher than the amount needed to trigger a "Winter Storm Warning" in the Southeast.

- ✓ **Blizzard Warnings**
- ✓ **Winter Storm Warnings**
- ✓ **Wind Chill Warnings**
- ✓ **Lake Effect Snow Warnings**
- ✓ **Snow Squall Warnings**
- ✓ **Blizzard Watches**
- ✓ **Winter Storm Watches**
- ✓ **Wind Chill Watches**
- ✓ **Lake Effect Snow Watches**
- ✓ **Winter Weather Advisories**
- ✓ **Freezing Rain Advisories**
- ✓ **Wind Chill Advisories**
- ✓ **Lake Effect Snow Advisories**

WINTER WEATHER KEY TERMS

- ✓ **FREEZING RAIN:** Rain that freezes when it hits a surface; creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.
- ✓ **SLEET:** Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slick.
- ✓ **WIND CHILL:** A measure of how cold people feel due to the combined effect of wind and cold temperatures; the Wind Chill Index is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin. Both cold temperatures and wind remove heat from the body; as the wind speed increases during cold conditions, a body loses heat more quickly. Eventually, the internal body temperature also falls and hypothermia can develop. Animals also feel the effects of wind chill, but inanimate objects, such as vehicles and buildings, do not. They will only cool to the actual air temperature, although much faster during windy conditions.



For more information, visit [weather.gov/safety/winter](https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter)

2019-2020 QUARTERLY TRAINING

December 12	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
March 19	6:30 pm	Thursday	Holiday Inn
June 25	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
September 24	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
December 10	7:00pm	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.

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570-329-4061 (local)

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