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 - June 26, 2014 - 7:00 pm

At

LYCOMING COUNTY ALTERNATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
33 WEST THIRD STREET, 5TH FLOOR
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

TOPIC: Tour of New Alternate EOC Facility
Various EMA topics presented by the County EMA Staff

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS
Lycoming County EMA is proud to unveil the new alternate EOC located in the Third Street Plaza building at our June quarterly training. Everyone in attendance will be given a tour of the facility. Please enter the building via the rear entrance off of West Church Street. Look for one of the County EMA staff to direct you to the center.

After the tour, each of the EMA staff members will be giving presentations including: social media, municipal EOP preparation, and PA Fire Academy course offerings.

Hope to see you there!

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37th ANNUAL APPRECIATION BANQUET

On March 27, 2014, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety held the 37th Annual Appreciation Dinner at the Holiday Inn in Williamsport.

The guest speaker was Thomas Minton, head of the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security. Mr. Minton’s program for the evening was titled: “Pennsylvania: Hometowns and Homeland Security”. The program included the homeland security mission and how local items can affect National Security and other events of global significance.

The Lycoming County Department of Public Safety would like to thank all who attended this year’s event. We hope to see everyone next year!

LYCOMING COUNTY ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

The Lycoming County Department of Public Safety has joined the world of Social Media! You can now find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LycomingCountyDPS and on Twitter @LycoDPS.

The department will be posting upcoming training/certification information, safety tips, and disaster information on this site. We will continue to send emails out regarding upcoming trainings.

These pages will be beneficial to both the first responders and residents of Lycoming County, so please spread the word!!
SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Adding as many water safety steps as possible is the best way to assure a safe and fun experience in residential swimming pools. Parents and families can build on their current safety practices by adopting water safety tips at home. These are safety steps you can adopt at home:

**Stay Close, Be Alert and Watch Children in and Around the Pool**
- Always watch your children when they are in or near a pool.
- Teach children basic water safety tips.
- Keep children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings to avoid entrapments.
- Have a portable telephone close by at all times when you or your family are using a pool.
- If a child is missing, look for him or her in the pool first.
- Share safety instructions with family, friends and neighbors.

**Learn and Practice Water Safety Skills**
- Learn how to swim and teach your children how to swim.
- Learn to perform CPR on children and adults. Be sure to update these skills regularly.
- Understand the basics of life-saving so that you can assist in a pool emergency.

**Have the Appropriate Equipment for Your Pool**
- Install a four foot or taller fence around the pool. Be sure the fence has self-closing, self-latching gates. Ask your neighbors to do the same at their pools.
- If your house serves as a fourth side of a fence around your pool, install door alarms. For additional protection, install window guards on windows facing the pool.
- Install pool and gate alarms to alert you when children go near the water.
- Ensure your pool has compliant drain covers. Ask you pool service provider if you don’t know.
- Make sure your pool cover is in good working condition.
- Consider using a surface wave or underwater alarm.

Drownings are a preventable cause of death and injury for children and adults. By putting proven safety behaviors and systems into practice, you and your family will be much more secure in and around public and residential pools.

It is recommended that you create a pool safety kit to have near your pool to ensure that if the worst happens, you are prepared to respond. Some items you should include in your pool safety kit are:
- A first aid kit
- A pair of scissors to cut hair, clothing or pool cover
- A charged portable telephone to call 9-1-1
- A flotation device

With a few precautions in place, the whole family can enjoy a safe and fun swimming season.
SWN Energy Laurel Hill Compressor Station Exercise

The Lycoming County Department of Public Safety and SWN Energy partnered to execute a functional training exercise with area emergency responders at the SWN Energy compressor station in Cogan House Township, Lycoming County. Responders were challenged with several scenarios as it relates to an active compressor station facility. Additionally, SWN Energy tested their emergency notification and response procedures to ensure that proper systems were in place to handle an incident at this facility.

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.

CUMMINGS TOWNSHIP
DUBOISTOWN BOROUGH

If you or anyone you know would be interested in this position, please contact the Lycoming County EMA office at 570-433-4461.
Grilling Safety

There’s nothing like outdoor grilling. It’s one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grill and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 15 minutes before re-lighting it.

FACTS

⚠️ July is the peak month for grill fires.
⚠️ Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.

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

www.nfpa.org/education
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.

VOLUNTEER RETENTION & RECRUITMENT: PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

Thursday, June 12, 2014  6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Independent Fire Dept,
306 Clark St., S. Williamsport

*NIMS/ICS-300 (Must attend all four days)

Tuesday, June 24, 2014  6:00pm - 10:00pm, Independent Fire Dept, S. Wmspt.
Thursday, June 26, 2014 6:00pm - 10:00pm, Independent Fire Dept., S. Wmspt.
Saturday, June 28, 2014  8:00 am - 4:00pm, Independent Fire Dept, S. Wmspt.
Sunday, June 29, 2014  8:00 am - 4:00pm, Independent Fire Dept, S. Wmspt.

Other Training Resources

PEMA (ON-LINE) TRAINING:
https://www.centrelearn.com/login_pa.asp

FEMA (EMI) (ON-LINE) TRAINING:
http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp

PEMA TRAINING CALENDAR:
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=5051&&mode=2

“If You See something, Say Something™”

• Only reports that document behavior reasonably indicative of criminal activity related to terrorism will be shared with Federal, State, local, tribal and territorial partners.

• Factors such as race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation alone are not suspicious. For that reason, the public should report only suspicious behavior and situations (e.g., an unattended backpack in a public place or someone trying to break into a restricted area) rather than beliefs, thoughts, ideas, expressions, associations, or speech unrelated to terrorism or other criminal activity.
IMPORTANT TORNADO SAFETY TIPS

Tornadoes extend from severe thunderstorms and usually develop from the trailing end of a storm. The air may become very still before one hits. It is also not uncommon for the sun to be visible or skies to clear partially during a tornado. Some are easily seen and detected, while others strike quickly with little or no warning.

Some warning signs of a tornado include strong winds with cloud-base rotation, whirling dust and debris, hail and/or heavy rain and a loud rumble or roar that sounds similar to a moving train.

If it is nighttime, look for bright blue- or green-colored flashes near the ground. That is an indication of snapped power lines and an almost sure sign of intense wind or a tornado.

Two of the most fundamental precautions that you can take in the event of a tornado, no matter where you are, is staying low to or below the ground in an interior space away from windows and covering your head with your hands and arms.

It is a good idea for your family to select a place to meet following any tornado in case you are separated at the time of the incident. Phone lines or other modes of communication may be affected by the twister and are not always reliable.

Mobile homes and dwellings without basements or foundations are not a safe place to be in a tornado. If your community does not have a storm shelter, seek a sturdy building nearby. If there is no time, seek a closet or climb into the bathtub and cover yourself some sort of thick padding, such as a mattress or blankets.

If you live in a house with a finished basement, corner rooms or bathrooms and closets offer extra protection. The more concrete walls or plumbing around you, the better. This reduces the risk of your home caving in on you and better protects you from flying debris.

If you are in a high-rise building, such as a skyscraper, apartment building or dormitory, go to the lowest level or the most interior part of the building you can find. Avoid elevators and stay away from windows.

One of the worst places to be during a tornado is in a vehicle. Tornadoes generally track from southwest to northeast or from west to east. Drive in a right angle to the storm and get a considerable distance away. However, occasionally tornadoes can take an unpredictable turn in any direction. If the storm is approaching fast, park your car quickly and seek a sturdy building or ditch. Do not stay near any vehicles, as they can easily be picked up and dropped by the tornado.

It is a good idea to prepare a shelter in advance. If you live between the Rockies and the Mississippi River and are building or buying a house, it is highly advisable that you find or build a home with either a storm cellar or an interior, windowless room close to or below the ground. Store a radio or small TV, as well as padded blankets or a mattress near or in this room.

Notes from the Director…

Several key projects are ongoing at The Department of Public Safety during the Summer of 2014. The new 9-1-1 furnishing consoles are being installed at Lysock View during the first week of June. The County will then reuse the old consoles at the back-up 9-1-1 Center. The County is awaiting final legal review of the proposed contract with Alcatel-Lucent for installation of the replacement microwave loop in 2014/15. DPS staff are also reviewing a replacement 9-1-1 phone system and a plan to implement Text to 911 capabilities.

DPS is involved in the planning and coordination of public safety/first responder support for the 2014 Little League World Series and related events in August. While the baseball games are being played in South Williamsport, the County will also be the host of a 98 mile cross country race for elite trail runners with the START POINT at Little Pine State Park. We are also planning for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station exercise later this fall. A County EOC activation is planned for this event.

The Atlantic Coast Hurricane Season starts June 1, 2014. Be prepared!!

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.

THANKS!

John

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION RECEIVED

Plunketts Creek Township Emergency Management Coordinator, Tom Schafer, was presented his PEMA Professional Certification at the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety Appreciation Dinner held on March 27, 2014. The certification was presented by the County EMA Manager, Richard Knecht.

Since Tom has only been in his EMC position since January 2012, obtaining all 3 levels of certification from PEMA is an incredible achievement. Please join us in congratulating Tom on this great accomplishment!
RAILROAD SAFETY FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES

As the driver of an emergency response vehicle, you know that every second counts. That makes critical decisions at intersections, like highway-rail grade crossings, where it is necessary to cross over railroad tracks, especially challenging. Operation Lifesaver joins the National Volunteer Fire Council in reminding drivers of emergency vehicles to be aware of all rail routes and safety procedures in your area.

Remember these rail safety tips:

- A train always has the right of way. Plan routes allowing drivers and other crew members clear views down the railroad tracks in both directions.
- Know which railroad company controls the tracks and have emergency numbers for them at dispatch centers. This is especially important if there is more than one railroad in your community.
- If a train is blocking an intersection you must use, contact your emergency dispatcher or the local railroad office.
- Don’t place emergency vehicles on tracks and expect a train to be able to stop quickly enough to avoid a collision.
- To stop a train, contact the railroad. Use all available reference points, checking signal housing for DOT crossing number, to give exact locations. If known, supply railroad mile posts, road name, crossroads and town.
- When fighting long-term brush or structure fires, contact the railroad to obtain clearance to move ballast stones and feed hoses under the tracks. Doing so allows both safe, effective fire fighting and train passage.

Always keep these few tips in mind when responding to an emergency in your area. Information from Operation Lifesaver, Inc., oli.org.

Common Questions About Highway-Rail Intersections

Why can’t a train yield to an emergency vehicle?
It takes the average freight train hauling 6,000 ton and traveling 55mph or more the length of 18 football fields to stop.

What’s louder: A train horn or an emergency vehicle siren?
Even if emergency sirens and air horns are deactivated as emergency vehicles approach crossings, ambient noise levels in their cab could mask the sound of an approaching train horn.

What should drivers of emergency vehicles do when approaching highway-rail intersections?
Turn off sirens, air horns and other sound-producing devices. Slow down, open the vehicle’s window, and look both ways to see if a train is approaching. At crossings with obstructions or severe curves interfering with vision, stop your emergency vehicle and ask a crew member to go out and check on crossing safety.
CERT CLASS HELD

The Lycoming County Citizen Corps Council sponsored a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class at the Department of Public Safety. This class was a 20 hour course which ran for several days in April and May. With the overwhelming response we received for this class, we were able to offer the class again in June at the Department of Public Safety.

CERT Classes train citizens on the 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 receives a CERT emergency kit with items to help during an emergency incident.

These CERT classes are funded through the Citizen Corps Program Grant through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). This grant is to expire on June 30, 2014. Should the grant be extended, Lycoming County will host more CERT trainings for our citizens.

These classes are taught by Craig Konkle, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety, and Jeremiah Bunch, PEMA Central Area. Both instructors have a vast knowledge in emergency management and preparedness. Lycoming County thanks them for their time and knowledge.

Lycoming County Citizen Corps thanks all who participated in the class! We look forward to seeing more citizens at future training. Watch the County website for future class offerings.
2014 QUARTERLY TRAINING

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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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