

EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

Volume 19, Issue 2

Spring 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 - June 27, 2019 - 7:00 pm

At

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

TOPIC: Initial Damage Reporting Refresher

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

For the next EMA Quarterly Training we will be offering an Initial Damage Reporting Refresher course. This course is designed to provide knowledge required for county and municipal personnel to conduct accurate damage assessment for homes, business, and infrastructure.

We will be reviewing Public Assistance (PA) in more detail due to the most recent flash flooding events that prominently damaged roadways, parks, and bridges.

Please join us for this important refresher as we witness storms getting worse and less funds are available. Documentation is the first steps to recovery.

Hope to see you there!

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Dan Dorman to Depart DPS

Daniel N. Dorman departed the Department of Public Safety (DPS) as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Lycoming County during June of 2019. He had served in that position since May 22, 2016.



Dan's background in the fire service, EMS, safety management and local government operations were instrumental in his efforts with the County. His initial hire date was on February 4, 1991 as the LTS EMS Council training coordinator. He subsequently served as the EMS Program manager at DPS and then as the Support Services Manager at the Lycoming County Resource Management Services at the landfill.

As the EMC for Lycoming County, Dan assisted with attaining two Federal Disaster declarations for flooding in the County (October 2016 and August 2018). He has also worked with staff and support agencies to revitalize the County's stream and rain gauges. Dan also served on the Board of Directors for the North Central Task Force and was an active member of multiple committees within that organization to enhance preparedness, training, and readiness.

As a leader within the County's Loss Prevention and Safety committees, Dan was instrumental in AED training, stop the bleed training, and assisting with attaining grants for safety and risk reduction programs and equipment.

The Department of Public Safety wishes Dan well in continuing his career as an Emergency Medical Technician with UPMC/Susquehanna Regional EMS. Thank you for your actions and efforts!



13th Annual Emergency Preparedness Day

Montgomery Emergency Management Agency and Lycoming County Department of Public Safety attended the 13th Annual Emergency Preparedness Day at FCC Allenwood. Denny and Les Gruver showed Incident Mobile Unit 360 (IMU-360) to event attendees, while Dale Brendle and John Mummert demonstrated radio communications. Fae Herb also assisted with emergency preparedness information.



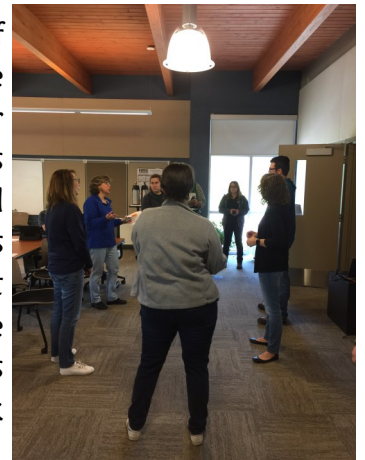
Lycoming County Water & Sewer Authority Full Scale Exercise



Lycoming County Dept of Public Safety (DPS) partnered with Lycoming County Water & Sewer Authority (LCWSA), EPA and TetraTech to develop and execute a full-scale exercise (FSE) on May 15, 2019. This exercise was a follow-up to the Table Top Exercise held at LCWSA June of 2018. The FSE was designed to test facility communication, their emergency response and coordinated efforts of emergency responders. There

were a total of 61 participants. The participants represented LCWSA employees, DPS staff, DEP, EPA, TetraTech, Lycoming County Coroner's office, Northridge Group, Willing Hand Hose Company from Montoursville, PEMA, UPMC Susquehanna, and PSP.

Cody Raup from Northridge Group provided a brief review of Chlorine to the participants prior to the start of the FSE. The scenario began with an employee down in the chlorine cylinder room and a call with an "Exercise Message to 911". This was followed by a second "Exercise Message to 911" with a second person down in the chlorine cylinder room. The scenario was allowed to play out in a manner that LCWSA employees and first responders thought was most appropriate and that would provide safety to all responders, public and the environment. Evaluators were assigned to different areas of the exercise to provide feedback that will enhance response safety and communication efforts.



When the exercise was completed, a hotwash followed. During this time the evaluators had opportunity to provide their observations as well as others involved. The group agreed that while there is always room for improvement, the exercise was a big success for all involved and provided a forum for training and ability for multiple disciplines to respond and interact well together. Anytime we exercise together, it is one more opportunity to build relationships, strengthen our training and provide for increased safety for all involved.



Thank you to all who participated and assisted in the design of the exercise.

Submitted by: Darla Greiner

April 2019 Tornadoes

County	Date	Hour	Rating
Crawford	4/14	6 PM	EF-0
Venango	4/14	7 PM	EF-0
Venango	4/14	7 PM	EF-0
Warren	4/14	8 PM	EF-2
Union	4/15	12 AM	EF-1
Columbia	4/15	1 AM	EF-2
Sullivan	4/15	1 AM	EF-1
Lackawanna	4/15	1 AM	EF-0
Susquehanna	4/15	1 AM	EF-1
Fulton	4/19	7 PM	EF-1
Franklin	4/19	7 PM	EF-2
Huntingdon	4/19	7 PM	EF-1
Juniata	4/19	7 PM	EF-1
Mifflin	4/19	7 PM	EF-2



Total 2019 Tornadoes: 14
NEW Record for April
Previous: 11-1991

Strength	Count
EF-0 (65-85mph)	4
EF-1 (86-110mph)	6
EF-2 (111-135mph)	4



April 2019 has set a new record of 14 Tornadoes that have touched down in the state of Pennsylvania. With the previous record being 11 in April of 1991. Lycoming County did not see any tornado activity but surrounding county's did. Please take some time to review tornado watch vs warning alerts to make sure you are prepared for severe weather!

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**
- MUNCY BOROUGH**

Notes from the Director...

The weather continues to present challenges to emergency responders and residents alike in Lycoming County. The multiple Tornado Warnings issued by the National Weather Service on May 19 and May 28, 2019 were the result of severe T-storms with rotation, thankfully, no tornado “on the ground” reports in Lycoming County were documented. Tropical storm season has arrived in the Atlantic basin for 2019. I may sound like a broken record, however, please keep an eye to the sky for severe storms and heavy rainfall. This is an appropriate time to take a few moments and review your personal and your community’s severe weather awareness and flood readiness plans.

I wish to thank all the emergency management personnel and first responders who assisted with the planning for and the provision of essential public safety services during the Presidential visit to the Williamsport Regional Airport on Monday, May 20. This event was continued proof that cellular service can be overwhelmed by sheer volume of users during a major event. A sincere thank you to all who participated with the operation!

DPS is planning on sponsoring a communications exercise with local EMC’s/Local EOC’s later this year. I ask that you please check your equipment to make sure all is operational. Don’t forget to check antenna connections!

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.

THANKS!

John

Responding to Incidents Involving Flammable Liquids Transported by Rail Class held in Williamsport, PA



PA Department of Environmental Protection and Lycoming County Department of Public Safety partnered to bring the Security and Emergency Response Training Center (SERTC) from Pueblo, CO to Williamsport on March 7th. This full day training permitted 41 first responders and public safety personnel to better understand railroad incidents and responses through “Responding to Incidents Involving Flammable Liquids”.

The class consisted of both classroom setting and hands on training with actual railcar equipment on a trailer specifically designed for the class. This remote-site training is designed with volunteers and rural area first responders who will be exposed to the potential harm caused by transportation of flammable liquid by rail incidents. The class is designed to teach effective coordination of response efforts in an effective and efficient manner, develop strategies while responding and to remain flexible in adjusting their actions to any changing events that occur during the incident.



The class was free to all participants as it was paid for through a PHMSA grant for Center for Rural Environment.

Submitted by: Darla Greiner

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AIRCRAFT VISITED HARRISBURG, PA

On May 7th, 2019, Harrisburg International Airport hosted the 2019 Hurricane Awareness Tour. The public was able to take tours of the inside of airplanes, meet with crew members and pilots, and talk with National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham. Dan Dorman and Kelle Robinson from the EMA office were able to attend and view these massive aircrafts.



Hurricane Hazards in PA

- **Heavy Rainfall & Inland Flooding:** Widespread torrential rains can result in deadly and destructive floods. Remember: Turn Around, Don't Drown!
- **High Winds:** Even tropical depressions can produce winds that damage homes, knock down trees, and knock out power.
- **Tornadoes:** Tropical storms can produce (generally weak) short-lived tornadoes.

While we don't usually think about Hurricane's in our area, Pennsylvania still has the potential to receive heavy rainfall, high winds, and tornados. Please take some time to review your Emergency Supply Kits and restock items as needed.

For more information: <https://www.weather.gov/ctp/2019HAT>

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.

G-271 HAZARDOUS WEATHER AND FLOODING PREPAREDNESS

*Tuesday, September 24, 2019 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Old Lycoming Twp, 1600 Dewey Ave.
Wednesday, September 25, 2019 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Old Lycoming Twp, 1600 Dewey Ave.*

*Registration is through the PEMA (ONLINE) TRAINING link below.
Search PA-PEMA: G271*

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>



Practice HEAT SAFETY Wherever You Are

Heat related deaths are preventable.
Protect yourself and others from the impacts of heat waves.



Job Sites

Stay hydrated and take breaks in the shade as often as possible.



Indoors

Check up on the elderly, sick and those without AC.



Vehicles

Never leave kids or pets unattended -
LOOK before you LOCK



Outdoors

Limit strenuous outdoor activities, find shade, and stay hydrated.



weather.gov/heat

Summer Driving Safety Tips

While we hear plenty about the dangers of winter driving, we often ignore the hazards that come with summertime driving. Statistics show summer is actually a riskier time to be on the road. The Insurance Information Institute shows the highest number of fatal car accidents occur in August. While summer offers some of the year's best driving and weather, it's important not to take it for granted.

Jose Alberto Ucles of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) explains that several factors can increase summer dangers. Here's a look at some common dangers of driving in the summer, and how to avoid them:

- **Construction:** Along with more drivers on the road, there's often more work being done on the road. Nearly 700 fatalities each year occur in construction or maintenance areas, so stay alert, heed warning signs and slow down in construction zones.
- **Blowouts:** Hot weather can wreak havoc on your tires since the hot air expands inside of them. If your tires are well worn, it poses an even more imminent threat. Check your tires for wear on a regular basis and always make sure you check them when temperatures spike.
- **More traffic:** Summer is the time for family vacations, which means more congested roads—and everything that goes with them. That can include traffic jams that lead to impatient drivers. Do your part to avoid actions that could irritate other drivers. Keep in mind vacationing drivers are often unfamiliar with the roads and may make sudden stops, lane changes or drive slowly. Be patient!

Ucles reminds us emergency kits aren't just for winter. Summer driving can cause a car to overheat or, as mentioned earlier, could result in blown-out tires. Rather than risk being at the mercy of strangers on the side of the road, the NHTSA recommends carrying the following items with you at all times:

- Cell phone and car charger
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Flares and white flag
- Jumper cable
- Tire pressure gauge
- Jack
- Work gloves and change of cloths
- Nonperishable food, drinking water and medicines
- Extra windshield washer fluid
- Maps
- Emergency blankets and towels



Driving responsibly is an important part of staying safe, but in the event of an accident, the right car insurance is key.

For more information, please visit: <https://blog.nationwide.com/summer-driving-tips/>

CAN MY PET EAT THAT?

Strawberries-yes

Blueberries-yes

Raspberries-yes

Cranberries-yes, in moderation

Peaches-yes

Apple slices-yes, no core or seeds

Watermelon-yes

Cantelope-in moderation

Banana-in moderation

Pineapple-yes

Mangoes(fruit)-yes

Oranges-yes

Cherries-NO, toxic cyanides

Grapes & raisins-NO, can cause kidney failure

Carrots-yes

Celery-yes

Cucumbers-yes

Peas-yes

Stringbeans-yes

Cooked potatoes-in moderation

Onions, leeks, garlic, and chives-NO, raw, cooked, or powdered can make them sick

Chocolate-NO, toxic; dark chocolate, baking chocolate and cocoa are most toxic.

Bones from cooking-NO, with the exception of large beef bones that can't be shattered.



Submitted by:
Sheri Yingling
(LAPS)

TOP 5

Summer Safety Tips for Pet Parents



Hope you are having a nice summer! With the hot weather setting in, we wanted to remind folks that amidst the fun and games, pet health should be kept top of mind to help ensure a safe season for all. To keep dogs and cats out of harm's way, the ASPCA has created a helpful infographic with the Top 5 Summer Dangers for Pets, including:

1 Fireworks & Thunderstorms

Loud noises like fireworks are one of the top reasons pets go missing, so secure your pet in an escape-proof place. If your pet does go missing, download the ASPCA app for a free step-by-step digital toolkit to help find your pet: www.ASPCAapp.org.



2 Sun & Heat

High summer temperatures and bright days can mean dehydration, overheating, and scorched paws. Know the signs of overheating (excessive panting, increased heart rate, and weakness) and bring your pup indoors or to a cool, shady place.



3 Toxic Chemicals

Insecticides, citronella products, and glow sticks are toxic to pets. Keep your pet away from areas where chemicals have been sprayed and ensure dangerous products are out of reach.



4 Parties & Barbecues

If your pet's joining the party, make sure guests don't feed your pet human food (especially grapes, onions, avocado, and chocolate) and ensure alcoholic drinks are kept out of your pet's reach.



5 Hot Cars

Even with the windows open an inch, a car's temperature can reach over 100° in 10 minutes on an 85° day. One quick errand can turn dangerous in minutes, so leave your pet safely at home. Sign our Hot Car Pledge to help save lives this summer and all year long.



2019 QUARTERLY TRAINING

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.

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570-329-4061 (local)

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