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 - March 26, 2015 - 6:30 pm

APPRECIATION DINNER
HOLIDAY INN - WILLIAMSPORT
100 PINE STREET, WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: RICHARD FLINN, DIRECTOR
PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

Our keynote speaker for the Annual Appreciation Dinner is Mr. Richard Flinn. Mr. Flinn was appointed as Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in January 2015 by Governor Wolf.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Flinn held the position of Deputy Director of the Operations Division at FEMA headquarters in Washington D.C.. For five years before taking that position, Mr. Flinn was the Deputy Director of Operations for PEMA.

We look forward to meeting the new director and hearing his plans for the future of PEMA. Hope to see you there!

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NEW MUNICIPAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS

Lycoming County EMA would like to welcome three new municipal emergency management coordinators to our ema community.

Bob Sheets was appointed EMC for Cummings Township in November of 2014. Bob is also the Assistant Fire Chief for the Waterville Volunteer Fire Company.

Larry Campbell was appointed EMC for Duboistown Borough in January of 2015. Larry is a member of the Duboistown Fire Company and also a recent Lycoming County retiree after decades of service.

Walter Reed was appointed EMC for Hughesville Borough in February of 2015. Mr. Reed is Mayor of Hughesville borough and recently attended the Elected Officials seminar held in the Lycoming County EOC.

Please help us in welcoming these new Emergency Management Coordinators!

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:

MCHENRY TOWNSHIP

If you or anyone you know would be interested in this position, please contact the Lycoming County EMA office at 570-433-4461.
Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death. Don’t be a statistic! Be aware and be prepared. CO is undetectable to the human senses.

Learn symptoms of CO poisoning, tips on how to stay safe and statistics on how many deaths are reported due to CO poisoning.

Share this with your community or use this infographic on your website.
ADVANCED LOGGER RESCUE TRAINING HELD

On November 9, 2014, the PA Fire Academy offered an Advanced Logger Rescue training in Trout Run on property owned by Brooks Site Services. Along with the use of their site, Brooks Site Services supplied the equipment and trees used during training. This training was made possible with funds generated by the gas industry through ACT 13.

This 8 hour course was to prepare firefighters, EMA personnel, foresters, and loggers in taking action to reduce severity of injury and increase a logger’s chance of survival after a logging accident. The program taught all participants how to handle an “in woods” rescue from the time the person is reported missing until they are at a Level-1 trauma Center.

Logger Rescue is a nationally recognized and awarded safety training program developed by instructor, Mr. Dana Hinkley. Mr. Hinkley is a retired Captain from the Berlin, NH Fire department and has spent the last 35 years working in the logging business with his father.

For information about holding a Logger Rescue training course in your area, please contact the Pennsylvania Fire Academy.

Thank you to Craig Konkle for supplying the information and photos from this training.
Notes from the Director…

March is the month of transition from Winter to Spring (hopefully)! If you don’t like the weather on a specific day in March, just wait 12 hours and it will change. That’s when the challenge begins! Please take a few moments to review your personal and your community’s severe weather awareness and flood readiness plans. This is an excellent time to put information concerning severe weather readiness and preparation on your local web site or in your newsletter.

Several major DPS projects have been completed to include the Alternate EOC Center at the Third Street Plaza in Williamsport. We have used the Center for several training exercises and to support the 2014 LLWS. DPS is still planning to move the back-up 911 Center to that building in 2015. DPS is also looking at an expanded partnership with the Commonwealth of PA on sharing tower sites.

DPS hosted an Emergency Management Seminar for Elected Officials during February. Thanks to all the elected officials and local and county staff who attended. March will feature Damage Assessment and Reporting training as well as the state-wide Annual Severe Weather 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.

THANKS!

John

NATURAL GAS ACTIVITY

The Natural Gas Industry continues to grow in the Central Pennsylvania area. Below are some statistics for Natural Gas Activity within Lycoming County as of February 1, 2015:

- Named Wells—1429
- Addressed Wells—1420
- Permitted Wells—1319
- Spudded Wells—884
- Wells within 1/2 mile interface zone—602
- Compressor/meter/interconnect Stations—46
- Water impoundments and withdraw sites—74
- Active drill rigs—4

Please contact Craig Konkle if you need any additional information concerning Energy Development within Lycoming County.
In this article, we separate the myths from the facts - and answer some of the frequently asked questions about lightning.

Is it true that lightning never strikes the same place twice?
No, lightning strikes many of the tall buildings in the world multiple times each year.

How powerful is lightning?
There’s enough electricity in a flash of lightning to power a 100 watt light bulb for about three months. However, because a lightning flash happens in a fraction of a second, all that power is discharged super fast and causes a very bright flash.

How hot is lightning?
Lightning is electricity. As electricity passes through something it causes heat. When lightning passes through the air, it can heat the air to as much as 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit—five times hotter than the surface of the sun. When lightning strikes a home, it can create enough heat to ignite a fire.

Does the lightning go from the cloud to the ground or from the ground to the cloud?
The answer is that lightning goes both ways. In the most common lightning flash, negative charges move from the cloud to the ground as a bright flash moves from the ground to the cloud.

Do the rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning?
No, the rubber tires on a car, bike, or other vehicle won’t protect you from lightning. What will protect you is the outer metal shell of a hard-topped metal vehicle (no convertibles). Cars are struck by lightning every year. Usually, the lightning damages the electronics in the car and blows out a tire or two, but the people inside are safe.

Do planes get struck by lightning?
Yes, on average every commercial jet is struck once a year. Commercial planes are designed to withstand a lightning strike. If struck, the lightning enters the metal shell of the plane, flows across this surface, then exits the metal shell elsewhere on the outside of the plane, leaving the passengers and contents inside the plane unharmed.

Does metal attract lightning?
No, this is a common myth. However, if struck, metal wires and poles are great conductors, meaning the electricity from the lightning will move along their length. This is why it is so important to stay away from electronics with cords and wires during a thunderstorm.

Is it safe to take a bath or shower during a thunderstorm?
No. Water may be delivered to your home via metal pipes. If lightning strikes the pipe while you are in the shower or even just washing your hands, you could be electrocuted.

If a pond or lake is struck by lightning, will all the fish die?
No, most of the electricity spreads out along the water’s surface. As long as the fish are not near the surface of the water, they won’t be harmed by the lightning strike.

You can find more facts about lightning and lightning safety at NOAA’s Lightning Safety Web Site www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.
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.

*DAMAGE ASSESSMENT COURSE
  Wednesday, March 18, 2015  2:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office
  Wednesday, March 18, 2015  6:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office

*NIMS/CS-400 (Must attend all 3 days)
  Tuesday, April 28, 2015  6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office
  Thursday, April 30, 2015  6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office
  Sunday, May 3, 2015  8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office

SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING
  Tuesday, April 21 2015  2:00 pm - 3:30 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office
  Tuesday, April 21, 2015  6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, Lycoming County EMA Office

NATURAL GAS/PROPANE/CARBON MONOXIDE SEMINAR
  Wednesday, April 8, 2015  6:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Independent FD, S. Williamsport

Other Training Resources:

PEMA TRAINING CALENDAR:
  http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=5051&&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
GETTING TO KNOW OUR EMCs

For the next edition in the series of “Getting to Know Our EMCs”, we will be featuring Mr. Dale Winter. Mr. Winter is the Emergency Management coordinator for both Bastress and Limestone Townships. He was appointed to Limestone Township as EMC in May of 1980. Then in April of 2004 he accepted the EMC position for Bastress Township.

Mr. Winter has been a resident of Lycoming County his entire life. He is a graduate of Jersey Shore High School. Along with his duties as EMC for two townships, Dale has been a member of the Nippenose Valley Volunteer Fire Company for 36 years.

Dale and his wife Mary have been married for 36 years and currently reside in Limestone Township. They are the proud parents of three sons and are enjoying nine grandchildren.

Lycoming County EMA would like to thank Mr. Dale Winter for his many years of service within the county and his community.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

On February 18, 2015, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety held two sessions of the Emergency Management Seminar for Elected Officials. This seminar is designed to give elected officials at the municipal and county level a better understanding of emergency management and their roles and responsibilities as an elected officials. The afternoon session had 26 officials in attendance while the evening session saw 14 officials.

The both classes were instructed by Mr. Fred Boylstein. Fred is the central area director at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

Lycoming County DPS hopes to hold this seminar annually and would like to thank all of the officials for taking the time to participate in this very important event.
Lessons Learned

A View from the Inside

Intersection Accidents

Emergency responders have a strong sense of community — most of whom join their local department or embark on a career in emergency services to help people. This is one of the attributes that makes them special. Many VFIS associates are emergency responders and are proud to support other emergency responders across North America.

This column was created to provide readers with a “view from inside emergency service organizations” and help all of us learn from unfortunate incidents that others have had to face. Hopefully this will offer insights into how emergency responders can better protect each other and the community served.

Safely negotiating intersections is a major obstacle when responding to an emergency. The costs (fatalities, serious injuries, department reputation, poor morale/suffering among the membership and damage to vehicles) resulting from intersection accidents involving emergency vehicles is significant.

A Google search for “emergency vehicle intersection accidents” returns 874,000 results. As an example: The ambulance, with lights and sirens was transporting a female patient with a head injury from a vehicle accident. The ambulance entered the intersection on a red light.

Intersection traffic was stopped, so the driver moved left of center to pass the stopped traffic in front of him. While failing to substantially reduce speed, the driver moved back to the right lane and struck a vehicle that had entered the intersection from the right on the green light. The end result: the driver of the other vehicle was seriously injured; the passenger in the other vehicle was killed; the ambulance driver was not injured, but the two EMS providers in the patient compartment suffered fractures; the patient being transported suffered only minor injuries.

Unfortunately, this type of accident happens nearly every week. The driver of the other vehicle should have yielded the right of way to the ambulance, but anyone who drives an emergency vehicle can probably relate a story where another driver did not see or hear the emergency vehicle. First responders can’t control what other drivers do on the road, but certainly CAN control how they operate an emergency vehicle. Understanding “perception of presence” (other vehicle drivers must perceive the presence of the emergency vehicle visually or audibly before they can react) is key to safe operation of an emergency vehicle.

To keep from becoming a Google search result and help avoid intersection accidents, the following tips are provided for safely navigating intersections:

- Do not rely on warning devices to clear traffic (if other drivers don’t see and/or hear the vehicle, they can’t react properly).
- Scan the intersection for possible hazards (right turns on red, pedestrians, vehicles traveling fast, etc.) as well as driver options.
- Slow down well before reaching the intersection and “cover the brake.”
- Change the siren cadence not less than 200’ from the intersection.
- Scan the intersection to assess options (pass on right, left, wait for clearing, etc.).
- Avoid using the opposing lane of traffic if at all possible.
- During emergency response, be prepared to bring the vehicle to a complete stop for any of the following:
  - When directed by a law enforcement officer.
  - Red traffic lights.
  - Stop signs.

- Negative right-of-way intersection.
- When the driver cannot account for traffic in all lanes of traffic in an intersection.
- Establish eye contact with other vehicle drivers; have partner communicate all is clear; reconfirm all visible traffic is stopped.
- Account for traffic one lane at a time treating each lane of traffic as a separate intersection.

Intersections

Operation Safe Arrival

Want more information or assistance in properly handling intersections?

VFIS has an intersection training program available as a DVD/CD set at shop.vfis.com or drivers can complete an intersection safety class through VFIS Distance Learning.

Find downloadable Risk Bulletins on intersection safety at vfis.com that can help develop, enhance or evaluate current procedures.
FARMERS SHOULD DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT A FARM EMERGENCY PLAN

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. -- Too often, when first responders arrive on the scene of a farm-related emergency, they don't have the proper knowledge, training, personnel or equipment to manage the situation.

Even in rural communities, many emergency service personnel are not familiar with farm issues, according to Davis Hill, manager of Penn State Extension's Managing Agricultural Emergencies program. As an example, he cited a real situation that occurred last year, when a farm employee was unloading corn from a bin. The grain was not flowing properly from the auger, and the employee suspected that there was clumping and bridging occurring. This happens on occasion, and the normal solution is to enter the bin to break up the clumps.

"Right or wrong, they do this with the auger running, and this practice always has been successful at getting the grain to flow normally again," Hill said. "So the employee entered while his employer watched from the top-entry hatch. When the employee fell into a cavity up to his waist, the employer immediately shut off the power to the unloading auger."

Being entrapped to the waist, the employee needed help to get out. After several unsuccessful rescue attempts, the employer called 911.

"When emergency responders arrived, they had no experience with grain bins, flowing grain or grain bin rescue," Hill said. "At one point there were 25 responders inside this bin attempting to move grain away from the employee. It took more than five hours to free him."

Compare that scenario to a similar event that occurred on another farm, where an employee was entrapped and the employer and other workers attempted to rescue him before calling 911. But this time the responders knew what to do -- they had pre-planned this farm, so proper resources were called in. As a result, the employee was released from the entrapment and was out of the bin in just over an hour. And only eight emergency responders were needed on the scene, with only two going into the bin.

"Farms have many hazards that can cause serious injuries and deaths and other catastrophic emergencies," Hill said. "As a farm operator, you don't often ask for help, especially from people who are not farmers or agribusiness people. When farm emergencies happen, however, you really need to know that those who are coming to manage the crises are prepared to do the right things to save lives and preserve property."

Continued on Page 10
To achieve this, farm owners should develop an emergency action plan, or "pre-plan," that can help emergency responders make quick decisions and act to rescue a farm employee or family member at risk, keep responders and bystanders safe, and protect property.

If considerable time must be spent at the incident scene trying to understand the hazards, this is precious time that will not be spent on rescuing the person or property that is in danger, Hill noted.

A farm emergency action plan or pre-plan will save this valuable time. Hill urges farm owners to take these important steps to help their local emergency responders develop a pre-plan:

--Download an aerial map of your farm. Try to fit all of the buildings and structures on this map. Multiple pages are acceptable. On the map, number each building and number each structure, such as silos, bins and tanks.

--On a separate sheet, develop a key for certain points that you will write on the map. For example, mark on each building with an "E" where the main electric shutoff for that building would be located. On the separate sheet, write down what "E" stands for. Do the same for gas (letter "G"). A letter "P" might stand for pesticides.

--On the separate sheet, identify what each building and structure is. For example, building 1 might be the main dairy with 120 milking cows. Building 2 might be the heifer barn. Structure 3 might be a 60,000-bushel grain bin. Be sure to identify where the pesticides and fertilizers are stored.

--List names and contact information for the principal owners and managers of the farm business, including how they can be reached at any time of the day or night.

"Once you have collected this information, contact your local fire chief and invite him or her out to your farm to prepare to respond for various emergencies, and ask him or her to conduct an emergency pre-plan for your farm," Hill said.

"Show them what you have developed. A good fire company chief officer will take this information and expand on it. Ideally, three or four key personnel will come to tour your farm to gain a better understanding of where things are, where employees and family members will be located and how they should handle various emergencies."

Preparing to manage emergencies on the farm may seem like a daunting task, but if you follow these steps, the basics of a farm emergency pre-plan will begin to take shape. When you need help, Hill said, you want to be sure that arriving personnel have the basic background to help you efficiently.

More information is available at the Penn State Extension Agricultural Safety and Health website.
When it comes to tornado safety, there are a lot of myths out there. These myths are more than just incorrect - these popular misconceptions can lead people into danger. Learn the truth about tornadoes and what you can do to stay safe.

**Is it safe to seek shelter under a bridge or an overpass during a tornado?**
NO! Bridges and overpasses are not safe shelters from tornadoes. The structures may enhance the winds and blast flying debris into and under the structure, and into you! A strong tornado may even cause the bridge or overpass to collapse on top of you. If you're driving and encounter a tornado moving toward you, your best option is to drive in the opposite direction and attempt to get out of its path.

**Do tornadoes avoid big cities?**
NO! Many cities, including Fort Worth, Dallas, Atlanta, and St. Louis have been struck by tornadoes. However, cities are hit by tornadoes much less frequently than less populated areas. This isn’t because tornadoes have an aversion to big cities, but more likely because there just aren’t that many big cities that happen to be in the path of a tornado. When you compare the area of the U.S. covered by cities to the area that is not, you will find that there is much more open space, especially in tornado alley. This means that cities make for a relatively small target for a tornado to hit.

**Can tornadoes cross hills, rivers or other geographic features?**
YES! While it’s possible terrain can influence tornado formation, and may play some role in supporting where tornadoes track, there is no evidence suggesting tornadoes cannot cross hills, rivers, or river valleys. Valleys and mountains do not appear to offer any significant protection once a tornado develops and its track becomes established. The fact that a particular location has avoided being struck by a tornado has more to do with luck than the terrain surrounding that location.

**Should I open the windows on my house before a tornado hits?**
NO! Opening windows in your home to relieve the pressure changes in a tornado is useless and a waste of precious time. If a tornado hits your house, it most likely will break windows anyway. Stay away from windows during a tornado and get to as low a place as possible.

**Can you always see a tornado before it strikes?**
NO! Tornadoes do not always have to appear as a visible funnel cloud and can be hidden by heavy rainfall during the day or by darkness at night. Sometimes tornadoes are so wide that you may not realize what you’re seeing until it’s too late. Over the years, there have been numerous reports of tornadoes that are nearly a mile wide.

**If I can see a tornado and it is not coming directly at me, does that mean I am safe?**
NO! It can be difficult to determine the movement of the tornado and its distance from you. Also, tornadoes can toss items it may pick up (tree limbs, bricks, personal belongings, etc.) hundreds of yards away from the actual funnel. Even if you’re not in the direct path of the tornado, you may be in an area where falling debris can cause damage, injury or even death. Always seek shelter in a sturdy building, on the lowest level, away from windows when a tornado is nearby.

Learn more about tornadoes and tornado safety in the [Online Tornado FAQ](#) from the experts at NOAA’S Storm Prediction Center.
WEBSITE WILL HELP REUNITE PEOPLE WITH PETS AFTER DISASTER

In the hours and days after the Black Forest fire erupted on June 11, 2013, the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region began the task of reuniting people with their misplaced animals - including horses, cats, dogs, cattle and even a parrot separated from their owners.

Shelter and veterinary clinics opened their doors to hundreds of lost animals waiting to be claimed. Peyton resident Cindy McKeon created a Facebook page, Black Forest Fire Lost and Found Pets, where people could post photos of lost pets. Almost two years after the fire, the page is a popular site for lost and found postings.

But a new website created by computer scientists at the University of Colorado at Boulder hopes to make pet-and-owner reunifications during and after disasters even easier. EmergencyPetMatcher is a one-stop website for lost and found postings, where people can post photos of lost pets and hopefully match them with photos of pets found. Users of the website can peruse posted photos and look for matches. When a certain number of people suggest a match, an email is generated to the posters of lost and found photos. Having a system to reunite people with their pets will hopefully mitigate some of the intense trauma of a disaster situation, said Joanne White, a CU Boulder researcher who helped create the website.

"Those most impacted by loss of pets and service animals are also society's most vulnerable — children, the elderly, and the disabled," White said in a news release from the university. "Minimizing the time these people are separated from their animals is an important way to help recovery after a disaster."

The website is intended for use only during a disaster, White said. She declined to discuss the website in greater detail until it goes live — when a disaster occurs.

The website is a part of Project EPIC, a 2009 National Science Foundation initiative that set aside $2.9 million for projects that help with information flow during disasters.

In addition to her work on EmergencyPetMatcher, White is working on a way for pet evacuation centers to keep digital records of pets going in and out of shelters. She also is working on evacuation maps that will help people find the best route to pet evacuation centers, such as the Elbert County Fairgrounds, during a disaster, according to the university's news release.
2015 QUARTERLY TRAINING

March 26  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  7:00 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

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