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 - September 26, 2013 - 7:00 pm
At

YOUR MUNICIPAL EOC!

TOPIC: Communications Exercise,
Testing Radio, Fax, and Email Communications

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS
This quarterly meeting will be slightly different from those held in the past. This meeting will be a communications exercise with each EMC participating from their EOC. You will **NOT** report to the County EOC.

Prior to the exercise, instructions and a questionnaire will be mailed to each EMC. On September 26th, at 7:00 pm, roll call will be done via radio to each municipality.

After the roll call, you will be asked to answer the questions from the questionnaire via radio, fax, or email from your EOC.

Lycoming County EMA is excited to have this exercise and we hope to have every municipality participate!

IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

Lycoming County Welcomes the World 2
A Decade of Preparedness 3
Preparedness on a Budget 4
First Responder: Electrical Safety 5
Vacant EMC Positions 5
Prepare for Winter 6
Distracted Driving... Know the Facts 7
Notes from the Director 8
Upcoming EMA Classes 9
Natural Gas Activity 10
AMBER Alert: Protecting Our Children 11
CNG Vehicles at Quarterly Training 12
New Area Code Added to 570 Region 13
We Will Never Forget 14
Upcoming Quarterly Trainings 15
We Want to Hear from You 15
Contact Us 15
LYCOMING COUNTY WELCOMES THE WORLD

Once again, Lycoming County opened its doors to Welcome the World for the Little League World Series. To assist with safety needs that may occur during the World Series, the Lycoming County Emergency Management Agency partially activated the EOC. The EOC was staffed with Department of Public Safety employees during the Grand Slam Parade as well as during games throughout the week.

During the US and International Championship games on Saturday, August 24th, the EOC was also staffed by a National Guard Liaison, 2nd Lt. Phillip Neiss, and a PEMA Liaison, Jeremiah Bunch. During the LLWS Championship game on Sunday, August 25th, Lt. Neiss once again joined the DPS staff along with PEMA Liaison, Gene Sajseki.

This year PEMA parked their SatComm II communications vehicle in the DPS parking lot for the duration of the Series. The vehicle was available in the event of a communications failure within the County or if additional communications equipment was needed.

Lycoming County would like to thank the NCTF Incident Management Team, local fire companies, and law enforcement agencies for their help at the Little League Command Center and at the Little League Complex during the entire Series.

Once again this year, the LLWS was a great success! Thanks to all the volunteers and staff members that helped to ensure a safe and fun Series for the World!
A DECADE OF PREPAREDNESS

50% more disasters declared annually than in the previous 10 years. Being prepared is more important than ever. The Ready campaign encourages families to prepare in advance of disasters.

$1 Billion
77 million visits to Ready.gov
88 million preparedness materials requested or downloaded

MAKE A PLAN.

11% more families made emergency plans

BUILD A KIT.

44% → 53%
Increase in number of people making emergency kits

BE INFORMED.

13% more Americans report having taken steps to being prepared for an emergency

GET INVOLVED.

51,000+
Twitter followers
25,000+
National Preparedness Community members

Americans are more prepared than ever, but work still remains to ensure the readiness of individuals, families, and our nation.

Ready.gov

Sources: FEMA and the Ad Council
It Doesn’t Cost a lot to be Prepared

It is no secret that many families and individuals are looking to cut back on spending. But with the frequency of disasters, both natural and manmade, can you afford not to be prepared? Preparedness doesn’t have to cost an arm and a leg.

September is National Preparedness Month, and we are asking you to help your family and friends prepare for whatever may come. Here are a few tips on how you can protect those that matter to you without spending a fortune.

 Make a Plan. Work with you family and neighbors to make an emergency plan for the types of disasters that affect your area. Make sure everyone in your family understands where to go and what to do in case of an emergency. You can download Family Emergency Plan templates Ready.gov/make-a-plan.

 Update Contact Information. Having accurate records for family, friends and neighbors will help you stay in contact and possibly help those in need. Make sure updated contact information is posted in visible places throughout your house and workplace. Family Emergency Plan

 Check Your Policy. Review your insurance policy annually and make any necessary changes- and renters, do the same too! When a disaster strikes, you want to know that your coverage will get you back on your feet.

 Make a Ready List. You may not need all of the items in ready-made preparedness kits. Choose the essentials that fit your needs and budget. Don’t forget to keep supplies at work and in your car. Sample Ready Lists can be found at Ready.gov/build-a-kit.

 Plan Your Purchases. You can save money by thinking ahead. Don’t buy preparedness items just before a storm when they’re expensive and supplies will be in high demand. Buy items at the end of the season when you can get good deals.

 Shop Sales. Shop at sales and used goods stores. Buy preparedness items throughout the year, instead of all at once, and you won’t notice the cost as much.

 Make Sure it Keeps. Store water in safe, containers. You don’t need to buy expensive bottled water, just make sure your water containers are disinfected and airtight

 Request a Gift. We all get things we don’t need. Suggest preparedness supplies as gifts from your friends and family. It just might save your life.

 Trade a Night Out. Trade one night out to fund your 72-hour kit. Taking a family of four to the movies can cost upwards of $80. Just one night staying in could fund your Ready kit.

 Start now! Take small steps toward preparedness and before you know it, you will be Ready!

For more information, check out:
• Emergency Financial First Aid Kit
• Follow us: @Readygov
• Email us: ready@fema.gov or citizencorps@dhs.gov
• Order publications: call 1-800-BE-READY, 1-888-SE-LISTO, and TTY 1-800-462-7585
• Monthly Preparedness text messages: Text PREPARE
FIRST RESPONDER: ELECTRICAL SAFETY

OVERHEAD LINE SAFETY

• Assume all lines are energized and potentially dangerous.

• Keep personnel and equipment at least 10 feet from overhead lines at all times. Consider how close aerial equipment will be when fully extended, and use a spotter to monitor placement.

• OSHA requires greater than 10 feet of clearance from lines that are over 50,000 volts. For example, the minimum clearance for a 500,000 volt line is 18 feet. There are no visible markers to identify a power line’s voltage, so call the local electric utility for clearance information if you are unsure.

Ladder Hits Lines; Firefighter Dies

Three firefighters were positioning a 35-foot aluminum extension ladder outside a three-story building with an active fire on the third floor. Two of the firefighters apparently slipped and lost control of the ladder, which fell against a 7,600 volt power line. One firefighter was killed and one was seriously injured.

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.

CUMMINGS TOWNSHIP
MCNETT TOWNSHIP
PREPARE FOR WINTER

Summer is not yet over and the kids just started school, but it is not too early to think about winter preparedness. Below are some tips on winterizing your home.

- Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

- Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.

- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing. Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.

- All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside and kept clear.

- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.

- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).

- Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.

- Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.
Distracted Driving

KNOW THE FACTS

Be aware of others who may be driving distracted!

- 31% of drivers between the ages of 18-64 reported that they had read or sent text messages or email messages while driving at least once within the 30 days before they were surveyed.
- In 2010, 1 in 5 crashes in which someone was injured involved distracted driving.
- Each day, 9 people are killed from accidents involving distracted drivers.
- >1,060 people are injured each day from crashes involving distracted drivers.

Q: WHAT IS DISTRACTED DRIVING?
A: Any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract the driver from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing.

Activities Emergency Responders Engage in While Driving

- Listening to the emergency radio
- Turning on or off the siren
- Using a cell phone
- Viewing a mobile computer
- Talking to passengers
- Drinking and/or eating
- Adjusting climate/radio controls

Be aware of technologies distracting you.

Source: cdc.gov :: dmvreportcard.com ::

Created by: VFIS.
www VFIS.com
Notes from the Director…

The Department of Public Safety, in conjunction with MCM Consulting Group, has completed the microwave system needs assessment to upgrade the backbone of our communications system. The project will take 18 – 24 months to complete.

Staff has been very busy with coordinating resource request for the 2013 Little League World Series and working with multiple agencies on issues such as specialty response protocols, weather alerts, and implementing the Knowledge Center system. I personally wish to thank ALL involved in the support and coordination of this year’s LLWS public safety program.

The County has renewed its agreement with EMS of Vermont to serve as the County’s Hazardous Materials Response Team.

If you are planning to purchase radio equipment, especially via a federal grant, please confirm with the vendor that the equipment is APCO Program 25 (P25) compliant. The P25 requirement is for a vendor to confirm that their equipment is capable of being operational in either an analog or digital communications system. The goal is to prevent equipment from obsolescence during a future transition from an analog to digital system. No date has been established for a transition to a digital system (EMA simulcast VHF network) in Lycoming County. Additionally, always inquire about the “life expectancy” of a radio system you may be purchasing, to include vendor support and operational spare parts.

In the past issues, DPS has asked local governments/EMCs to review the use of social media as a part of their public information program. Many local municipalities have partnered with LCAT Channel 75 for a local access cable TV channel. This project allows participating communities to have access to local Cable TV for pre and post event/disaster public information and educational announcements.

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
UPCOMING EMA CLASSES

The classes listed below are being offered within the County. Preregistration is required for these classes. You can register online at www.lyco.org, under “Top 10 Links” pick “Public Safety Training Courses”. Contact Kelle Robinson with any questions concerning these classes.

The following classes are being provided by the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety and the North Central Task Force:

**SOLAR PANEL AWARENESS FOR THE FIRE SERVICE** (2 class times being offered)

- **Thursday, September 12, 2013**  
  6:00 pm–10:00 pm, Eldred Township Fire Department

- **Saturday, September 21, 2013**  
  9:00 am–1:00 pm, Eldred Township Fire Department

**COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR** (2 class times being offered)

- **Monday, September 30, 2013**  
  6:00 pm–7:00 pm, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety

- **Monday, September 30, 2013**  
  8:00 pm–9:00 pm, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EMC**

- **Tuesday, September 24, 2013**  
  6:30 pm–8:30 pm, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety

**INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER** (Must attend all 4 days)

- **Tuesday, October 1, 8, 22 & 24, 2013**  
  6:30 pm–10:30 pm, Muncy Area VFD, 35 S. Main St., Muncy

**EMERGENCY PLANNING (G-235)** (MUST ATTEND BOTH DAYS)

- **Saturday, October 5 & Sunday, October 6, 2013**  
  8:30 am–4:30 pm, Lycoming County Department of Public Safety

**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
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 September 3, 2013:

- Named Wells—1234
- Addressed Wells—1181
- Permitted Wells—1101
- Spudded Wells—775
- Wells within 1/2 mile interface zone—602
- Compressor/meter/interconnect Stations—40
- Water impoundments and withdraw sites—58

To help familiarize everyone with some of the different natural gas operations within the area, below are some photos of the equipment used in these operations.

Top Right: Equipment used in a drilling operation.
Bottom Right: Pipeline being laid.
Left: Equipment used in a fracturing operation.

Please contact Craig Konkle if you need any additional information concerning Energy Development within Lycoming County.
Youngsters are often told not to talk to strangers. As innocent as children can be, there are some individuals that want to exploit and take advantage of them for whatever reason. News outlets often report child abductions or attempted abductions by family members, family friends and strangers. And the nightmare that ensures for parents and the child are forever emblazoned in their psyche.

You may have seen or heard of the AMBER Alert system but have limited knowledge of what it is about. The AMBER Alert system began in 1996 in Dallas-Fort Worth Texas when broadcasters teamed with local police to develop an early warning system to help find abducted children. It stands for America’s Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response. The acronym was created as a legacy to 9-year old Amber Hagerman who was kidnapped while riding her bike in Arlington Texas; and then brutally murdered.

In 2003 the PROTECT Act was signed into law which strengthened law enforcement’s ability to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish violent crimes committed against children. In 2004 the Department of Justice (DOJ) suggested criteria for issuance of AMBER Alerts. By 2009, all 50 states have AMBER Alert plans, but may have varying criteria. The AMBER Alert™ Program today is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies, and the wireless industry, to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of the child.

Once law enforcement determines that a child has been abducted and the abduction meets AMBER Alert criteria, law enforcement issues an AMBER Alert and notifies broadcasters and state transportation officials. AMBER Alerts interrupt regular programming and are broadcast on radio and television and on highway signs. AMBER Alerts can also be issued on lottery tickets, wireless devices such as mobile phones, and over the Internet. Questions regarding AMBER Alert criteria in your area should be directed to your local police department.

The US DOJ recommendations include the following criteria:

- There is reasonable belief by law enforcement that an abduction has occurred.
- The law enforcement agency believes that the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- There is enough descriptive information about the victim and the abduction for law enforcement to issue an AMBER Alert to assist in the recovery of the child.
- The abduction is of a child age 17 years or younger.
- The child’s name and other critical data elements, including the Child Abduction flag, have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) System.

Please contact your local police department for more information about the AMBER Alert system.
The topic for the Lycoming County EMA Quarterly Training, held on June 27th, was Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicles. As presentation was given by David Messersmith. David is part of the Marcellus Education Team with the Penn State Cooperative Extension.

The presentation given by David included the different types of CNG Vehicles available, the benefits and challenges of using CNG vehicles, as well as, the cost difference of conventional fuel vehicles versus natural gas vehicles. The cost difference per gallon seems to be a deciding factor for choosing a CNG Vehicle. In June 2013, the per gallon comparison was:

- Regular Gasoline—$3.70
- Diesel Fuel—$4.06
- CNG—$2.10

Some of the disadvantages to owning a CNG Vehicle would be there are limited places in the area to refuel, limited vehicle selection, longer fueling time, and shorter driving range. Also, the up-front cost associated with a CNG vehicle or CNG vehicle conversion is substantial.

Range Resources, River Valley Transit, and the Wayne Township Landfill brought three CNG vehicles. Range Resources brought a Chevy Pick-up truck, River Valley Transit brought a bus, and Wayne Township Landfill brought a Semi. Those in attendance were able to see what a CNG vehicle engine looks like and ask questions about the different types of vehicles being used in this area. Pictured below are the CNG vehicles that were on display at the quarterly training.
NEW AREA CODE ADDED TO 570 REGION

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the new 272 area code will be added to the area served by 570. This is known as an area code overlay.

An overlay adds another area code (272) to the same geographic region as an existing area code (570). An overlay does not require customers to change their existing area code or telephone number.

Starting September 21, 2013, you must use 10 digit dialing when placing a local call within the 570 area code. If you don’t, your call will not be completed and a recording will instruct you to hang up and dial again.

As of October 21, 2013, new customers in the 570 geographical area may be assigned telephone numbers with the 272 area code. A call that is local now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed and whether the area code is 570 or 272.

In addition to changing your dialing procedure, you will need to reprogram your automatic dialing equipment to 10-digit dialing. Such equipment may include: life safety systems; telephone sets; PBXs; fax machines; alarm and security systems; gates; speed dialers; call forwarding settings; voicemail services. You should also revise you business stationary and advertising materials to ensure the area code is included.

Some things that will remain the same included: emergency service remains just three digits, 911; you will continue to dial 1+ area code + telephone number for long distance calls; if 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711, 811 are currently available in your community, you can still use these codes with just three digits.

If you have any questions about the new area code overlay, please visit the PA Public Utilities Commission's website at:

http://www.puc.state.us/consumer_info/telecommunications/area_codes/area_codes_in_northeast_pennsylvania.aspx
In Memory of Those Lost
9-11-01

We will never forget.
QUARTERLY TRAINING FOR YEAR 2013-2014

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<td>December 11</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
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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 printed, 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
            570-329-4061

EMAIL: ema@lyco.org - for general department email

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