COUNTY OF LYCOMING EMA QUARTERLY TRAINING
(EMS Coordinators serving the municipalities of Lycoming County)

The next County of Lycoming EMA Quarterly Training will be held on:

THURSDAY - September 25, 2014 - 7:00 pm

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

TOPIC: SSES Exercise Overview
Presented by Kelle Robinson

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

The topic for the next County EMA Quarterly training will be an overview of the upcoming SSES (Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Berwick Nuclear facility) exercise presented by Kelle Robinson.

Lycoming County is a support County for SSES facility. It is a Federal requirement to hold this exercise every 2 years. This year’s exercise will be held on October 21 and 22.

Kelle will give an overview of what our County does for this exercise and what criteria must be met. It is sure to be very informative.

Hope to see you there!

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Once again, Williamsport Welcomed the World for the 2014 Little League World Series. This year’s World Series was an extra special event marking the 75th Anniversary of Little League Baseball.

The World Series was kicked off on August 13th with the annual Grand Slam Parade through downtown Williamsport. Games began on August 14th and concluded on August 24th with the Championship game between Chicago, Illinois and Seoul, South Korea. South Korea emerged as the Champions with a 8-4 victory over Chicago.

This year the new County Emergency Operations Center was utilized as a secondary command Center with representatives from PA State Police, PEMA, National Guard, and Department of Homeland Security on-hand during various games. The new EOC have proven to be an invaluable asset to the County. County EMA is excited at the prospect of using the new EOC for many years to come.

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!!
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 August 1, 2014:

- Named Wells—1386
- Addressed Wells—1371
- Permitted Wells—1253
- Spudded Wells—841
- Wells within 1/2 mile interface zone—602
- Compressor/meter/interconnect Stations—45
- Water impoundments and withdraw sites—66
- Active drill rigs—4

Please contact Craig Konkle if you need any additional information concerning Energy Development within Lycoming County.

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.
When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

STOP all activities.

Seek shelter in a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.

Wait 30 minutes after the storm to resume activities.

www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov
FALL DRIVING SAFETY TIPS
FROM PENN DOT

PennDOT reminds motorists that wet leaves, fog, sun glare and frost are a few driving hazards that they will encounter this fall but there are steps drivers can take to help make their commutes safer.

As leaves begin to fall, wet leaves on the roadway can be as slippery as ice. They also can obscure traffic lines and other pavement markings, making driving in unfamiliar areas particularly difficult. Motorists should slow down and use extra caution on leaf-covered roadways.

Other fall hazards for motorists can be fog and sun glare. When driving in fog, motorists should use low beam headlights since the high beam setting creates glare and reduces visibility. Not only will headlights enhance visibility of your vehicle, state law requires headlights be on when wipers are in use.

Sun glare can be most problematic during sunrise and sunset which coincide with morning and evening rush hours. The intense glare from the sun on the horizon can blind a driver, causing an unexpected traffic slowdown. Drivers can prepare for the glare by keeping a set of sunglasses handy, removing clutter from their sun visors and keeping the inside of their vehicle’s windshield clean.

Also, morning frost and icy spots on the road can also cause problems as overnight temperatures drop toward freezing. Motorists should pay particular attention to bridges, overpasses and shaded areas on roadways where icy spots can form on the pavement. In addition to exercising caution while driving, motorists should clear their vehicles’ windows of frost before travel.

**PennDOT offers the following fall driving tips:**

- Increase your following distance in severe weather, at dusk and dawn and when in an area with wet leaves. If you are being tailgated, let the other driver pass.
- Check your vehicle’s headlights, taillights and turn signals to ensure they are working properly since darkness will be a part of many driver’s morning and/or evening commutes. Make sure you turn on your headlights as the sunlight fades.
- Have your vehicle’s heating and wiper systems checked to ensure they are working properly.

Be sure you have tires with sufficient tread depth in case of an early season snow.
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.

HOMELAND SECURITY EXERCISE EVALUATION PROGRAM (HSEEP)

- **Wednesday, October 8, 2014** 8:30am - 4:30pm, Lyco. Cty. Dept. of Public Safety
- **Thursday, October 9, 2014** 8:30am - 4:30pm, Lyco. Cty. Dept. of Public Safety
- **Friday, October 10, 2014** 8:30am - 4:30pm, Lyco. Cty. Dept. of Public Safety

VOLUNTEER RETENTION & RECRUITMENT: PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

- **Wednesday, October 15, 2014** 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Independent Fire Dept, 306 Clark St., S. Williamsport

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEMS FORMS REVIEW (MGT-347) 2 sessions

- **Wednesday, November 19, 2014** 8:00am -12:00pm, Lyco. Cty. Dept. of Public Safety
- OR
- **Wednesday, November 19, 2014** 6:00pm - 0:00pm, Lyco. Cty. Dept. of Public Safety

HAZMAT AWARENESS LEVEL ANNUAL REFRESHER

- **Tuesday, December 2, 2014** 8:30pm - 10:30pm, Independent Fire Dept, 306 Clark St., S. Williamsport

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
Preparing for Winter: Tips

1. Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors once a year
   - Make sure they are all in working order and test them every month.
   - If it has been over 10 years since your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors have been replaced, swap them out for new ones.

2. Clean your chimney and fireplace
   - If you use your fireplace often get it and the chimney cleaned annually.
   - To prevent building up, clean the ash from the fireplace regularly.

3. Check your furnace/heating system
   - Install and maintain heating equipment correctly. Have your furnace inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season.
   - Don’t store newspapers, rags or other combustible materials near a furnace, hot water heater, space heater, etc.
   - If used improperly, a space heater can be the most dangerous appliance in your house.
   - Don’t leave space heaters operating when you’re not in the room.
   - Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that might burn, including the wall.
   - Don’t use extension cords with electric space heaters. The high amount of current they require could melt the cord and start a fire.
   - When lighting a gas space heater, strike your match first, then turn on the gas.
   - Never use your gas range as a substitute for a furnace or space heater.

4. Prepare your vehicle
   - Have your vehicle serviced regularly.
   - Check the tread and air pressure in your tires.
   - Check the concentration level of antifreeze in your vehicle’s engine.
   - Add de-icer wiper fluid solution to prevent spray from freezing.
   - Find out more ways to prepare your vehicle for the upcoming winter with Winter, Your Vehicle and You.

5. Prepare for a winter emergency with a Winter Survival Kit.

6. Be ready for ice, snow and cold temperatures – Snow and icy conditions can impact parts of nearly every U.S. state. Have shovels and de-icer available to remove snow and ice from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots. Don't forget hats, scarves and gloves to prevent frostbite.

7. Check your fire extinguisher – Charge and/or replace it if necessary.

8. Get your flu shot – With the winter season, comes flu season.
   - It takes your body two weeks to build immunity from the flu. So get your flu shot early—sometime in October or November. However, it is never too late to get the flu vaccine.
   - A flu shot will protect you from the most common strains of influenza for that season.
Ebola: A threat in the U.S.?
by
Wendy Hastings, EMT-P
Director; LTS EMS Council

Over the past few months we have been hearing news stories detailing the horrible outbreak of the Ebola virus and its death toll in northern Africa. Even healthcare workers are not immune from its effects, with many doctors perishing, leaving entire regions without adequate medical care.

Could this illness occur in the US? While the likelihood of an outbreak as seen in other parts of the world are unlikely, recently two US Healthcare workers infected with the virus, while rendering humanitarian aid, were flown back to the US under extreme quarantine conditions, and successfully treated near the CDC in Atlanta. In addition, the ease of international travel has increased the possibility of disease to travel to the US; potentially exposing large populations to illness.

Ebola is a highly contagious virus that is transmitted through contact with body fluids of infected individuals, or contact with rodents in areas with known Ebola outbreaks. Initial signs and symptoms of Ebola are often confused with flu-like symptoms that include sudden fever, chills, and muscle aches, with diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain occurring after about 5 days. Other symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, headache, or confusion, may also develop. Symptoms may become increasingly severe and may include jaundice (yellow skin), severe weight loss, mental confusion, bleeding inside and outside the body, shock, and multi-organ failure. It is almost always fatal.

According to the CDC, “EMS personnel can safely manage a patient with suspected or confirmed Ebola by following recommended isolation and infection control procedures, including standard, contact, and droplet precautions. Particular attention should be paid to protecting mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth from splashes of infectious material, or self-inoculation from soiled gloves.” Early recognition and identification of patients with potential Ebola is critical.

911 Centers may also modify their dispatch protocols to further identify potentially infectious patients when local health officials have determined that a higher degree of caution is warranted.

While the immediate threat of an outbreak of Ebola is not likely, it is always important for individuals to educate themselves and be aware of risk factors and take precautions against all infectious diseases.

For more information, please refer to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) at www.cdc.gov.
PA COMPANY 6 OPERATES IN SUPPORT OF THE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES
Provided by Marlys Litchfield

PA Company 6, a regional element of Pennsylvania’s Search and Rescue Task Force, PA TF 2, was activated in support of the championship weekend of the 2014 Little League World Series. While PA Co 6 members can provide a wide array of rescue services such as confined space and structural collapse rescue, the primary mission of PA Co 6 was to support the 3rd Civil Support Team of the PA National Guard in their mission to respond to possible terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction.

PA Co 6 participated in a full scale exercise held at Bowman Field on Saturday, August 23 with the support of the City of Williamsport. PA Co 6 responded with victim decontamination equipment as well as the ability to obtain samples of the unknown chemical and identify it on site. Emergency Response Team 35 from Clinton County responded as part of PA Company 6 and provided the ability to monitor a large area for air quality during the response. Emergency Team 35 also provides trained Hazardous Materials Technicians who are able to don protective clothing and respirators and enter an area to obtain samples of unknown materials that can then be identified on site by various instruments operated by the technicians.

PA Company 6 personnel set up a mobile shower unit that is used to decontaminate victims prior to their being transported to a hospital for further evaluation. This unit is able to provide warm water for showering as well as privacy for those being decontaminated. A separate shower can be erected for decontamination of victims who are not able to shower themselves due to injury or more severe chemical exposure.

PA Company 6 and ERT 35 were supported by the Williamsport Bureau of Fire who provided Incident Command, an initial gross decontamination line by manning an engine and directing ‘victims’ through an initial shower prior to the more detailed shower provided at the trailer.

Notes from the Director…

Late Summer and Fall of 2014 will be a busy time for all. DPS activated the Alternate EOC at the Third Street Plaza to support operations at the 2014 Little League World Series and the Grand Slam Parade. The DPS EMA staff served as the Planning Section Chief/staff for this year’s event. While the baseball games were being played in South Williamsport, a 98 mile cross country race for elite trail runners was held with the START POINT at Little Pine State Park. ACS volunteers participated in the exercise as part of a communications exercise and assisted with providing accountability information to the command staff.

The bi-annual Williamsport Regional Airport Disaster/Crash Exercise is scheduled for Saturday, October 4th. DPS is also planning for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station exercise later this fall. The County’s EOC will be activated as a part of the exercise as well as the Reception Center at the Lycoming Mall.

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

DPS continues to offer a wide-variety of training programs to support your individual certification and professional development needs.

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
Football. Kids returning to school. The crunch of leaves underfoot. Fall means shorter days and cooler temperatures, and for many, it is their favorite season for all these reasons and more.

But this colorful season also contains significant weather hazards - ones that you can prepare for. Be a Force of Nature by knowing your risks, taking action and being an example in your community.

Follow these five simple steps to be ready for the hazards of fall:

1. **Prepare for Hurricanes.** The Atlantic hurricane season typically runs until November 30. As Hurricane Sandy demonstrated, significant storms can strike well beyond summer months. Make sure you’re ready with an Emergency Supplies Kit that includes three days of food and water, batteries, flashlights, vital medications and other items.

2. **Turn Around, Don’t Drown.** Floods aren’t just a spring phenomenon - they can happen anytime after a major rainfall. Never drive into standing water - just two feet of rushing water is enough to carry away most vehicles. Remember: Turn Around. Don’t Drown.

3. **Tornadoes: Know Where to Go.** Tornadoes are still a danger in the fall, particularly in the South. Know where to go in case of a tornado. Find an underground shelter, safe room or windowless interior room or hallway to shelter in. At home and at work, take a few minutes to practice getting to shelter. Walk the route. When it comes to tornadoes, know where to go.

4. **Practice Wildfire Safety.** If you live in an area prone to wildfires, prepare your home by cleaning out gutters, inspecting chimneys, clearing brush and other foliage from around your home and by taking other defensive measures. Create a Family Communications Plan so that you’ll be able to get in touch with loved ones in case a wildfire separates you.

5. **Prepare for Winter.** Winter storms can knock out power for days at a time. Make sure that your family is ready with the supplies that they’ll need to survive. This means creating an Emergency Supplies Kit that should include a NOAA Weather Radio, shovels, blankets and clothing to stay warm. If you have a generator, be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning - do no use indoors!

Now that you’re weather-ready, spread the word. Tell your friends on Facebook and Twitter that you’re prepared for fall weather hazards such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires and winter storms. Your actions will inspire others to be prepared. Be a Force of Nature to help make all of us safer.

America’s PrepareAthon!

Want to help your hometown become weather-ready? Be smart, take part and prepare during America’s PrepareAthon in September.

America’s PrepareAthon is a new national community-based campaign for action that focuses on increasing emergency preparedness through hazard-specific drills, group discussions and exercises. National PrepareAthon Days are held every spring and fall. During National Preparedness Month we ask you, your family, community and workplace to take action by planning a National PrepareAthon Day on or around September 30.

Visit the America’s PrepareAthon website (www.ready.gov/prepare) to get helpful guides, playbooks for events and free promotional materials including banners, posters, logos, e-invites and more.

Information from nws.noss.gov
BE SMART. 
TAKE PART. 
PREPARE.

Join the movement at www.ready.gov/prepare

America's PrepareAthon! is a community-based campaign that is bringing together millions of people to practice the simple steps that will help them get and stay prepared for disasters. Follow America's PrepareAthon! on Twitter @PrepareAthon using #PrepareAthon.
2014 QUARTERLY TRAINING

September 25  7:00 pm  Thursday  County EMA Office
December 11  7:00 pm  Thursday  County EMA Office

TENTATIVE 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.

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