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 24, 2015 - 7:00 pm**

At

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

**TOPIC:** The American Red Cross
Presented by Steve Leauber

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**MEETING TOPIC DETAILS**

The topic for the next EMA quarterly training will be the American Red Cross. Steve Leauber, Disaster Program Manager from the local Red Cross office, will be giving an overview of what the Red Cross has to offer the citizens of Central Pennsylvania and all of America.

Steve will discuss what services the Red Cross performs at evacuation/mass care sites as well as the many different types of programs and services offered.

Along with responding to incidents where people are displaced, the Red Cross operates blood drives across the country and conducts various training programs throughout the region.

Hope to see you there!

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LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Once again, Williamsport Welcomed the World for the 2015 Little League World Series. This year’s World Series saw a team from our neighbors to the south, Lewisberry, Pennsylvania.

The World Series was kicked off on August 19th with the annual Grand Slam Parade through downtown Williamsport. Games began on August 20th and concluded on August 30th with the Championship game between Lewisberry, Pennsylvania and Tokyo, Japan. Japan emerged as the Champions with a 18-11 victory over Pennsylvania.

With the team from Pennsylvania participating in the World Series this year, the number of spectators increased greatly compared to other years. The games the Mid-Atlantic team played during the week saw crowds of 30,000 plus. At the US Championship game on Saturday, August 29th, crowds were said to be over 45,000. Setting a new record at LLWS!

Once again this year, the Lycoming County Emergency Operations Center at our Third Street Plaza location was utilized as a secondary command center with representatives from PA State Police, PEMA, National Guard, National Weather Service, Susquehanna Regional Emergency Medical Service, and the Department of Homeland Security on-hand during various games.

Lycoming County would like to thank everyone who assisted in making this another successful Little League World Series. We look forward to seeing everyone again as we welcome the world back to Lycoming County in 2016!
LYCOMING COUNTY GETS NEW MICROWAVE NETWORK

In the spring of 2013 the Lycoming County Commissioners authorized the Department of Public Safety to begin the process of choosing a vendor to replace the County’s then thirteen year old microwave backbone network with a new state of the art large capacity digital microwave network. The current microwave network has reached end of life and shortly will reach end of support by the manufacturer. Additionally, the current microwave network has also reached its maximum bandwidth capacity at several tower sites.

In April of 2014 the Commissioners approved the purchase of a new public safety grade state of the art high bandwidth microwave network from Alcatel-Lucent at a cost of over 1.5 million dollars. After over a year of planning and network design, installation of the new network will begin in September of this year, with completion by the end of 2015. The new microwave network will provide the backbone for future projects such as next generation 9-1-1, data and video transfer as well as a new digital public safety radio system.

Purchase of the new microwave also spawned conversation between the County and the Pennsylvania State Police Statewide Radio Network Division, (SRND), on sharing resources that would benefit both the County and the Commonwealth. The discussions with SRND brought about ground breaking cooperation and sharing of facilities and microwave resources. While the Commonwealth has shared resources with two of the larger Terrorism Task Forces in southeastern and southwestern Pennsylvania, Lycoming County is the first single County to share microwave networks and facilities at this high level with the Commonwealth. Lycoming County will upgrade several SRND microwave paths in exchange for utilizing SRND microwave to complete a newly designed microwave loop configuration. The loop configuration is designed to keep the microwave network functional should a tower in the loop go out of service. Leveraging each other’s microwave networks adds a second layer of loop protection to both networks.

By approving the purchase of this state of the art microwave, our Commissioners have helped to ensure that our public safety radio network will be ready for new technologies for the next fifteen to twenty years.

Installation of the microwave network will begin in September and continue through the fall until all sites have been installed and cut-over from the existing microwave.

Additionally, The 9-1-1 Communications Branch of DPS has been very active with the completion of the back up 9-1-1 facility at the Third Street Plaza and the scheduled replacement of back-up power generators and related equipment at two tower sites.
COMMUNICATIONS AT EASTERN STATES TRAIL RUN

The Lycoming County Auxiliary Communications (ACS) team assisted with communications at the recent Eastern States Trial Run held at the Hyner Run Park on August 15, 2015.

ACS had eight members assisting with this event at the Command Post and Aid Stations throughout the course. The members combined to put in over 100 volunteer hours plus travel time for this event.

Lycoming County thanks the ACS team members for their time and dedication to the communication needs of this and surrounding counties!

To the right is a photo of the AS-7 Hyner Run Aid Station which was manned by Lycoming County ACS team members during the event.

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:

ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP
MCHENRY TOWNSHIP
PINE TOWNSHIP

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

September is the peak of the Atlantic Hurricane Season! We have been fortunate thus far this year, however, the end of the tropical storm season is still several months away. Please take a few moments and review your personal and your community’s severe weather awareness and flood readiness plans.

The DPS staff was very active with the planning and coordination for the 2015 Little League World Series. On behalf of DPS, I wish to extend our gratitude to all who assisted with the Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement and Emergency Management operations. The TSP EOC was again utilized to support this event. A first this year was the National Weather Service deployed a team of meteorologist to Lycoming County to assist with the Planning and Operations Sections.

The move of the back up 911 Center from the Court House to TSP was successfully completed the week of August 10th.

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

Natural Gas Activity within Lycoming County as of August 1, 2015:

- Named Wells—1494
- Addressed Wells—1457
- Permitted Wells—1341
- Spudded Wells—907
- Wells within 1/2 mile interface zone—602
- Compressor/meter/interconnect Stations—54
- Water impoundments and withdraw sites—100
- Active drill rigs—2

13 Operators (Top 3 of addressed well pads)
1. Anadarko - 120
2. Range - 57
3. Exco - 53

31 Municipalities (Top 3 with activity)
1. Cogan House - 60
2. Cummings - 58
3. Penn - 25

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

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS (RIHM) - NFA**

*Thursday, September 10, 2015* 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Loyalsock Township VFC

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS LEVEL (Must attend all 4 days)**

*Saturday, September 19, 2015* 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Loyalsock Township VFC  
*Tuesday, September 22, 2015* 6:30 pm-10:30 pm, Loyalsock Township VFC  
*Thursday, September 24, 2015* 6:30 pm-10:30 pm, Loyalsock Township VFC  
*Saturday, September 26, 2015* 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Loyalsock Township VFC

**RAILROAD 101 & COMMODITY SPECIFIC**

*Thursday, October 1, 2015* 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Independent VFC, S. Wmspt.

**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
SAFETY TIPS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

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’s 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 controls the tracks and have emergency numbers for them at dispatch centers. This is especially important if there is more than one railroad operating 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.

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 tons and traveling at 55 mph a mile 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.

Information from Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (oli.org)
GETTING TO KNOW OUR EMCs

For the next edition in the series of “Getting to Know Our EMCs”, we will be featuring Mr. David Bressler. Dave was appointed EMC for Wolf Township in 1992. He holds the PEMA Advanced level of Certification in Emergency Management.

Mr. Bressler has been a resident of Lycoming County for 32 years. Along with being a municipal EMC, Dave is a member of the Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department and has Firefighter I and Firefighter II certifications. He is also a retired Correctional Officer from the Lycoming County Prison system.

Dave and his wife Sylvia have been married for 32 years. Sylvia is an RN at the Williamsport Hospital.

Dave is the proud father of four: Robert, Abby, Jayme, and Steph. Jayme is currently residing in Tennessee.

Lycoming County would like to thank Mr. David Bressler for his many years of service!

Cold Weather Safety For Your Little Buddy

✿ Provide a warm shelter. Bring them inside if you can.

✿ Make noise before starting your car. Some animals try to stay warm by utilizing a warm car engine or wheel well.

✿ Check their paws. Salt from sidewalks and frostbite can injure the pads of their paws. Wipe them with a warm cloth when they come inside.

✿ Recognize the signs of trouble. If your pet is whining, shivering, anxious, or slows down, your pet is at risk of hypothermia.
On May 30, 2015, amateur radio operators from the Lycoming County Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) assisted with communications needs at the World’s End Ultra-Marathon in Forksville, Sullivan County. The marathon consisted of 50k and 100k trail runs through the World’s End State Park. ACS members were there to handle communication needs for participants who may experience an emergency.

ACS had five members present for this event: John Mummert - KB3ZVX, Dale Brendle - N3ZIO, Dennis Gruver - KB3FCO, Bob Brown - KB3IPZ, and Rich Cashera - N3IRC. Rich was assisting in IMU-18 at race headquarters with the rest of the members positioned at Aid Stations throughout the course of the marathon.

The Lycoming County ACS Team looks forward to assisting with this Ultra-Marathon again in 2016!

The two photos above show the stations set-up within World’s End State Park to support the Ultra-Marathon. The photo to the right shows ACS members, Dale Brendle, Bob Brown, and Dennis Gruver ready to handle any communications needs that may arise during the marathon.
PREPARING FOR WINTER POWER OUTAGES

Are you prepared for a long term winter power outage? Below are a few tips to be sure your family is prepared to handle a power outage during the winter months.

1. Prepare a 72 hour Emergency Kit(s).
2. Have an alternative light source
   - candles, oil lanterns, battery operated lanterns and flashlights
3. Alternative Cooking Means
   - Fireplace, grill, rocket stove, etc.
4. Non-Perishable Food
   - 3-5 day supply of canned good, crackers, peanut butter, etc.
5. Water
   - 3 days of water per individual (1 gallon of water per individual per day) depending on their needs
6. Blanket
   - Check your current supply, additional layers of clothes is an option also.
7. Non-Electric Radio
   - Battery or solar powered are options.
8. Solar RE-Chargeable Batteries
   - Regular batteries run down, solar re-chargeable gives you options
9. Home Porta-Potty
   - A 5 gallon bucket with a toilet seat is an option.
10. Non-Electric Entertainment
    - Board games, deck of cards, paper, crayons and markers are good options.

These are just a few items to think about prior to a winter power outage. Please contact your local EMA office for additional information.
The American Red Cross recently re-engineered and reorganized chapters state-wide due to personnel downsizing from retirements, layoffs, and staff reassignments. The North East and South East PA regions have been merged into the Eastern region. PA now has Eastern Central, and Western regions.

Some chapters have been merged and others have new catchment areas. For example, Greater Lehigh Valley chapter formerly served Northampton, Lehigh, and Carbon counties. The new territory is Northampton, Lehigh, and Bucks counties.

The attached map illustrates the current three regions plus the chapters and their coverage areas. Please feel free to share it with others who partner with the ARC and review their plans, agreements, and contact names/numbers for their local Red Cross. Much has changed that updates may be needed.
FREE SMARTPHONE APP TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

Free ReadyPA app available to help citizens prepare

Harrisburg, PA – Pennsylvanians can use free tools available from the ReadyPA app to take simple steps to make sure they’re ready for any type of incident. September is National Preparedness Month, a nationwide month-long effort to encourage households, businesses, and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

This year’s theme is “Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today."

"It is important to get people to think about preparedness now, before an emergency," said Pennsylvania Emergency Management Director Richard D. Flinn, Jr. “The steps you take now can make a big difference for you and your loved ones when an emergency occurs, and knowing how to communicate with loved ones provides an immeasurable sense of relief during a very stressful time."

PEMA emphasizes that simple steps can be taken now to prepare a family, school, workplace or community for any type of incident that would disrupt the day-to-day routine. Citizens are encouraged to download the free ReadyPA app for Apple or Android or visit www.ReadyPA.org to find sample checklists, contact lists and other preparedness tools to take advantage of before an emergency.

“An all-hazards approach is the best way to prepare your family, rather than a specific plan for specific incident,” said Flinn. “Supplies like food, water, medication and a first aid kit are a good foundation. You should also create a communications plan in the event that an emergency happens while the family is separated at work, school or different activities. Knowing how to reach each other, where to meet, and who to call to report that you're safe can eliminate a lot of the fear and uncertainty you could otherwise face in a crisis.”

PEMA reminds everyone that they should be prepared to sustain themselves without any assistance for 72 hours in the event of an emergency. In particular, people should think about those in their family who may have special needs that could inhibit their ability to help themselves. Families should include their pets in their preparedness planning as well.

TORNOADO TOUCHES DOWN IN COUNTY

On the evening of July 9, 2015 a tornado touched down in the area of Quaker State Road in Fairfield Township near Montoursville. Damage was localized within the Quaker State Road area with trees toppled and privately owned buildings sustaining some damage.

The National Weather Service (NWS) was on hand to tour the area the next day to document and survey the damage to buildings and trees. The NWS classified the tornado as an F1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. An F1 tornado has wind speeds ranging from 73 to 112 mph with moderate damage observed.

These photos are of the tornado as seen from a deck some distance away and of some of the damage sustained by the residents in the Quaker State Road area.

Please be sure to review tornado safety tips and have your emergency supply kit ready to go should an incident occur in your neighborhood.
Halloween Safety Tips

American Red Cross Halloween Safety Tips:

These “lucky 13” safety tips are for parents to share with their trick-or-treaters to prevent injuries at Halloween.

- Plan your route and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult go with you.
- Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards and brooms, too!)
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover your eyes.
- Cross the street only at corners.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks and low-flying brooms.
- Don’t hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- Walk, slither and sneak on sidewalks; not in the street.
- Carry a flashlight to light your way.
- Only visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Use a light stick instead of a wick! Candles used in pumpkins are a fire hazard. (Also, keep in mind that costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger’s house.
- Be cautious of strangers and animals.
- Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. And don’t eat candy if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.

American Red Cross
Greater Cleveland Chapter
2015 QUARTERLY TRAINING

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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