

EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

Volume 19, Issue 3

Summer 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 - September 26, 2019 - 7:00 pm

YOUR MUNICIPAL EOC!

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

MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

This quarterly meeting we will be slightly different from those hold in the past. This meeting will be a communications exercise to test the communications between our EOC and each municipality's EOC. You will NOT report to the County EOC, you will participate from YOUR EOC.

Prior to the exercise, instructions and a questionnaire will be mailed to each EMC. On September 26th, at 7:00pm, 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!

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NEW PEMA DIRECTOR

On July 15, 2019, Acting Director David R. Padfield (Randy) was sworn in as the new Director of PEMA at Governor Tom Wolf's Cabinet swearing-in ceremony.

Director Padfield Tweeted "Today I feel honored and Proud. I'm humbled to serve Pennsylvanians as the director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. My loving family stood by my side today at @GovernorTomWolf's Cabinet swearing-in ceremony, making for quite a special day."

Lycoming County EMA welcome's Director Padfield to his new position.



NIMS COMPLIANCE SURVEY

FEMA has released the 2019 NIMS Compliance questions and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, PEMA's Bureau of Planning, Training, and Exercise has asked Lycoming County EMA to assist in asking municipalities to complete the survey via the online site Survey Monkey.

The NIMS Data Collection survey is to be completed for local Municipal Emergency Management Agency, local Fire Department(s), and local Police Department(s) (not Pennsylvania State Police). Please use the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C9JJN5J> to collect the information for all entities listed no later than **October 5, 2019**.

PEMA has updated their NIMS training and exercise webpage to show the 2019 survey and other information to complete the survey. Please visit: <https://www.pema.pa.gov/planningandpreparedness/trainingandexercises/Pages/NIMS.aspx> to view compliance and requirements to be eligible for federal preparedness assistance.

PEMA is also opening up this survey to school districts who receive Safe School Funding. While it's not a requirement for schools to complete this survey, it is recommended as it may become a requirement in the future.

Please let the County EMA Office know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the survey questions or process for submittal. Also, remember to keep a copy of your completed survey for your records.

HOW STATES ARE CHANGING THE FACE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

July 16, 2019 — Federal Emergency Management Agency

Every Disaster or emergency presents a challenge to emergency managers—what resources to commit, who is needed to respond, when to pull what levers for support, where to put people, and how to recover. Lessons from past events inform how we respond to future emergencies but are only part of the equation. As emergency managers, we need to look at innovative methods, technologies, and tools to prepare for disasters and make our communities more resilient. It takes a village, and our roles are unique in that we work every day to pull that village together.



Disaster Survivor Assistant Teams go door-to-door throughout neighborhoods impacted by flooding in Scott, Ark., on June 12, 2019. (Jocelyn Augustino/FEMA)

Part of how emergency managers innovate and improve is through networking, identifying best practices, and working with our counterparts across the county to learn from one another. The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) is one organization and gathering that allows emergency managers to do just that. Meeting annually, the group allows members to come together and examine recent disaster response and recovery operations and talk about the ways we are preparing for the next one. The same is true of public information officers in emergency management. From July 17-18, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III office in Philadelphia is hosting the annual NEMA PIO Meeting to share skillsets, identify new opportunities for growth in the field of public information, and develop new practices to take back to our jurisdictions for the next emergency.

In preparation for this meeting, FEMA asked our state counterparts in emergency management to answer a simple question: How is your state changing emergency management? By pulling together these responses, our hope is to show the progress we are making and the change in focus across the nation on emergency preparedness. Not only looking at what went right in an emergency, but what we are doing before the next one to prepare our communities. Whether it's unique websites, school curriculum programs, or a focus on exercises and training (to name a few), every day new things are being done to help prepare for tomorrow's emergency. One disaster can affect a community forever, and our job has never been more important, but we continue to make strides in how well we can respond. Our communities, families, and nation depend on it.

(continued)

HOW STATES ARE CHANGING THE FACE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Continued)

July 16, 2019—Federal Emergency Management Agency

PENNSYLVANIA

Randy Padfield - Director,
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency



“With increasing frequency, Pennsylvania has been adversely impacted by highly intense precipitation events which have resulted in significant localized devastation from flash flooding and landslides. Because of the localized nature of these impacts, it has proven increasingly difficult to obtain federal disaster assistance.

Using a concept similar to the FEMA Voluntary Agencies Leasing and Organizing Recovery (VALOR) program, Pennsylvania is piloting a program targeted toward providing individual assistance to those individuals most significantly impacted by disasters. This program is designed to assist those who are not able to qualify for other assistance and have limited or no other means of recovery.

One of the foundational components of the program is comprehensive case management for the impacted individuals or survivors. By being able to identify their specific needs, PEMA can work with Local VOADs to provide state grants for the purchase of much needed items such as furnaces, hot water heaters and other home mechanical systems, along with other supplies such as drywall or materials to rebuild private bridges. The VOADs then supply the voluntary labor to install the materials following any applicable local codes or ordinances.

This program leverages the volunteer support of the local VOADs in combination with financial support from the state for materials and supplies. This provides an effective means of recovery for individuals most severely impacted by disasters that would otherwise be faced with a long-term recovery or would not be able to recover otherwise on their own.”

To read more about what other states are doing, please visit: <https://www.hstoday.us/federal-pages/dhs/fema-dhs-federal-pages/how-states-are-changing-the-face-of-emergency-management/>

WEST BRANCH EMA AT COGAN HOUSE FALL FESTIVAL

West Branch Emergency Management Association, Inc. took their Incident Management Unit 645 (IMU) to the Cogan House Fall Festival grounds located at 4609 Route 184 Hwy. It was central center for the festivals information and their ground communication. It went well and impressed many people when they saw it in use. We were made to feel at home even before we were completely set up to operate by the Cogan House Recreation Committee.

It was toured and questions asked by about 125 people. There were people recruited during this event to work with WBEMA. They were Ham radio operators, fire-fighters and EMT's plus just some plain folks with no trainings. We also picked up a PIO of which has her certificate of training for the position. She had earned it while she was a part of Cogan House's E.O.P. volunteers. We even had a fire-fighter from the Liberty Fire and Ambulance Company use our IMU to propose to his girlfriend while his family was onboard touring the IMU. What a weekend it was.

WBEMA handed out information on StormReady, Preparing for disaster, WBEMA's weather alerts and helped the Morris Fire and Ambulance Company distribute their training and announcing their departure from the Morris Substation in Cogan House due to lack of volunteers to respond the equipment housed there. These papers were welcomed by all who received them.

Article Submitted by: Iva Mae Guillaume

ACS AT EASTERN STATES 100

Amateur Radio Operators from around the State, as well as Lycoming County provided communications for the Eastern States 100, a 103 mile single loop trail ultramarathon that starts and ends at Little Pine State Park. The race was run on Saturday-Sunday 08/10-11/2019. The ES-100 runs through trails in the Pine Creek Valley in Lycoming, Clinton and Tioga Counties and has a cutoff time which gives runners 36 hours to complete the 103 mile course. Hundreds of volunteers make this race possible, including approximately 30 amateur radio operators who staff the Command post as well as the aid stations to help track runners and relay requests for supplies and medical aid if needed.



Dale Brendle handles communications duties at AS-12 Algerian Swamp



Bob Fulmar, Bob Brown & Rebecca Brown handle communications duties at AS-4 Brown's Run

Lycoming Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) had approximately 8 members who volunteered for this year's event as Radio Communications Operators including Travis Best, Shawn Bastian, Dale Brendle, Bob Brown, Craig Konkle, John Mummert, Tim Fronk, Richard Caschera Jr., Rich Caschera III, & Cliff Allen. Travis Best served as Race Communications Director for the event. Radio Operators put in close to 500 hours of service during the event.

Article Submitted by: Bob Brown, Photos Courtesy of John Mummert

Notes from the Director...

I wish to extend a well-deserved THANK YOU to all the first responders and emergency management personnel who contributed immeasurably to the safety of the thousands of people visiting the County during the 2019 Little League World Series and the related events. I personally wish to thank those who assisted in the County's EOC to support the public safety program. The EOC had liaison officers from PEMA, the PA Army National Guard, UPMC Susquehanna, EPA, ACS, and the National Weather Service along with the County DPS/IS staff. Please keep in mind that in 2021, the event will expand to include additional days of play and more teams.

To assist with our mission of preparedness, the Department of Public Safety asks that you please conduct outreach programs and public education to your residents concerning severe weather awareness and flooding. DPS will be focusing on resiliency programs throughout the coming year. Staff has provided outreach at local National Night Out activities, independent living/ persons with disabilities programs, and related gatherings.

The stream gauge at Sonestown on Muncy Creek, Sullivan County was recently taken out of service for repair. DPS is making progress with the replacement of the gauge at Hepburnville where we will replace an ultra-sonic tube device with an in stream pressure transducer. DPS is awaiting approval from Penn DOT on the drawings submitted for the project.

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

PEMA CERTIFICATION RECEIVED

Irv Temple, SARA Support Specialist in the HazMat Division of Public Safety and Lycoming County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff member, earned his Advanced Level Certification in April of this year. Irv was presented his plaque by our former County EMA Manager, Dan Dorman at the June Quarterly Training Meeting.



Wendy Hastings, Director of the LTS EMS Council and Lycoming County Emergency Operations Center staff member, earned her Professional Level Certification in August of this year. Wendy was presented her plaque by our acting County EMA Manager, John Yingling while working in the County EOC in support of the Little League World Series.

Please join us in congratulating Irv and Wendy on this great accomplishment!

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

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 8:30am - 4:00pm, Old Lycoming Twp, 600 Dewey Ave.*

DYNAMICS OF EMERGENCY VEHICLE RESPONSE

Saturday, September 28, 2019 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, Independent Fire, 306 Clark St, SW

DRIVER SAFETY AWARENESS

Saturday, September 28, 2019 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Independent Fire, 306 Clark St, SW

COURTROOM PREPARATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

*Thursday, October 3, 2019 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Hepburn Twp, 615 State Rte 973 East
Thursday, October 10, 2019 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Hepburn Twp, 615 State Rte 973 East
Thursday, October 17, 2019 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Hepburn Twp, 615 State Rte 973 East
Thursday, October 24, 2019 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Hepburn Twp, 615 State Rte 973 East*

TALLEN RADIOLOGICAL RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm, DPS, 542 County Farm Rd, Montoursville

WILDERNESS SEARCH & RESCUE-SEARCH RESPONDER (WRSR)

*Monday, October 14, 2019 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Eldred Twp, 5556 Warrensville Rd
Wednesday, October 16, 2019 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Eldred Twp, 5556 Warrensville Rd
Sunday, October 20, 2019 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Eldred Twp, 5556 Warrensville Rd*

INTRODUCTION TO RESCUE SAW SAFETY

Monday, November 11, 2019 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm, Nisbet VFC, 166 W. Village Dr.

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>



Are you ReadyPA?

ACTION SHEET

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Snow.  Floods.  Extreme Heat.  With every season, there is always something to prepare for. **Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters.**

If you've seen the news recently, you know that emergencies happen unexpectedly in communities just like ours, to people like us. The theme for National Preparedness Month this year is "**Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters**" and challenges you to take action now.

Preparing goes beyond just making a kit and building a plan. Make time to learn lifesaving skills – such as CPR and first aid, and check your insurance policies and coverage for the hazards you may face, such as flooding and tornados.

Sign up now 4

30
Days
30
Ways

- Be Informed
- Be Prepared
- Be Involved

LEARN EASY WAYS TO BE READY

We know how important it is to prepare and how daunting it may seem to get started. The **30 Days/30 Ways Program** can help! Sign up, and each you will receive weekly emails that includes easy tips and tools that can help you be ready.

www.Ready.PA.gov

It's free to participate and you could win a wind up radio/charger!

Here's how to participate:

1. Sign up: <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1899672/1902357/>
2. You will receive an email with tips and tools each week. At the end of the month, you will receive a very short survey to help us learn the tips that were most helpful for you.
3. When you submit your survey, you will receive a customized ReadyPA team 30 Days/30 Ways printable certificate.
4. You will also be entered into our random drawing for a wind up radio/ flashlight/ phone charger!



Thank you for being part of the **Ready PA 30 Days/30 Ways Program.**

Are you ReadyPA?

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

How can parents and students Be Ready?

Before

- Stay away from traffic while you are waiting for the bus.
- Always walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus when crossing so the bus driver can see you.
- Wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping out onto the road.
- Never cross the street behind the school bus.

During

- When the school bus is moving, always stay in your seat and sit facing forward.
- Keep school bus aisles open. If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- Always obey your school bus driver's instructions.
- Never play with emergency exits.

PENALTIES

More than 700 Pennsylvania drivers are convicted for passing a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing every year.

If you are convicted of violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law, **you will receive all of the following penalties:**

- **60-Day Driver's License Suspension**
- **Five (5) points on your driving record**
- **\$250 Fine**



<p>You MUST STOP on roadways with ridged/grooved dividers.</p> <p>LOADING OR UNLOADING MUST STOP ← RIDGED GROOVES MUST STOP</p>	<p>You MUST STOP at an intersection, whether it is or is not marked with a stop sign. All traffic MUST stop.</p> <p>LOADING OR UNLOADING MUST STOP MUST STOP</p>	<p>You MUST STOP on roadways with painted lines.</p> <p>LOADING OR UNLOADING MUST STOP MUST STOP</p>
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Electrical Safety

Flipping a light switch. Plugging in a coffeemaker. Charging a laptop computer. These are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind.



SAFETY TIPS

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified private inspector or in accordance with local requirements.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, microwave ovens, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.
- Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.
- Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month according to the manufacturer's recommendations. You do not need a flame to start a fire. Fires can start when heat builds up near things that burn. This can happen when a hot light bulb is near things that burn, such as cloth or paper, or a cord has been placed under a carpet.
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.
- Use a light bulb with the right number of watts. There should be a sticker that indicates the right number of watts.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Sparks from an outlet



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

2019 QUARTERLY TRAINING

September 26 7:00 pm Thursday YOUR MUNICIPAL EOC
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.

TELEPHONE: 570-433-4461 (local)
 570-329-4061 (local)

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

COUNTY EMA STAFF	PHONE	EMAIL
John Yingling, <i>Acting EMA Manager</i>	570-329-4730	jyingling@lyco.org
Craig Konkle, <i>Energy Development Emergency Response Coordinator</i>	570-329-4724	ckonkle@lyco.org
Kelle Robinson, <i>Training & Operations Coordinator</i>	570-329-4723	krobinson@lyco.org
Paula Young, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	570-329-4722	pyoung@lyco.org