

# EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

Volume 20, Issue 2

Spring 2020

## 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, 2020 - 7:00 pm**  
*(meeting previously scheduled June 25th has been canceled)*

at

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

TOPIC: TBD

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## NOTES FROM THE EMC

Hello, everyone! I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy during these difficult times. Fortunately, things are beginning to return to a sense of "normalcy" in the Department of Public Safety.

Here are some highlights as to what the County EMA office has been working on:

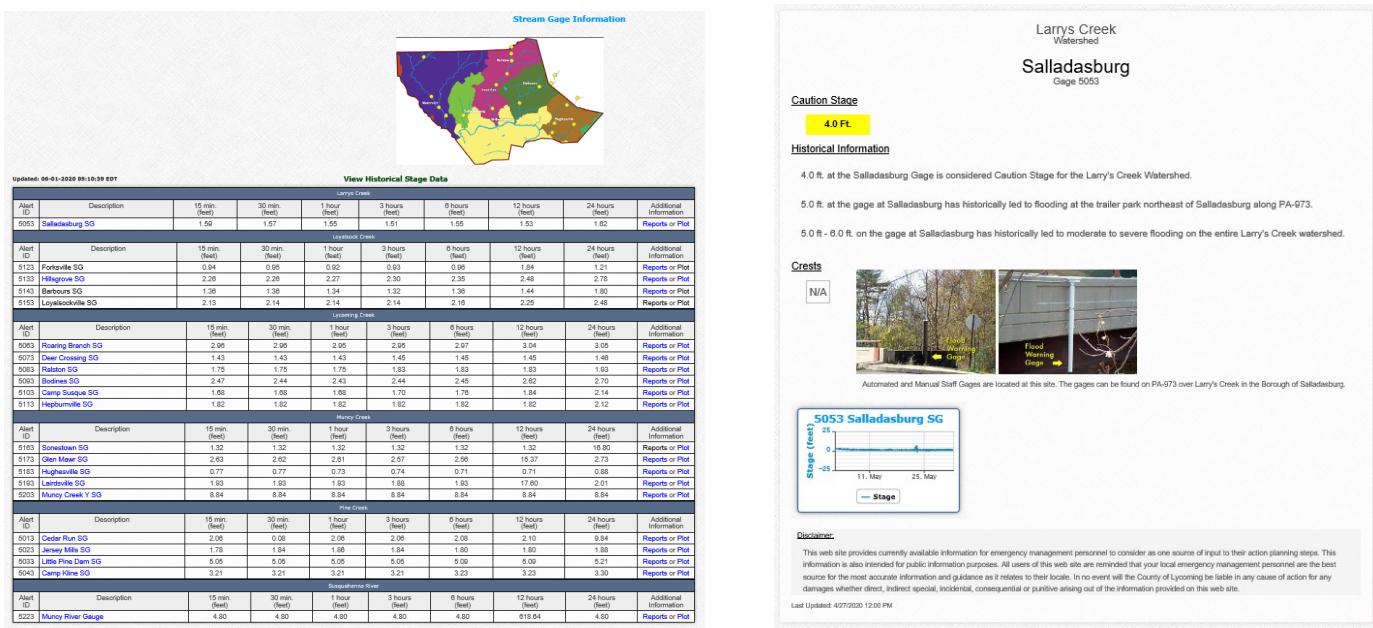
- COVID-19 has taken up most of the Spring in our office with the majority of work being the coordination of PPE requests among first responders, acute care hospitals, long term care facilities, and some smaller agencies that provide home health care. We continue to assist local agencies, and are keeping up to date with all guidance from Federal & State government as we move forward.
- Many of you have recently been contacted in regards to updating your Municipal Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). One of the most important parts of the plan is the Notification & Resource Manual (NARM). Make sure the contact information in that document is up-to-date! Copies of your updated plans then need to be submitted to our office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
- We have started looking forward to the fall, and most of those events are still being planned including the Bi-Annual SSES Exercise. More information to follow as it becomes available.
- June 1<sup>st</sup> is the official start of Hurricane Season. Be prepared! While tropical storms may or may not influence the weather in our county, it is definitely the season for more severe weather outbreaks. Remember... when damages occur in your municipalities, get that information into the County EMA office. Windshield Assessment forms are located on the EMA page of the Department of Public Safety website.

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer, and look forward to seeing you all this fall!!

**Kelle**

## NEW FLOOD READY WEBSITE

On May 7, 2020, the County EMA office launched the newly revamped Flood Ready page. Several years in the making, the new site is hosted on a virtual server housed at the Department of Public Safety. This change should help with connectivity issues that have occurred in the past during storms with heavy rainfall. The new page was designed to facilitate a seamless transition from old to new, and also has a mobile capability, which makes the site easier to see on all of your mobile devices. With the new design also comes a new address, [floodready.lyco.org](http://floodready.lyco.org). A special thank you goes out to Diana Cleveland, County Network Engineer assigned to DPS, and the staff at Datawise for all of their help with the new site!



## **NEW MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS**

Lycoming County EMA would like to announce two new municipal emergency management coordinators to our community.

Lloyd Smith was appointed EMC for Muncy Creek Township in March.



Jerry Fisher was appointed EMC for Washington Township in April.

Please help us welcome our new Emergency Management Coordinators to the TEAM!

### ***A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS...***

The Pine Township Board of Supervisors and their Emergency Management Coordinator would like to thank the following folks for their help and guidance as we did assignments by the COVID-19 Guidelines from our Emergency Operation Center for the past seven weeks.

West Branch Emergency Management Manager- Dennis Buttorff, Lycoming County Emergency Management Manager-Kelle Robinson, Lycoming County Training Manager-Paula Young and the Lycoming County 911 Emergency Communication Center.

With the help of these folks it made our Coordinator's job a bit easier. She still has a ways to go before she's completed the task of the COVID-19 Event but with your continued help she will obtain her goal of getting it finished and on time.

Again thank you for all you do.

Pine Township Board of Supervisors

Shelly K. Johnston

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Supervisor Chair-person

## TOUR OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PROJECT

Fire Chiefs from Trout Run and Hepburnville Fire Departments along with several DPS staff toured the LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) project located at the EXCO Resources, Chappell Hollow Road well pad in Gamble Township. Edge Gathering is the company processing the methane gas from the wellhead, converting into LNG, and transporting via tanker truck to multiple out of state locations.

*Story and photos provided by Craig Konkle.*



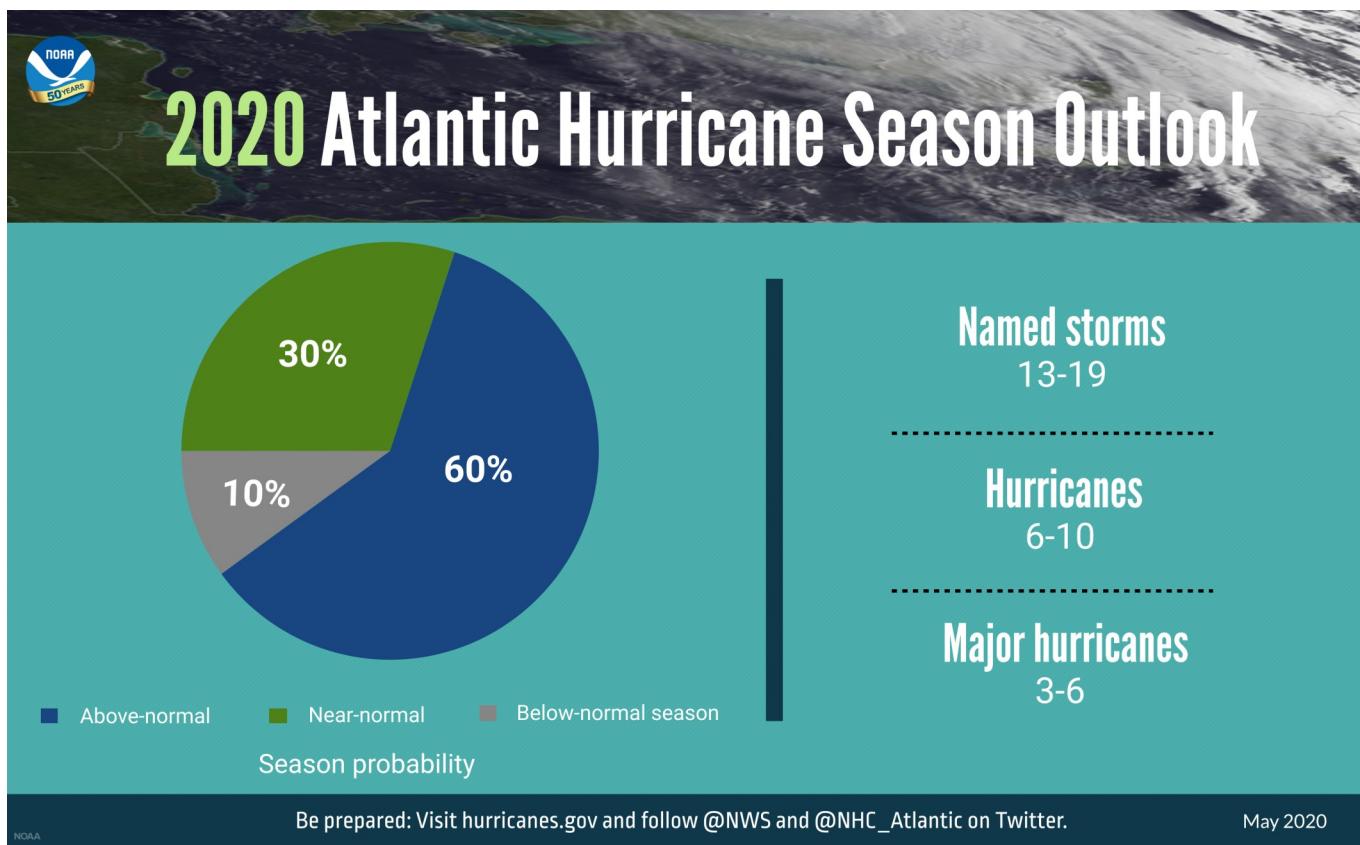
## 2020 HURRICANE SEASON

### FEMA Releases COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Hurricane Season

FEMA released "[COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season](#)" to help emergency managers and public health officials best prepare for disasters, while continuing to respond to and recover from COVID-19.

### NOAA Releases Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

An above-normal [2020 Atlantic hurricane season](#) is expected, according to forecasters with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service. The outlook predicts a 60% chance of an above-normal season. Visit the [NOAA website](#) for more information.



## SUMMER SAFETY

### Summer Activities and COVID-19

As warm weather arrives in Pennsylvania, residents are eager to get outside! However, this summer comes with new safety concerns amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Before you and your families embark on your outdoor adventures, please read the CDC guidelines regarding [Visiting Parks and Recreational Facilities.](#)

### [Camping Health and Safety Tips](#)



### Wildfire Preparedness from The National Fire Protection Association

Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. Nearly 45 million homes abut or intermingle with wildlands and more than 72,000 U.S. communities are now at risk. But by working together residents can make their own property - and their neighborhood - much safer from wildfire.

Please reach out to your neighbors to discuss what we can all do to make a difference. Click on [Wildfire Risk Reduction](#) for 10 Safety Tips. Visit [www.firewise.org](#) for more information.

## SUMMER SAFETY continued...

### Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is a period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees for at least two to three days. In extreme heat your body works extra hard to maintain a normal temperature, which can lead to death. In fact, extreme heat is responsible for the highest number of annual deaths among all weather-related hazards according to the CDC.



**Everyone should take these steps** to prevent heat-related illnesses, injuries, and death during hot weather:

- Stay in an air-conditioned indoor location as much as you can.
- Drink plenty of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Schedule outdoor activities carefully.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing and sunscreen.
- Pace yourself.
- Take cool showers or baths to cool down.
- Check on a friend or neighbor and have someone do the same for you.
- Never leave children or pets in cars.
- Check the local news for health and safety updates.

**Those who are at highest risk include people 65 and older, children younger than two, and people with chronic diseases or mental illness. Be a Hero this summer—Check on people at highest risk at least twice a day during periods of extreme heat. You could save a life!**

Check out the [Extreme Heat Safety Social Media Toolkit](#) at Ready.gov.

## June is National Pet Preparedness Month

Check out the [\*\*Pet Preparedness Social Media Toolkit\*\*](#) at Ready.gov.

Hot Weather Safety Tips from the ASPCA - We all love spending the long, sunny days of summer outdoors with our furry companions, but being overeager in hot weather can spell danger. To prevent your pet from overheating, take these simple precautions provided by ASPCA experts:

Visit the vet for a spring or early-summer checkup. Make sure your pets get tested for heartworm if they aren't on year-round preventative medication.

Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water when it's hot or humid outdoors. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful not to over-exercise them, and keep them indoors when it's extremely hot.

Know the symptoms of overheating in pets, which include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse. Symptoms can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea and vomit along with an elevated body temperature of over 104 degrees.

Animals with flat faces, like Pugs and Persian cats, are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. These pets, along with the elderly, the overweight, and those with heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle. Not only can it lead to fatal heat stroke, it is illegal in several states!

Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool—not all dogs are good swimmers. Introduce your pets to water gradually and make sure they wear flotation devices when on boats. Rinse your dog off after swimming to remove chlorine or salt from his fur, and try to keep your dog from drinking pool water, which contains chlorine and other chemicals.



## June is National Pet Preparedness Month continued...

Open unscreened windows pose a real danger to pets, who often fall out of them. Keep all unscreened windows or doors in your home closed, and make sure adjustable screens are tightly secured.

Feel free to trim longer hair on your dog, but never shave your dog: The layers of dogs' coats protect them from overheating and sunburn. Brushing cats more often than usual can prevent problems caused by excessive heat. And be sure that any sunscreen or insect repellent product you use on your pets is labeled specifically for use on animals.

When the temperature is very high, don't let your dog linger on hot asphalt. Being so close to the ground, your pooch's body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.

Commonly used rodenticides and lawn and garden insecticides can be harmful to cats and dogs if ingested, so keep them out of reach. Keep citronella candles, tiki torch products and insect coils of out pets' reach as well. Call your veterinarian or the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#) at (888) 426-4435 if you suspect your animal has ingested a poisonous substance.

Remember that food and drink commonly found at barbeques can be poisonous to pets. Keep alcoholic beverages away from pets, as they can cause intoxication, depression and comas. Similarly, remember that the snacks enjoyed by your human friends should not be a treat for your pet; any change of diet, even for one meal, may give your dog or cat severe digestive ailments. Avoid raisins, grapes, onions, chocolate and products with the sweetener xylitol. Please visit our [People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets](#) page for more information.

Please leave pets at home when you head out to Fourth of July celebrations, and never use fireworks around pets. Exposure to lit fireworks can potentially result in severe burns or trauma, and even unused fireworks can contain hazardous materials. Many pets are also fearful of loud noises and can become lost, scared or disoriented, so it's best to keep your little guys safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area of your home.



## Summer Driving Safety Tips

Summertime often means summer travel, and though your travel plans may be different this year, now is a good time to review these summer driving safety tips. Prevention and planning may take a little time up front but will spare you from dealing with the consequences of a breakdown—or worse yet, a highway crash—later.



[NHTSA.gov/summer-driving-tips](http://NHTSA.gov/summer-driving-tips)

### Stock Your Vehicle

Even a well-maintained vehicle can break down, so it's advisable to put together an emergency roadside kit to carry with you. A cell phone tops the list of suggested emergency kit contents since it allows you to call for help when and where

- Cell phone and charger
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Flares and a white flag
- Jumper cables
- Tire pressure gauge
- Jack (and ground mat) for changing a tire
- Basic repair tools and some duct tape (for temporarily repairing a hose leak)
- Water and paper towels for cleaning up
- Nonperishable food, drinking water, and medicines
- Extra windshield washer fluid
- Maps

### Plan Your Travel and Route

Before heading out, make sure to check the weather, road conditions, and traffic. Don't rush through your trip, and allow plenty of time to get to your destination safely. And always familiarize yourself with directions and maps before you go,

### Tire Safety

Make sure each tire is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure, which is listed in your owner's manual and on a placard located on the driver's side door frame. The correct pressure is NOT the number listed on the tire. Be sure to check tires when they are cold, which means the car hasn't been driven for at least three hours. Read through for safe tire tips:

- Inspect your tires at least once a month and before long road trips. It only takes about five minutes. Check your spare tire as well.
- Check out [NHTSA.gov/Tires](http://NHTSA.gov/Tires) for tire ratings before buying new ones.
- Look closely at your tread and replace tires that have uneven wear or insufficient tread. Tread should be at least 2/32 of an inch or greater on all tires.
- Check the age of each tire. Some vehicle manufacturers recommend that tires be replaced every six years regardless of use, but check your owner's manual to find out.





## 2020 PREPAREDNESS CALENDAR



**JAN**  
Resolve To Be Ready  
Winter Safety



**FEB**  
Central U.S. Earthquake Awareness Month



**MAR**  
"It's Not Luck" Campaign  
Severe Weather  
National Tsunami Awareness Week  
Flood Safety



**APR**  
National Financial Capability Month  
Spring Safety



**MAY**  
Wildfire Safety/National Community Preparedness Day  
National Building Safety Month  
National Hurricane Preparedness Week  
National Dam Safety Day



**JUN**  
Pet Preparedness Month  
Summer Safety/Extreme Heat  
National Lightning Safety Awareness Week



**JUL**  
Fireworks Safety  
Extreme Heat



**AUG**  
Back to School - Children & Youth Preparedness



**SEP**  
National Preparedness Month  
9/11 Day of Service & Remembrance  
Fall Safety



**OCT**  
Cyber Security Awareness Month  
National Community Planning Month  
Fire Prevention/National Fire Prevention Week  
Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills



**NOV**  
Holiday Safety



**DEC**  
National Influenza Vaccination Week  
Winter Safety  
Holiday Safety  
Resolve To Be Ready

## ONLINE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Although EMA training sessions have been suspended due to COVID-19, The Office of the State Fire Commissioner continues to offer online training. [OSFC COVID-19 Updates and Resources](#)

### **Additional Online Training Resources:**

#### PEMA Training and Exercises:

[https://www.pema.pa.gov/Preparedness/Training-Exercises/Pages/  
default.aspx](https://www.pema.pa.gov/Preparedness/Training-Exercises/Pages/default.aspx)

#### TRAIN PA:

<https://www.train.org/pa/welcome>



#### FEMA Emergency Management Institute:

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

EMA training questions can be directed to Paula Young.



Paula Young  
Emergency Management Specialist: Training  
Lycoming County Department of Public Safety  
Phone: 570-433-4461  
Email: PYoung@lyco.org

## **2020 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**

Please tell us what you would like to see in the next EMA News & Views. We want to print your stories and issues important to you.



### **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 any time.

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