

# EMA News & Views



County of Lycoming Emergency Management Agency

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Fall 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 - December 10, 2020 - 7:00 pm**

at

**VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING:  
EMAIL WILL BE SENT OUT ON  
DECEMBER 10TH WITH INFORMATION**

**TOPIC: Lycoming County/PEMA Year-in-Review  
Dennis Gruver 50+ Years of EMA Service Celebration**

### MEETING TOPIC DETAILS

Please join us on Zoom for our December Quarterly Training. This meeting will cover activities by the County EMA office over the past year, updates from our other DPS departments, and a review/update of PEMA's activities as well. Presenters will include Kelle Robinson (County EMC), Jeff Hutchins (DPS Director) and representative(s) from PEMA. Most importantly, we will be celebrating Dennis Gruver's 50+ years of service to EMA!

An e-mail will be sent out on December 9th with a link and password to the Zoom meeting along with a bridge conference call number if you are not able to get into Zoom. If you do not receive this e-mail by the December 10th, please call our office and we will make sure to get you the information links.

Hope to see you virtually through Zoom!

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## 50+ YEARS OF EMA SERVICE

Dennis Gruver will be retiring as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Montgomery Borough on December 29, 2020. Exactly 51 years to the day, December 29, 1969, he was appointed by the then Pennsylvania State Governor, Raymond P. Shaffer.



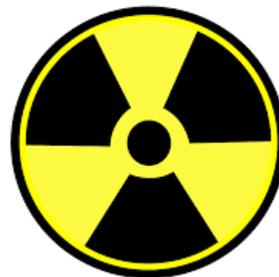
Over the years, Dennis has been active in monitoring the Muncy River Bridge Stream Gage. He would check the river levels during storms and high water events to relay real-time river levels to the County EMA office for situational awareness and response.

Dennis is member of the Lycoming County Radiological group, assisting with logistical information for residents residing around the Berwick Susquehanna Steam Electric Station plant. If a nuclear incident were to occur, Dennis and his team would be the first to greet the residents and guide them through the Reception Center process.

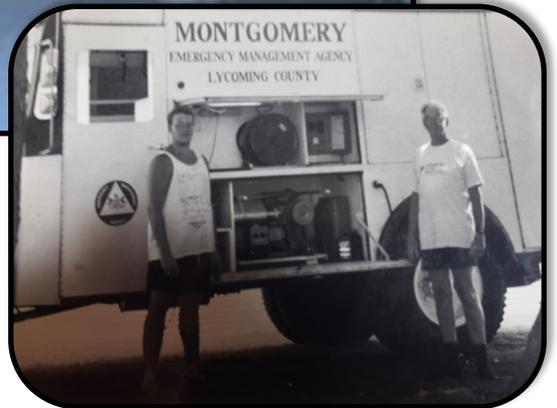
Furthermore, Dennis is a member of the Lycoming County Auxiliary Communications Service. He would travel with the Montgomery Incident Management Unit (IMU-630) to support communication missions when requested.

Throughout the years, his mission has changed from Civil Defense to Emergency Management but he never waived in his duties. His outstanding dedication to keeping the residents of Montgomery Borough and Lycoming County safe has been a great asset to have.

From everyone here at the Department of Public Safety, thank you for your service!



# 50+ YEARS OF EMA SERVICE continued...



## ***DROUGHT WATCH FOR LYCOMING COUNTY***

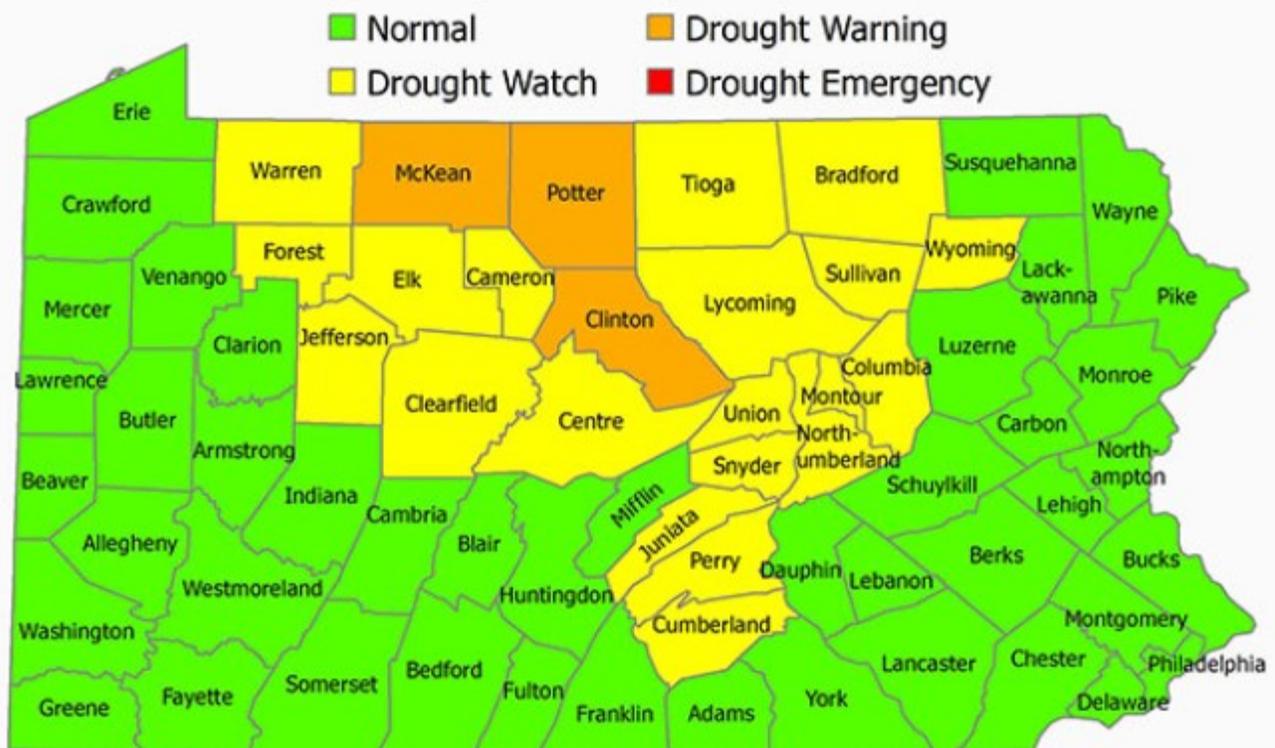
Lycoming County has been under a drought watch since September 10, 2020, per the [Department of Environmental Protection](#). Residents within the drought watch are asked to reduce their individual water use 5-10 percent, based on a statewide average of 62 gallons per person per day. This means a reduction of three to six gallons of water per day.

There are many ways to reduce water use around the house, including:

- ♦ Run water only when necessary. Don't let the faucet run while brushing your teeth or shaving. Shorten the time you let the water run to warm up before showering. Use a bucket to catch the water and reuse it to water your plants.
- ♦ Run the dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.
- ♦ Check for household leaks. For example, a leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water daily.
- ♦ Replace older appliances with high-efficiency, front-loading models that use about 30 percent less water and 40-50 percent less energy.
- ♦ Install low-flow plumbing fixtures and aerators on faucets.

Please visit the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) for more tips on indoor and outdoor water saving.

Latest update: November 17, 2020



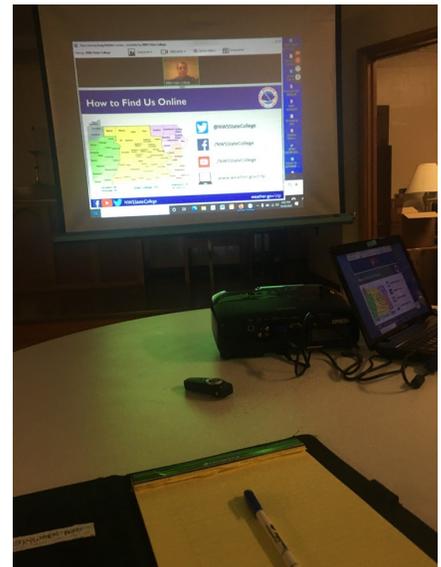
## WEST BRANCH EMA UPDATE

We, as representatives of members of West Branch EMA, have been quite busy even with the COVID-19 Pandemic still going on. Thanks to our President, Denny Buttorff, and our K-9 Leader, Samantha Sheaffer. Denny set up equipment making it possible for us to attend Virtual Training and Meeting Webinars. We earned certificates in "Gas Line Safety" and "SKYWARN". He also made it possible for us to represent the Municipality of which we are Coordinator for at the "Lycoming County Hazardous Mitigation Plan" meetings. We aren't quite finished with this project yet.

Those of us with "snail paced" internet are very grateful for Denny and the time he has spent helping us stay in touch with everything that is happening. We would like to add a thanks to Paula Young for helping us too.

Samantha got West Branch EMA involved with the "Northern Tier K-9 Association Training" which was held three days at the Oregon Hill Ski Sawmill. They taught the K-9's and their handlers how to track people in the woods, in buildings, how to search property and vehicles for drugs or wanted people who might be hiding in the vehicle.

We would like to wish everyone out in EMA Land a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope to see you in 2021. Stay Safe!



Submitted by: Iva Mae Guillaume, Secretary/Treasurer



### IN MEMORY OF VOLUNTEERS WE HAVE LOST THIS YEAR



Warren Fenstermacher - Moreland Township EMC

Joanne Gruver - Montgomery Borough EMA Volunteer

Kenneth Swinn - Auxiliary Communications & Radiological Team Volunteer

Thank you for your service to the County.

## LYCOMING COUNTY ACS UPDATE

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone, including Lycoming County ACS.

Many of the normal activities that Lycoming County ACS participates in have been drastically curtailed or cancelled completely. As a result, our numbers for the first 10 months of 2020 have not been up to our normal standards.

Lycoming County ACS members assisted at two (2) trail races this year. The first was the World's End Ultramarathon, a 100K trail run held at World's End State Park, Sullivan County on 09/26/2020. We also participated in the Black Forest 100, another 100K trail run in the Pine Creek Valley on 10/04/2020.

On Wednesday 11/11/2020, Lycoming ACS participated in a drill with Tioga ACS. Tioga ACS invited their members, along with amateur radio operators from the surrounding counties to check into multiple repeaters throughout Tioga County and the surrounding counties as a way to check communications capabilities. Tioga County had recently updated and changed their amateur radio capabilities and this drill was designed to test those changes and updates.

Numerous members from Tioga, Bradford, Lycoming & Montour Counties participated. The result was each participant, as well as the Tioga EOC and the Lycoming EMC were able to evaluate their current capabilities and plan for the future. Participates from Lycoming ACS included Bob Brown - KB3IPZ, Cliff Allen - AC3EU, John Mummert - WJ3OM & John Springman III - KB3AWQ.

Lycoming County ACS current year stats totals through October are shown in comparison with same time period in 2019.

2020 (through October) - 2019 (through October)

- Travel hours: 62 - 137.75
- Training hours: 467.7 - 323.75
- Mission hours: 68 - 531.25
- Meeting hours: 6 - 35.5
- Admin hours: 132 - 92
- Miles traveled: 1,467 - 4,484

We continue to train and assist whenever we can as we continue to do our best for Lycoming county EMA and the Citizens of Lycoming County.

Submitted by: Bob Brown, ACS Team Leader



## **NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST: PLANNING**

The staff of Lycoming County EMA welcomes Carla Miller as our new Emergency Management Specialist: Planning. Carla has been employed at the County since January of 1996. She began her career as a 9-1-1 Dispatcher and then transferred to the Regional EMS Field Coordinator for the LTS/EMS Council in May of 2013. She will be joining our EMA team on December 13th.



Carla is a graduate of the Pennsylvania College of Technology where she received her Associate of Applied Science as a Paralegal & Legal Assistant in August of 2014. Then her Bachelor of Science in August of 2017.

Carla and her husband Fred reside in Lock Haven with their dogs: Emma, Zeus, Zoey, & Kimber; along with several goats.

Carla comes to us with a wealth of knowledge for her years of service both within the county and volunteering in her local communities. Please welcome Carla to our emergency management community when you see her at our next meeting!



### **CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY TIPS**



#### **LIVE TREES**

1. Only purchase trees that are fresh and green with needles that are hard to pull from branches
2. Water daily
3. Keep tree away from heat sources and exits
4. Use certified lights that are in good condition
5. Turn off lights when leaving home or going to bed
6. Get rid of tree after Christmas or when it turns dry

#### **ARTIFICIAL TREES**

1. Keep tree away from heat sources and exits
2. Never use electric lights on metallic trees
3. Use certified lights that are in good condition
4. Turn off lights when leaving home or going to bed



(U.S. Air Force graphic by Susan Merhege)

## NOTES FROM THE EMC

2020 has proven to be a challenging year, to say the least. With 2021 quickly approaching, the County EMA office is working to get back to "normal" as much as we can. While in-person meetings were starting to occur more frequently over the fall, the recent up-tick in COVID-19 cases in Lycoming County has once again moved us back into the virtual meeting platform. I am extremely disappointed that we will not be together to celebrate Dennis on 12/10, but the health and safety of everyone is first and foremost. We do continue to plan for exercises and trainings in 2021, and will do some on a very small scale in the near future.

Here are some other items to note as we enter the new year:

- We continue to work with Keystone Communications to update our automated stream gage system throughout the county. For those who were unaware, Muncy Creek at the Y was recently replaced and is now back up and running. Barbour's will be back online shortly. For 2021, we will be replacing the gages at both Cedar Run and Little Pine Dam. Ironically, as we work on the stream gages, we are actually facing another potential problem in the county... drought.
- Please make sure you are still working on 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. Don't forget... your municipality can adopt the county's plan as their own by resolution/promulgation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
- On a final note... please make sure that you are forwarding copies of any training certificates to our office. The County EMA Office keeps a database with all of the trainings that municipal EMCs complete and helps with the PEMA certification process. Many classes are available online through the FEMA Independent Study Program or Train PA.

**Kelle**

### ***PEMA CERTIFICATION RECEIVED***



Earlier this year, a Lycoming County Department of Public Safety staff member and a local Deputy EMC received their PEMA Certifications. Irv Temple, SARA Support Specialist, earned his County Professional Certification. John Yingling, Deputy EMC for Limestone Township, earned his Local Basic Certification.

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

## WINTER SAFETY

### Winter Weather and COVID-19

As winter approaches, cold and flu season will be very different with COVID-19. All three are contagious respiratory illnesses caused by different viruses.

Please read the CDC information regarding [Cold Versus Flu](#) and [Similarities and Differences between Flu and COVID-19](#).

[Be Prepared to Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter](#)



### Heating Safety Tips from The National Fire Protection Association

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

Heating equipment is a leading cause of fires in U.S. homes. Click on [Heating Safety](#) for safety tips. Visit [U.S. Fire Administration](#) for more tips to put a freeze on winter fires.

## WINTER SAFETY continued...

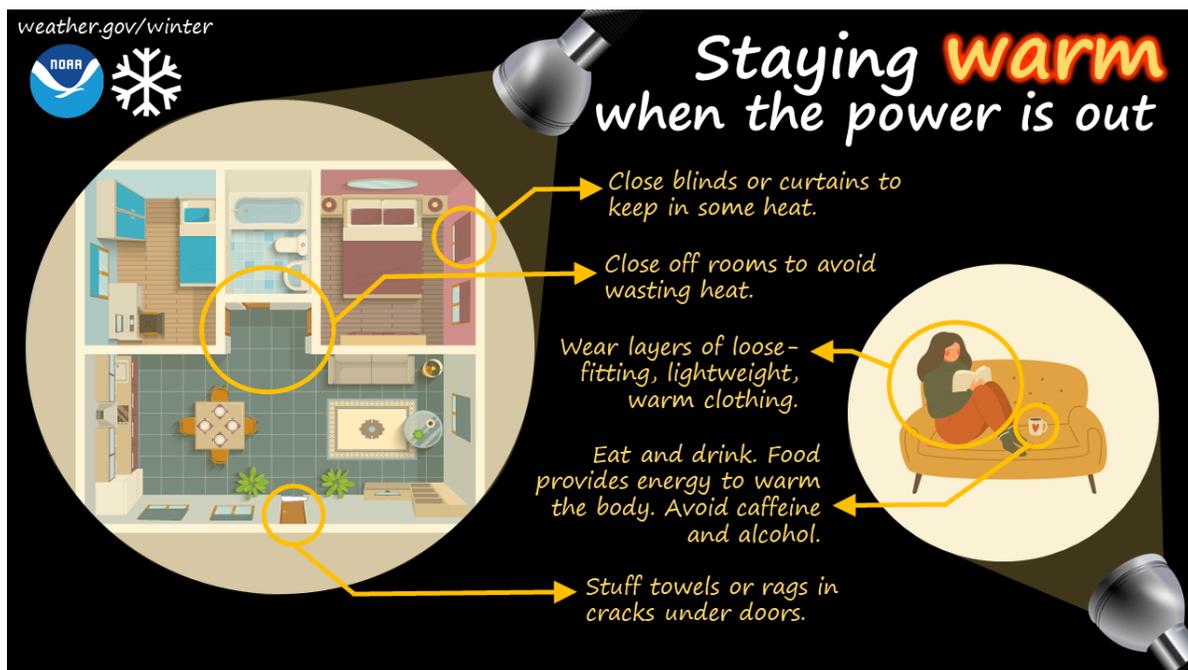
### Snowstorms & Extreme Cold

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. Winter storms including blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds.



**Everyone should take these steps** when you are under a winter storm warning:

- Find shelter right away.
- Stay off roads.
- Stay indoors and dress warmly.
- Prepare for power outages.
- Use generators outside only and away from windows.
- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
- Check on neighbors.



Check out [Winter Weather Safety Social Media Toolkit](#) at Ready.gov

# RESOLVE TO BE READY



## Make a Resolution!

- ⇒ Make an emergency plan: choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes, and establish an out-of-town contact.
- ⇒ Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster.
- ⇒ Get to know your neighbor and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan.
- ⇒ Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online.
- ⇒ Set up group texts lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.
- ⇒ Take a class in CPR and first aid.
- ⇒ Keep and update emergency supplies; remember to include cash.
- ⇒ Have back-up power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.
- ⇒ Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.
- ⇒ Check your insurance for insurance for coverage on disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.
- ⇒ Sign up for alerts and warnings. Download the FEMA app to get real-time alerts, safety tips, and locate open shelters.
- ⇒ Save for a rainy day! Start and grow your emergency fund.
- ⇒ Financially prepare for the New Year. Find out how with the [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#).
- ⇒ Spend within your means. Use a personal budgeting worksheet to help plan for holiday expenses and beyond.
- ⇒ Build up your savings. Put a small amount in your account the first of every month beginning January 1.

**ARE YOU**



**PREPARED?**

For more information, please visit [Resolve to be Ready](#) at Ready.gov

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

### **ICE JAM TRAINING**

This can be taken anywhere there's a computer with internet access!  
Register at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) Pick **one** day and time

**Friday, December 11, 2020 9:00am-11:30am**

**Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:30pm-4:00pm**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRE SERVICE**

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp VFC, 1600 Dewey Ave.**

**Thursday, January 7, 2021 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp VFC, 1600 Dewey Ave.**

**Saturday, January 9, 2021 8:00am-4:00pm, Old Lycoming Twp VFC, 1600 Dewey Ave.**

### **FIRE GROUND SUPPORT**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp VFC, 1600 Dewey Ave.**

**Thursday, January 14, 2021 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp VFC, 1600 Dewey Ave.**

**Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:00am-4:00pm, Old Lycoming Twp VFC, 1600 Dewey Ave.**

**Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp VFC, 1600 Dewey Ave.**

**Thursday, January 21, 2021 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp VFC, 1600 Dewey Ave.**

**Tuesday, January 26, 2021 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp VFC, 1600 Dewey Ave.**

**Thursday, January 28, 2021 6:30pm-10:30pm, Old Lycoming Twp VFC, 1600 Dewey Ave.**

**Be on the look out for more classes coming this spring. If you feel a regularly scheduled class does not fit into your schedule, please contact our office to set up a one on one class for your training.**

### **\*DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EMC**

### **\*INITIAL DAMAGE REPORTING**

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

[PEMA Training and Exercises](#)

[TRAIN PA](#)

[FEMA Emergency Management Institute](#)



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](mailto:PYoung@lyco.org)

## **2020/2021 QUARTERLY TRAINING**

December 10	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
March 25	6:30 pm	Thursday	Holiday Inn
June 24	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
September 23	7:00 pm	Thursday	County EMA Office
December 16	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.

**TELEPHONE:** 570-433-4461  
570-329-4061  
**EMAIL:** [ema@lyco.org](mailto:ema@lyco.org) (general department email)

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