

Public Safety: Emergency Management

The Association believes that state, federal, and local government are partners in the provision of public safety services for Pennsylvania's residents, including emergency management, fire protection, police protection, and ambulance and rescue response.

As the first responder, local government plays a critical role in ensuring the delivery of these vital services.

While the commonwealth has taken important steps to improve public safety by implementing the recommendations of legislative task forces that studied emergency response and police protection, additional action is needed. The most urgent need is for the adoption of statewide volunteer benefit programs that strongly encourage the recruitment and retention of emergency service volunteers.

Emergency management

Municipalities are responsible for emergency management planning and coordination in their communities and must be prepared to deal with natural disasters, such as flooding, as well as manmade emergencies, such as toxic spills. An all-hazards platform is ideal.

PSATS supports the Emergency Preparedness Workgroup recommendations made to the governor's Pipeline Infrastructure

Task Force that would provide aid to local governments and local emergency responders for pipeline and other natural gas-related emergencies.

Flooding is a major threat throughout the commonwealth. As such, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is urged to commit permanent, recurring funding for stream restoration and stabilization programs. We also urge DEP to modify its regulations to develop a process to expedite the emergency issuance of all general permits needed to allow municipalities to remove any stream impediment, such as fallen trees or gravel bars, that occur suddenly and for which delayed removal could contribute to local flooding. ❖

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Townships are on the front line in responding to both natural and manmade disasters and emergencies in the commonwealth and must have the proper complement of volunteers to provide this critical service.



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

David M. Sanko, Executive Director

4855 Woodland Drive • Enola, PA 17025-1291
Telephone: (717) 763-0930 • Fax: (717) 763-9732

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