



March 2, 2021

Township Video News



TVN's Training Tuesday | In-Person Flagger Training Starts in March

With spring road projects skipping to the front of the line, make sure everyone on your crew is up to date on the state-mandated flagger training. Our in-person classes kick off in March, and space is limited. Also, don't miss our training for CDL supervisors and zoning hearing board members. Last but not least, we have important news about the PSATS Conference. (3:36)

Latest News

PSATS CONFERENCE NEWS

Yesterday, you learned that the PSATS Executive Board had to cancel the 2021 Conference due to current COVID-19 restrictions and the sluggish rollout of vaccines in

Pennsylvania. This isn't the first time PSATS has faced a challenge during the pandemic, and it likely won't be the last. So, we've shifted to Plan B, which gives you the next best thing: the conference experience, only in slightly different ways. Trust us, you're going to like what's on the horizon.

Education and it Won't Cost Conference Registrants Another Dime!

We're moving 60-some conference workshops into our virtual classroom, where they'll be presented live in April and May. If you see a conference workshop you like, everyone is free to participate in the live, virtual class or watch it on-demand when it works for you, and not just 5 sessions, but all 60 if you want!

Travel-time constraints? Limited budget? Hesitant to attend in-person events? We've got a DEAL for You! The cost for each virtual conference workshop is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

PSATS, however, is offering a new Virtual Conference Workshop Pass, which gives you access to every session, live and on-demand, through the end of the year for just \$99 for members and \$199 for non-members. (Conference registrants will have the cost of the Virtual Conference Workshop Pass deducted from your conference registration refund-call Mary ext. 107 for details)

That's a \$1,200 value for a \$99 member pass -- a savings of \$1,100...or a \$1,600 savings for a \$199 non-member pass. You'll save travel time and money; and you can watch sessions "on-demand" until the end of the year!

2021 Liquid Fuels Distributions Released

The state Department of Transportation announced that the total liquid fuels payments for municipalities in 2021 is \$452.7 million. This is 7% less than 2020, due to reduced gas tax revenues resulting from Covid-19 driving restrictions. Note that the distributions are slightly higher than the estimates sent in September, which predicted a 10% decrease.

Townships that completed all required paperwork in early February were eligible to receive their distribution yesterday. Other townships will receive their funds as their paperwork is completed and approved by Department staff. Funding is formula driven based on road miles and population of your township. [Click here](#) for the statewide liquid fuels allocation by municipality. [Click here](#) for more information about the Municipal Liquid Fuels Program.

Independent Fiscal Office, Revenue Release Positive February Revenue Numbers

The Independent Fiscal Office and state Department of Revenue have released February 2021 revenue reports. State General Fund collections totaled \$2.7 billion and were \$509.7 million above the IFO's revised estimates. The overage was the result of a temporary shift in personal income tax collections. Collection for the fiscal-year-to-date are higher than

expected (\$267.5 million, or 1.1% above estimate.)

The Motor License Fund received \$199.8 million in February, \$22.9 million below estimate. The Motor License Fund includes liquid fuels taxes and other license, fine, and fee revenues. Motor License collections for the fiscal year-to-date total \$1.8 billion, are only 2.1% below estimate.

[Click here](#) for the Independent Fiscal Office report. View the state Department of Revenue press release [here](#).

Commonwealth Rescinds Travel Quarantine, Revises Gathering Limits

As COVID-19 cases continue to decline and vaccinations increase, the Wolf Administration altered the following mitigation restrictions effective March 1:

Out-of-State Travel Quarantine Rescinded: This eliminates state quarantine and testing requirements for Pennsylvanians and out-of-state visitors, as well as previous state recommendations for quarantine on a state-by-state basis. Townships that have policies to require quarantines and testing for employees returning from out-of-state travel based on the now-rescinded order should repeal or revise these requirements.

Change in Gathering Limits: Maximum gathering limits for **indoor events are increased from 10% to 15% of maximum occupancy**, regardless of venue size. Maximum gathering limits for **outdoor events are now 20% (from 15%)** of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size.

In addition, venues hosting events or gatherings with fixed seating must do the following: allow groups of up to 10 attendees to sit together if they are from the same household; allow groups of more than 10 attendees only if they are from the same household; and add pathways to allow for physical distancing. All venues must implement best practices such as timed entry, multiple entry and exit points, and multiple restrooms and hygiene stations, and require attendees and workers to wear face coverings.

If you consider your public meeting a temporary gathering, you should cap your physical attendance at 15% of capacity. If you consider your public meeting a business function, your attendance should not exceed 75% of facility (*meeting room*) capacity.

Employee Safety: The Mitigation, Enforcement, and Immunity Protection order is revised to allow fully vaccinated individuals, who are exposed to a person who is diagnosed with or tests positive for COVID-19, to avoid quarantine.

To view the press release, [click here](#). Direct links to the orders are found in the press release. Updated FAQs are available [here](#).

National Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Day)

Each year, National Read Across America Day is celebrated on March 2nd, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. The annual event is part of Read Across America, an initiative on reading created by the National Education Association. This motivational and awareness day calls all children and youth in every community across the United States to celebrate reading and to read wherever they are.

Learn

[Webinar - Tips for Thwarting Township Cyber Threats - 3/3/21](#)

Cyber threats, whether in the form of phishing, ransomware or the next big thing, are on the rise and municipal governments are not immune. Is your township prepared to prevent and, if necessary, respond to these threats? In this webinar, Erik Avakian's the Commonwealth's Chief Information Security Officer, will review best practices for how your township can best protect its data (and that of its residents and vendors) and how to respond to threats and attacks, as well as what to look for when contracting with IT vendors. Eligible for 1 PMGA Public Safety point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - Understanding Sick Leave During a Global Pandemic - 3/23/21](#)

This webinar, presented by Neil Morris and Gabriel Celli of Offit Kurman, will be aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of the key changes to leave requirements, best practices, avoiding common misconceptions and pitfalls, and the interplay between these changes and the FMLA, ADA, state and local laws, and current leave policies that are already in existence. As laws are hastily enacted we have seen many questions arise over when and how a certain rule is to be applied. This has



prompted guidance and regulations that are continuing to change and be updated; employers are wise to stay up-to-date on how these changes have impacted their workforce and, specifically, the administration of their leave policies. Eligible for 1 PMGA Administration point. Eligible for 1 Continuing Legal Education Credit (CLE). [Click here](#) to register.

Missed yesterday's PSATS Morning News? No problem! A [PSATS Morning News Library](#) is available online for your viewing pleasure!

We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025

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