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May 21, 2021

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## Latest News

### **Wolf Renews COVID-19 Disaster Declaration**

Yesterday, Gov. Tom Wolf signed a fifth renewal of his Proclamation of Disaster Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. Wolf noted that he consulted with the General Assembly about the extension and will collaborate on the future of the declaration and any future disaster declarations that become necessary to help Pennsylvanians in an emergency. He also confirmed that all mitigation measures minus masking will be lifted on Memorial Day as previously announced. Masking orders remain per CDC guidelines. [Click here](#) for more.

### **FDA Approves Refrigerator Storage of Thawed Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has authorized the storage of defrosted Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for up to one month at refrigerated temperatures. Previously, thawed vaccine could be stored in the refrigerator for only five days. This will make it easier to make the vaccine more widely available to doctors' offices and other community providers. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Philadelphia Relaxes Mitigation Orders Today**

Today, mitigation orders will be relaxed in the City of Philadelphia, including elimination of restrictions on capacity of stores, museums, and offices, elimination of capacity limits on outdoor pools, and allowing chairs at restaurants to be three feet apart. Indoor masking requirements remain in place. [Click here](#) for more.

### **Federal Broadband Grants Available**

The U.S. Department of Commerce has \$288 million available in grant funding for the deployment of broadband infrastructure. Grants will be awarded to partnerships

between a state or local government and a provider of fixed broadband services. Projects should be designed to provide broadband service to rural areas and to the greatest number of households in an eligible service area, be the most cost-effective in providing broadband services, and provide a download speed of 100 Mbps and an upload speed of 20 Mbps. [Click here](#) to learn more.

#### **On This Day in History.....**

On May 21, 1881, following her experiences with the International Red Cross in Europe, Clara Barton brought the knowledge home to the United States and established the American Association of the Red Cross. Today, the organization is the [American Red Cross](#).

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## Legislation & Policy



#### **PSATS Issues Grassroots Alert**

Members are encouraged to contact your State Senator to support 2 important reforms to right to know law being considered Monday, May 24.

**Login to your PSATS account and click on the legislative and policy tab, go to the Grassroot Network page and click on the "Grassroots Engagement Tool." Then click on the "take action" button to contact your Senator. This will include sample text for you to use as well as space for you to provide specific township examples.**

**The House and the Senate are scheduled to return to Harrisburg on Monday May 24th.**

#### **Senate Democratic Policy Committee holds Hearing on OSHA Expansion**

Yesterday, the Senate Democratic Policy Committee held a hearing on SB 310 which would create a statewide Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). The Local Government Conference which is comprised of the statewide local government associations, including PSATS, delivered a joint testimony in opposition to SB 310. The Conference contended that it would be costly when compared to any potential benefit, both for local government units and for the Commonwealth. Specifically, the groups questioned the need for the legislation in the absence of statistics establishing that there is a worker safety problem in local government. They explained that existing statistical data does not indicate that there is any greater incidence of workplace injury in the public sector as compared to the OSHA-covered private sector. Additionally, the testimony explained that local government officials agree that worker safety is an important issue, but we believe that we have demonstrated a commitment to worker safety in current practice, and we do not

believe that regulatory requirements and fines will improve worker safety for local government employees.

[Click here](#) to read the full testimony.

### **Governor Signs Hardwoods Development Council Bill**

Yesterday, Governor Wolf signed Act 14 of 20201 (formerly HB 110) into law. Act 14 expands the membership of the state's Hardwoods Development Council by adding a logger, a private-sector forester and the secretary of the state Department of Education. The Act also replaces one representative of the now-defunct Hardwood Lumber Manufacturing Association with a member of the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association and designates one seat on the council for the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group. Act 14 takes effect immediately.

*PSATS has a seat on the council and looks forward to working with the new members once they are appointed.*

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## Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety. Click on the title of the class for more information and to register.

### **[Strategic Planning for Fire Service Operations in Townships - Virtual - 5/24/21](#)**

This session will use lecture, small group discussions, and facilitated brainstorming to identify solutions to sustain or improve fire service in your community.



### **[Essentials of Township Public Safety - Virtual Class - 6/8/21 & 6/10/21](#)**

Join us for this two-session presentation which discusses such topics as fire service, emergency management, police, ambulance service, mutual aid, homeland security, and municipal liability for volunteers.



**Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum**

This full-day class is designed for everyone responsible for your municipality's emergency management program, including elected officials, municipal managers, road crew/public works personnel, and, most importantly, local emergency management coordinators (EMCs).



[Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum - 10/28/21 – PSATS \(Cumberland Co.\)](#)

[Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum - 11/4/21 – West \(Washington Co.\)](#)

[Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum - 11/9/21 – East \(Montgomery Co.\)](#)

[Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum - 11/18/21 – Central \(Centre Co.\)](#)

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Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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