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August 27, 2021

Latest News

PSATS Executive Director Issues Statement Supporting Local Decision Making

The following statement was issued yesterday by PSATS Executive Director David M. Sanko:

“On behalf of Pennsylvania’s 1,454 townships of the second class, we emphasize the critical importance of local decision making. Township and other local leaders know what’s best for their communities and should be allowed to do what they always do: make decisions in the best interest of their citizens for their own local conditions.

“Our members have been on the front line every day and are not in favor of any mandates that would interfere in local authority at this time. One-size-fits-all solutions do not work in a state as diverse as the commonwealth that experiences different challenges by community, area, or region.

“Recognizing and promoting CDC recommendations, we do not believe townships’ hands should be tied in making their own local decisions. Vaccinations and common-sense hygiene solutions are primary ways to control the spread of disease and protect the general population.”

Wolf Calls on FEMA to Lower Federal Thresholds for Flood Aid

As Pennsylvania experiences more localized short-duration high-intensity rainstorms that cause devastating flash flooding, Gov. Tom Wolf [sent a letter](#) urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency to lower the federal damage

assessment thresholds required for these events to qualify for federal aid. This would allow the state to escape from any financial responsibility in smaller scale events.

Flooding is becoming more common due to the increased frequency of short-duration high-intensity rainstorms. In 2019 alone, more than 5,200 Pennsylvania homes were damaged from flooding events; however, not one incident met the federal thresholds required for individual assistance.

Recent flooding events in Bucks, Philadelphia, and Tioga Counties caused significant flood damage, but while loans were obtained through the U.S. Small Business Administration, the federal criteria for Individual Assistance grants was not met, which meant that devastated homeowners and renters did not receive assistance.

“Evaluating impacts solely on a micro level at the municipal or county level alone, rather than toward a whole state assessment, would provide a more realistic assessment of the impacts to that community,” Gov. Wolf said. “Doing so will provide much needed direct assistance to the most vulnerable who most often are ineligible for other federal disaster assistance.”

Be sure to join us in Hershey for PSATS' 2021 Business Meeting, which takes place in just 7 weeks! [Click here](#) to learn more and to register!

This Day in History.....

On August 27, 1955, the first edition of “The Guinness Book of Records” is published in Great Britain; it quickly proves to be a hit. Now known as the “Guinness World Records” book, the annual publication features a wide range of feats related to humans and animals.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

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).



[10/28/21 – PSATS \(Cumberland Co.\)](#)

[11/4/21 – West \(Washington Co.\)](#)

[11/9/21 – East \(Montgomery Co.\)](#)

[11/18/21 – Central \(Centre Co.\)](#)

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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