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# THE EMERGENCY Manager



Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

June 2021

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## The Emergency Manager Now Arriving Monthly!

We've reformatted The Emergency Manager newsletter and are now emailing it to members of the **Township Emergency Management Association (TEMA)** on a monthly basis. Look for quick bites about trending topics, new laws and bills, court cases, and educational opportunities in this new monthly member update! And we'd love to hear what you think about this new format, especially about what other items, topics, or subjects you would be interested in knowing more about. Drop us an email at [tema@psats.org](mailto:tema@psats.org) or call TEMA Coordinator James Wheeler at (717) 763-0930, ext. 128.

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## Latest News

### All Statewide Referendums Pass

All four of the statewide ballot questions were approved by voters, the final tally from the recent May primary election shows. Of most interest to township EMCs was passage of the question allowing **paid or combination** fire and emergency medical services companies to be eligible for state loan programs previously available only for volunteer emergency organizations. Therefore, townships with paid, combination, or volunteer emergency organizations will all now be able to apply for such loans.

### 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. As rural township EMCs often remark on the need for better internet connectivity during emergencies, this might be an opportunity to help fill that gap. Interested EMCs should [click here](#) to learn more about this funding program. Applications are due by August 17, 2021.

### **Update: The Status of Next Generation 911 (NG9-1-1)**

Through the use of wireless devices and other gadgets, the general public is generating and consuming increasingly higher amounts of data every year. To meet the demand, communication providers have transformed their networks and increased their bandwidth – yet 9-1-1 service has been left relatively untouched, relying on analog technology that was initially designed in the 1970s.

The Pa. Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) recently selected Comtech Telecommunications Corp. to implement and operate Pennsylvania's NG9-1-1 system, which will be unlike any other in existence. At its core will be a fully fiber-based Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network (the first in the U.S.) that is structurally resilient and brings high data transfer speeds to the deepest reaches of the Commonwealth.

From the traditional wireline telephone to the most recent sensor or mobile device, Pennsylvania's NG9-1-1 system will allow county call centers to be better equipped to:

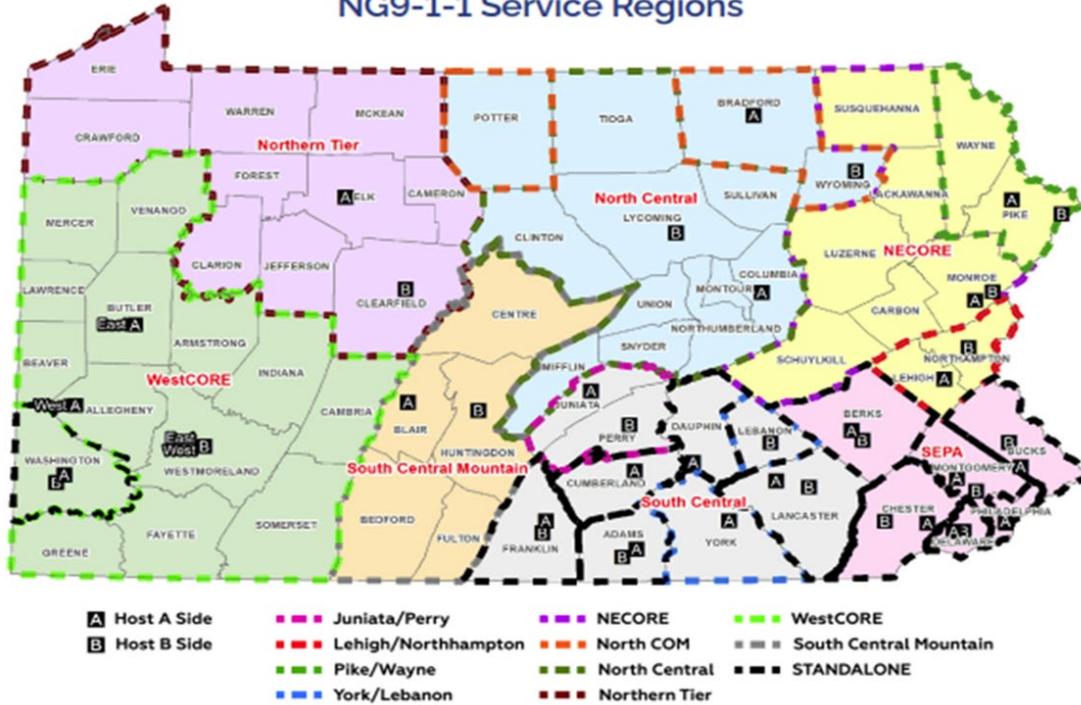
- Receive incoming 9-1-1 calls faster, and with more accurate caller information
- Transfer 9-1-1 calls and associated call information to the correct jurisdiction
- Rely on current technology to locate a wireless caller's location
- Securely receive multimedia communications like text messages, photos, and video

Comtech's solution will also give every PSAP in Pennsylvania the technology to provide Text-to-911 service, further enhancing our commitment to providing improved access to emergency services for all members of our community.

A phased installation of NG9-1-1 is set to begin in early 2021, and last for a duration of approximately two years. The initial service contract with Comtech is for seven years (with three, one-year optional renewals) to maintain the system and service delivery of 9-1-1 calls.

A significant portion of financial support for this project comes from a percentage of the monthly consumer 9-1-1 surcharges that must be allocated to promoting and establishing statewide interconnectivity of our 9-1-1 systems.

## NG9-1-1 Service Regions



For more detailed information on the status of the NG9-1-1 rollout in your area as identified in the map above, click on the appropriate link below:

- [Northern Tier](#)
- [North Central](#)
- [NECORE](#)
- [WestCORE](#)
- [South Central Mountain](#)
- [South Central](#)
- [SEPA](#)

## Learn

### Fall 2021 Training: Register Now and Mark Your Calendar!

The TEMA Fall 2021 Emergency Exercise Forum is a full-day class designed to be attended by for everyone responsible for your municipality's emergency management program, such as elected officials, municipal managers, front office staff, road crew/public works personnel, and, most importantly, local emergency management coordinators (EMCs). EMCs and other members of the township's emergency management team are reminded to get early approval to attend these important (and now in-person!) emergency preparedness sessions.

This class provides an interactive opportunity to engage in tabletop exercises taught by knowledgeable professionals that reflect real-world experiences and situations. We encourage your entire emergency management team to attend one of these interactive and informative sessions so they can, together, learn how to use inexpensive "thought exercises" to improve your local emergency management program.

Each event starts at 0900 and concludes by 1500. Lunch and handouts included. Look for updates on locations and agenda topics in upcoming newsletters and at [TEMA.PSATS.org](http://TEMA.PSATS.org).

Click on the link below to register for the **TEMA Fall 2021 Emergency Exercise Forum** of your choice:

- [October 28 - PSATS \(Cumberland County\)](#)
- [November 4 - West \(Washington County\)](#)
- [November 9 - East \(Montgomery County\)](#)
- [November 18 - Central \(Centre County\)](#)

AGENDA: (subject to change):

0900 Welcome / Introductions / Game Plan / Table-Top Exercise Basics  
0915 Table-Top Exercise #1 & After-Action Report  
1130 Lunch  
1230 Table-Top Exercise #2 & After-Action Report  
1500 Adjourn

### **Spring 2022 Training: Mark Your Calendar!**

And while we are at it, the Spring 2022 Emergency Management Forum will be held, in-person, on April 21, 2022, in conjunction with the 2022 PSATS Annual Conference in Hershey! It's never too late to add this to your calendar as well. Registration for this event will begin in early December.

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## **TEMA Q&A**

**Q1:** Do other townships pay their Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) for their services and provide a budget for expenses?

**A1:** Yes, many townships provide some compensation to their EMC, as well as provide line-item budgets for necessary expenses for training requirements and operational activities. fees, mileage, overnight accommodations if necessary, and meals. The PSATS Salary Survey has for years gathered such information on a wide array of wages and benefits. In fact, a historical summary of the benefits paid to EMCs can be found in the "Wage & Benefits Survey Results (Historical)" page which can be found [HERE](#). For more information on the PSATS Salary Survey, click [HERE](#) or send an email to Holly Fishel, PSATS Salary Survey coordinator, at [hfishel@psats.org](mailto:hfishel@psats.org).

**Q2.** Is there any information you can provide to help us protect against ransomware?

**A2.** The U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) "Security Tip ST19-001" provides a number of actions your township can take to be better prepared against a ransomware attack and is available [HERE](#).

**Q3:** Are there tips we can use to train our employees so they don't fall victim to an email cyber scam?

**A3.** The U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) "Security Tip ST04-010" provides a number of actions your employees should take before opening email attachments and is available [HERE](#).



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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