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Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

May 2021

The Emergency Manager Now Arriving Monthly!

We've reformatted *The Emergency Manager* and are now emailing it monthly. Look for quick bites about trending topics, new laws and bills, court cases, and training. We'd love to hear what you think along with suggestions for upcoming topics. Drop us an email at tema@psats.org or call TEMA Coordinator James Wheeler at (717) 763-0930, ext. 128.

Latest News

Recap: TEMA Spring 2021 Virtual Emergency Management Forum

PEMA Director Randy Padfield headlined this year's forum. He discussed state efforts to improve pandemic readiness and addressed a wide range of other emergency preparedness matters.

Attendees also learned about preparing for pipeline emergencies, implementing in-depth cyber security strategies, and the status of the state's long-term recovery task forces. In addition, they took an in-depth look at FEMA's updated Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool (RAPT). For more about this, see below.

Fall Training: Mark Your Calendar!

TEMA's Fall 2021 Emergency Exercise Forums are scheduled on the following dates:

- October 28 -- PSATS (Cumberland Co.)
- November 4 -- West (Washington Co.)
- November 9 -- East (Montgomery Co.)

- November 18 – Central (Centre Co.)

EMCs and other members of the township's emergency management team are reminded to get early approval to attend these important – and in-person – sessions. Look for updates on locations and agendas in upcoming newsletters and on psats.org.

EMC Toolbox Tip No. 1: FEMA's Updated Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently updated its [Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool \(RAPT\)](#), a web-based mapping tool that allows users to analyze their community's resiliency to disasters.

The website also includes a [user guide](#), how-to videos, and a new data layer on broadband internet access, which is an important tool for municipalities that want to focus on communication and outreach strategies.

FEMA has also added data on National Flood Insurance Program penetration rates for residential buildings in special flood hazard areas. This map can help you pinpoint homeowners who may not have flood insurance so you can focus your outreach. In addition, RAPT maintains real-time weather watches and warnings and includes historic hazard data on tornadoes and hurricanes.

EMC Toolbox Tip No. 2: FEMA's National Risk Index

RAPT also includes county-level hazard estimates, drawn from [FEMA's National Risk Index](#). The index evaluates the likelihood of 18 natural hazards, including cold and heat waves, droughts, hurricanes, ice storms, flooding, winds, tornadoes, and wildfires.

Learn

Save Money with Our Virtual Conference Workshop Pass

For just \$99, TEMA members can attend all of our virtual conference workshops, live and on-demand, with our Virtual Conference Workshop Pass. ***See the list below for our upcoming public-safety workshops*** in the series and log in [here](#) to buy the pass. You can also register for individual classes, which are \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

For more information, contact Mary Lehane at mlehane@psats.org or (717) 763-0930, ext. 107. For a list of all workshops in the virtual conference series, [click here](#).

Virtual PSATS Conference Workshop – Workers' Compensation and Volunteer Fire Companies - 5/6/21

Find out when and what benefits apply to volunteers, including special fire police and junior firefighters. The presenters will also discuss cost-sharing, the presumption of cancer law, legislation, and COVID-19 issues. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.

Virtual PSATS Conference Workshop – Dealing with Constantly Changing Public Safety Challenges - 5/11/21

2020 was a year of challenges for many communities. This session will focus on how one township managed public safety during an eight-month period that included the pandemic, demonstrations, riots, and curfews. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.

Virtual PSATS Conference Workshop – Building and Rebuilding Public Trust

in Local Government - 5/12/21

This session will offer strategies to build – and rebuild – public trust while exploring the critical role of communication. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.

Virtual PSATS Conference Workshop – Landslides, Rock Falls, Sinkholes, Mine Subsidence: Minimizing Geohazards - 5/13/21

Has your township experienced a geohazard – a landslide, rockfall, sinkhole, or mine subsidence – that impacted critical infrastructure and roads? If so, this workshop focuses on innovative stabilization tools and preventative maintenance strategies. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.

Virtual PSATS Conference Workshop – Rx For Disaster: The Effects of COVID-19 on the EMS System - 5/17/21

This workshop will focus on the pandemic's impact on agencies' finances and workforces and steps that EMS agencies are taking to protect the public from COVID-19. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.

Virtual PSATS Conference Workshop – Strategic Planning for Fire Service Operations in Townships - 5/24/21

The presenter will help attendees identify solutions to sustain and improve fire service in their communities. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.

Virtual Class - Essentials of Township Public Safety - 6/8/21 & 6/10/21

This two-session presentation will focus on such topics as fire service, emergency management, police, ambulance service, mutual aid, homeland security, and municipal liability for volunteers. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.



Webinar – Fire and EMS: What Can We Do to Ensure Their Sustainability? - 5/5/21

Learn how to help fire and EMS companies handle financial and operational issues. Click [HERE](#) to register and learn more.



Legislation & Policy

Bills to Watch

- **License exemptions for service dogs** – Senate Bill 36 would nix licensing fees for service dogs who work with sheriffs' offices, fire departments, and rescue and EMS organizations.
- **Police, fire, and EMS medal program** – Senate Bill 158 would create a statewide medal program that recognizes bravery, sacrifice, or other exceptional conduct in the line of duty.
- **Organized motorcycle processions** – House Bill 113 would authorize organized

motorcycle processions and allow a designated member of the procession to direct, control, and regulate traffic. At least 10 motorcycle drivers would be required to participate.

- **Online fundraising** – House Bill 290 would allow volunteer fire departments and other organizations with small games of chance licenses to conduct certain raffles and drawings online during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Special event permits** – House Bill 765 would prohibit PennDOT from requiring municipal indemnification when a third party with a special event permit has already provided indemnification to the agency.

TEMA Q&A

Does TEMA have technical and guidance documents online that a new EMC would find useful?

Yes. To access that information, click [HERE](#) and then click on the “TEMA Resources” button.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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