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Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

September 2021

Editor's Note: As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on our country, I can't help but reflect on the similarities between the 9/11 disaster and the COVID pandemic: Both came out of left field and, as Toby Keith rightly opined, gave us "a mighty sucker punch ... from somewhere in the back." Yet, we persevered, and in many ways emerged stronger, steeled from the lessons learned from these extraordinary events.

If you have not yet visited the [Flight 93 National Memorial](#), I encourage you to do so. It has been appropriately referred to as a common field one day and a field of honor forever. Visiting it is both contemplative and strengthening, reminding us that valor still lives, as was shown by that small group of people willing to risk their lives to save the lives of others they did not even know. Our eternal thanks go to all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of our freedom.

For all those who are working to make their township a better place to live, work, and raise a family, whether as a police officer, firefighter, EMT, EMC, public works employee, elected official, administrative staff, or volunteer on a township committee, know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. To you, we also say thank you, and wish you continued success in these honorable endeavors. Local self-governance, as practiced by our townships across the state, makes real the reasons why people defend our country with their lives.

Calling All Subject Matter Experts!

As indicated below, PSATS continues to host numerous in-person and virtual educational events targeted for municipal officials, employees, and other professional and volunteer stakeholders.

PSATS has opened the website to submit a workshop proposal for presentation at our 2022 Annual Conference, which will be held April 24-27, 2022, in Hershey. To submit a proposal, [click here](#). For all other questions about our educational programs, please contact Scott Coburn at scoburn@psats.org.

If you have suggestions of items, topics, or subjects you would like to see in this newsletter, please email tema@psats.org or call TEMA Coordinator James Wheeler at (717) 763-0930, ext. 128.

Latest News

ALERT! FEMA 2021 Non-Disaster Mitigation Grants Available

Townships may be eligible for two funding programs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency: the Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) grants and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the BRIC grant program.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the FMA grant program.

Please note: If your township is interested in applying for either of these grants, you must send a non-contractual Letter of Interest (LOI) form to PEMA at RA-Shazmitoff@pa.gov by 5 p.m. **October 15, 2021**. The LOI form can be found [HERE](#). Also, your final and complete 2021 non-disaster grant application must be sent to PEMA by 5 p.m. **November 19, 2021**.

Township applications for the 2021 BRIC grants may be submitted via the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) portal starting Thursday, September 30. Click [HERE](#) to create an account and log in.

FEMA GO is the system for applying for and managing non-disaster hazard mitigation grant programs from 2021 and forward, including this year's BRIC and FMA grants. For more information on FEMA GO click [HERE](#).

Natural Gas Firefighting Grants Available

State Fire Commissioner Bruce Trego has announced that grant applications are being accepted from fire companies and emergency medical services in the 40 counties where unconventional gas wells are located and adjacent counties. Applications are due **October 15, 2021**.

Grants of \$2,000 to \$6,000 are available for professional national certification of members; the purchase of firefighting, emergency medical, rescue, or air monitoring equipment used at or related to an unconventional gas well pad incident; and training for incidents at unconventional gas well pads. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Biden Extends FEMA Reimbursement for COVID-19 Expenses

President Biden has directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to extend the 100% federal cost-share for eligible [Category B Emergency Protective Measures](#) incurred by local governments for the COVID-19 pandemic through **December 31, 2021**. This includes expenses for personal protective equipment and disinfection services and supplies. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Training Opportunities

TEMA Fall 2021 Emergency Exercise Forums are full-day, in-person classes designed for everyone who is responsible for your municipality's emergency management program, such as elected officials, municipal managers, front office staff, road crew/public works personnel, and most important, local emergency management coordinators (EMCs).

Worried about tornadoes, landslides, sinkholes, flood, blizzards, power outages, cyber security? You should be! And now is the time to hone your rapid response operational skills by participating in the nearest TEMA fall tabletop exercise session. And while the exact scenarios may be a secret, it is also no secret that, as in this class, you never know what upcoming hazard you might face!

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

- [October 28 - Central \(Enola\)](#)
- [November 4 - West \(Canonsburg\)](#)
- [November 9 - East \(Conshohocken\)](#)
- [November 18 - Central \(State College\)](#)

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.

Each day starts at 9 a.m. and concludes by 3 p.m. Lunch and handouts are included.

AGENDA (subject to change):

9:00	Welcome/Introductions/Game Plan/Tabletop Exercise Basics
9:15	Tabletop Response Exercise & After-Action Report (AAR)
11:30	Lunch
12:30	Tabletop Recovery Exercise & AAR
3:00	Adjourn

TEMA Spring 2022 Training: Mark Your Calendar!

It is never too early to plan for the Spring 2022 Emergency Management Forum, which will be held in-person April 24, 2022, in conjunction with the 2022 PSATS Annual Conference in Hershey. Registration for this event will begin in early December.

TEMA Q&A

Q: What is the “Red Cross Ready” plan for families?

A: This refers to the items that families should prepare before an emergency. Being “Red Cross Ready” means that a family has:

- Assembled an [emergency preparedness kit](#).
- Created and practiced a [household evacuation plan](#).
- Contacted their community's emergency management coordinator to learn about local risk and response plans.
- Ensured that each family member knows [how to get in touch](#) during and after an emergency.

Q: What is the website to get information about hazardous material transportation safety protocols?

A: The transportation industry has a program called [Transportation Community Awareness Emergency Response](#) (TRANSCAER), which focuses on helping communities prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident. The TRANSCAER program is led by industry professionals who volunteer their time to support the mission of promoting safe transportation and handling of hazardous materials; educating communities near major transportation routes about hazardous materials; and training community emergency response personnel for hazardous material transportation incidents.

TRANSCAER offers a variety of services and resources to communities and emergency responders, including:

- [Planning Assistance](#) — Local communities get assistance to better understand and plan for hazmat transportation emergencies.

- [Hazmat Training](#) — Free hazmat training is available in multiple styles, including classroom, hands-on, and online, including drills and exercises to improve the response and handling of hazmat emergencies.
- [Reference and Training Materials](#) — Technical information about chemicals and transportation equipment is made available for both training and emergency response.
- [Local Resources](#) — Regional and state coordinators work to implement the TRANSCAER mission and help connect local responders with the resources they need.
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) — Find answers to the most common questions about TRANSCAER, hazmat training events, and emergency response support services.

[Download the TRANSCAER Fact Sheet for more information.](#)

Comments and suggestions about this monthly newsletter for members of the Township Emergency Management Association can be emailed to James Wheeler at jwheeler@psats.org.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director

4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025