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Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

October 2021

Past Issues of the *Emergency Manager* Now Available

If you are looking for information in past newsletters, you can now access them under the “Newsroom” tab when you are signed in at www.psats.org.

Calling All Subject Matter Experts!

PSATS continues to host numerous in-person and virtual educational events targeted to municipal officials, employees, and other professional and volunteer stakeholders. If you are interested in teaching a class on any subject, 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

ARP Update: Has Your Township Compared Its 2019 and 2020 Revenue Yet?

PSATS has noticed that many townships have not yet taken advantage of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) revenue replacement calculator created by the Government Finance Officers Association and available on the ARP resource page at www.psats.org. It is critical that you determine how much revenue your township lost from 2019 to 2020. You can “replace” that lost revenue with ARP funds and have much greater flexibility in how to spend those dollars, especially for emergency management purposes. Please encourage your township to run that calculation before spending any of their ARP funds. To access the lost revenue replacement calculator, click [HERE](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Also, the U.S. Treasury has extended the deadline for the 2021 ARP report from October 31, 2021, to **April 30, 2022**.

Hazard Mitigation Grants Available

PEMA has announced that municipalities are now eligible to apply for funds to help them implement long-term measures to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) helps communities rebuild in a better, stronger, and safer way to become more resilient. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Federal Public Assistance Funds Approved

Gov. Wolf has announced that a Presidential disaster declaration has been approved for public assistance for Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery counties. The application process will begin once PEMA announces the schedule of briefings to guide eligible municipalities through the process. A list of meeting places and times for each county will be announced in the next few weeks.

After this general briefing, each applicant must meet one-on-one with an assigned program delivery manager. The manager will contact their assigned applicants within a week of the submission of a request for Pennsylvania. Applicants should contact their state public assistance officer to arrange the first meeting if they have not heard from their delivery manager within two weeks.

All seven categories of public assistance funding are now available to local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for eligible expenditures, which may include emergency work, debris removal, and repair or replacement of damaged roads, bridges, and other infrastructure, such as public water tanks or sewer systems. Projects will be approved only if they are a direct result of storm damage during the designated timeframe. More information is available at www.PEMA.pa.gov/lda.

Federal Individual Assistance Funds Approved

Gov. Wolf has announced that a Presidential disaster declaration has been approved for individual assistance for Bedford, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and York counties. Impacted residents of these counties should register with FEMA online at www.disasterassistance.gov, through the FEMA app, or by calling the FEMA Helpline toll-free at (800) 621-FEMA (3362), or TTY (800) 462-7585. Helpline services are available seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET. For more information, go to www.PEMA.pa.gov/lda.

FEMA Reimbursement for COVID-19 Expenses Extended

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.

Deadline Extended for Fire/EMS Grants

The Office of the State Fire Commissioner has extended the deadline for accepting applications for the Fire and EMS Grant Program. The new deadline is **October 22, 2021**. For written instructions and guidelines for the 2021-2022 program, go to www.osfc.pa.gov.

All fire companies, emergency medical services, and volunteer rescue squads may apply for this grant. Again this year, funds may be used to supplement operational expenses incurred by the lack of opportunities for fundraising and the inability to generate revenue due to compliance with COVID-19 mitigation restrictions.

As always, traditional categories allow funding to be used for such projects as construction and/or renovation of fire company or EMS facilities, equipment, debt reduction, training, and recruitment and retention, including volunteer firefighter length-of-service award programs and programs for minors. Click here to learn more.

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) to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency 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 submitted 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. 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](#).

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. While the exact scenarios may be under cover, it is no secret that in real life, as in this class, you never know what upcoming hazard you might face!

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

- [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
11:30	Lunch
12:30	Tabletop Recovery Exercise & After-Action Report
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 status of the legislation to require Senate confirmation of the PEMA director?

A: The Pa. Senate recently approved such legislation and sent it to the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committee for concurrence. [Senate Bill 416](#) would require that the governor's nominee for PEMA director be subject to the consent of a majority of the members elected to the Senate.

News of Note

State Fire Commissioner Bruce Trego is retiring before the end of the year after more than 50 years in fire services. Congratulations, Commissioner!

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

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