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# THE EMERGENCY Manager



Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

December 2021

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## Latest News

### PSATS 2022 Conference

All TEMA members should have received registration material for the upcoming PSATS 2022 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibit show, scheduled from April 24-27, 2022, in Hershey, PA. For all the details about the PSATS 2022 Conference, click [HERE](#).

Every township emergency management coordinator should attend the state's premier local government educational and training event. If you want to learn more about the many responsibilities and issues township emergency management coordinators face, there is no better opportunity than to attend this conference, which provides more than 60 educational workshops on a broad range of township-related matters, including many in the public safety category. A list of these workshops can be found on page 5 of the registration booklet you recently received.

More important, attending this annual gathering gives you the most opportunities for peer-to-peer learning in one place as you gather with nearly 4,000 elected and appointed township officials and employees from around the state or browse the nearly 300 exhibits at the largest municipal exhibit show in the state.

### 2022 Spring Emergency Management Forum

PSATS will once again hold its annual Spring Emergency Management Forum on Sunday, April 24, at the Hershey Lodge. Join your EMC colleagues from around the state at this highly interactive session and hear informative presentations from local and state emergency management personnel and the latest news and information from TEMA and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Additional presentations will address in-depth and practical ways to develop and maintain an effective and efficient emergency operation program, as well as highlight township exercise practices. To register for this separate event, click [HERE](#).

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## Legislative Report

Following is an updated summary of public safety-related legislation that is under consideration by the General Assembly. Please note that the status of these bills may have changed since this newsletter was finalized.

### **Regulation of firearms and ammunition**

SB 448/PN 1164

#### **Major provisions:**

- Would further clarify the existing prohibition on municipal regulation of firearms and ammunition.
- Would allow people and organizations adversely affected by a municipal ordinance adopted in violation of existing law to seek damages attributable to the violation in an appropriate court, including the awarding of reasonable expenses if the judgment is against the municipality.

**Status:** Has passed the Senate and is before the House Judiciary Committee.

### **Public safety authorities**

SB 698/PN 782

#### **Major provisions:**

- Would authorize counties to create public safety authorities and set fees for the administration of fire and EMS services.
- Would allow a municipality to contract with a public safety authority for EMS and fire service or support.
- Would authorize the public safety authority to levy fees for fire and EMS services or support for these services if the host municipality has entered into a contract for services.
- Would prohibit the creation of new multi-municipal public safety authorities unless they receive county approval and are comprised of at least 51% of a county's population or 40% of the total number of municipalities in a county.
- Would grandfather into the law all pre-existing multi-municipal EMS authorities.

**Status:** Before the Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee.

### **Regulation of fireworks**

SB 894/PN 1135

#### **Major provisions:**

- Would prohibit the use of consumer fireworks between the hours of 11 p.m. and 10 a.m. except for July 2, 3, and 4 and December 31, when consumer fireworks could be used until 1 a.m. the following day.
- Would increase fines for fireworks used in violation of state law from \$100 to up to \$1,000 for a first offense, up to \$2,500 for a second offense, and up to \$5,000 for a third or subsequent offense.

**Status:** Before the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

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## **Upcoming PSATS Educational Opportunities**

### **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 Education Director Scott Coburn at [scoburn@psats.org](mailto:scoburn@psats.org).

### **Webinars**

### [Everything You Wanted To Know About Your VFD, But Were Afraid To Ask – 1/5/22](#)

If you're not focused on volunteer recruitment and retention for your volunteer fire departments, what are you focused on? This session will outline some of the forces converging on today's volunteers and focus on offering solutions for the community and its first responders to move together toward adequate and affordable public safety services.

### [Stormwater Management: An Annoying Requirement, Simplified – 1/26/22](#)

This webinar will give participants an overview of the challenges and best practices associated with managing a township's many stormwater-related responsibilities in a user-friendly and easy-to-understand way.

### [Intergenerational Community Engagement And Planning: Values And Practices - 2/9/22](#)

As individuals grow apart in today's society, communities are more important than ever. They not only provide a geographic location where people live but also offer social interaction and common ties that connect people. Ideally, these opportunities should be available to everyone, from young children to senior citizens. Many communities would like to engage citizens in an age-inclusive planning process, but do not have the knowledge, staffing, or expertise to do so. In this webinar, representatives of Penn State Extension will lead a discussion of challenges participants have faced and provide strategies for addressing them in their communities.

### [What Your Public Works Director Wants You To Know – 3/23/22](#)

Your township's public works staff have unique perspective, knowledge, history, and information that can greatly benefit elected officials and senior employees. Confronted daily with the challenge of solving problems with finite resources, they are your front line for issues that matter to your constituents. This webinar will help you understand township public works infrastructure, operations, and management so that you can better respond to residents and lead your community.

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## TEMA Q&A

### **Q: What are the new maximum loan amounts available to volunteer fire companies to purchase equipment and facilities?**

**A:** As revised by [Act 91 of 2020](#), the maximum loan that a single fire company may obtain from the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Fund to purchase firefighting apparatus, ambulances, or rescue vehicles shall not exceed \$250,000 for any single firefighting apparatus, utility or special service vehicle, or heavy duty rescue vehicle or 50% of the total cost of the equipment or vehicle, whichever is less, except for loans for aerial apparatus as defined by regulation or guideline, which shall not exceed \$350,000.

The maximum loan for purchasing used firefighting apparatus, equipment, ambulances, rescue vehicles, communication equipment, accessory equipment, or protective equipment shall not exceed \$200,000 or 80% of the total cost of the equipment, whichever is less. However, all used vehicles and equipment shall meet appropriate National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

The Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Program provides loans at a fixed 2% interest rate to fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) companies for the acquisition, rehabilitation, or improvement of apparatus, facilities, and equipment. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

### **Q: Where can I find information about a physical for firefighters?**

**A:** The Office of State Fire Commissioner has a document [HERE](#) that provides guidance on this matter that you might want to share with the fire companies in your township.

Firefighting is physically taxing, dangerous, and stressful; this guide provides both the context and information needed to improve the medical testing and treatment of firefighters by their personal primary care providers. The “Healthcare Provider’s Guide to Firefighter Physicals” is intended to be shared with firefighters’ personal physicians to help them understand the physiological demands of firefighting and the resulting health risks research shows firefighters are most prone to.

The guide helps primary care providers in the evaluation, treatment, and ongoing surveillance of the unique health and wellness needs of firefighters. Its medical recommendations are research-supported and experience-driven. It was written by physicians, healthcare professionals, researchers, and fire service experts experienced in evaluating and treating firefighters.

The best way to diminish the effects of any diseases, illnesses, or injuries is to detect them as early as possible. This is especially true for firefighters, who, in many cases, are at greater risk for certain diseases, illnesses, and injuries than the general population. The best way to find these issues early is for healthcare providers to have an increased awareness and for firefighters to have annual physicals to catch anomalies.

This guide is for any firefighter, career or volunteer, whether or not their department provides annual physicals.

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This monthly newsletter for members of the Township Emergency Management Association focuses on news and matters of interest to municipal emergency management personnel and provides details on upcoming training opportunities. You can access past newsletters under the “Newsroom” tab when you are signed in at [psats.org](http://psats.org). Email comments and suggestions to TEMA Coordinator James Wheeler at [jwheeler@psats.org](mailto:jwheeler@psats.org).



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