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Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

February 2022

Latest News

Welcome, New EMCs!

For those of you who were recently appointed as emergency management coordinators, welcome to the club! We are here to help you. As a first step, make sure we have your contact information. Second, we encourage you to introduce yourself to the EMC of your neighboring townships, as well as the director of your county's emergency management agency.

Our website is TEMA.PSATS.org and our email address is TEMA@PSATS.org. Feel free to contact us when you have questions. We look forward to seeing you in person at either the PSATS 2022 Conference or our TEMA Spring Forum discussed below.

Reminder: Register for the PSATS 2022 Conference

All TEMA members and other EMCs should have received registration materials for the upcoming PSATS 2022 Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show, April 24-27, 2022, in Hershey. For all the details about the conference, click [HERE](#).

'Get Ready' at the 2022 Spring Forum

PSATS will once again hold its annual Spring Emergency Management Forum on Sunday, April 24, at the Hershey Lodge. To register for this event, click [HERE](#), and join other EMCs from around the state as PEMA Director Randy Padfield and other leading voices in the local emergency management field help you prepare your township for future emergencies.

Transition To 5G Cellular Service Will Cause Older 3G Phones to Stop Operating in 2022

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and Pennsylvania State Police are urging all people with older, 3G cellphones to prepare for the upcoming end of 3G cellular networks and service in 2022. Any EMC with one of these phones should upgrade to a newer model now to continue receiving emergency calls and not lose connectivity, including the ability to call 911, when it matters most — during an emergency.

The nation's three major wireless carriers (AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile) have announced plans to shut down their 3G networks to accommodate more advanced services, including 5G, as early as February 2022. As a result, many older phones will be unable to make or receive calls and text messages or use data services. This may also affect other devices that rely on 3G connectivity,

such as medical alert devices, tablets, smart watches, home security systems, and in-vehicle safety, security, and roadside assistance systems, all of which should be evaluated for replacement.

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 as detailed below. If you are interested in sharing your expertise for an in-person or virtual presentation on any topic of interest to our audience, please contact Education Director Scott Coburn at scoburn@psats.org.

Virtual Classes

[Newsletter Best Practices: Keeping Residents Updated Via Email & Postal Mail - Virtual Class - 4/7/22](#)

Join Chad Barger, CFRE, for a workshop focused on reporting township news and community information to residents and other stakeholder groups. The session will examine how print/mailed communications work in tandem with email to ensure that residents and others remain informed and engaged. It will also look at systems to simplify the development of these vital communication tools.

[Overcoming The Barriers To Volunteer Fire Company Fundraising Success - Virtual Class - 5/17/22](#)

Join fundraising master trainer, Chad Barger, CFRE, for a workshop focused on actionable solutions to common fundraising problems. Chad will reveal the most common barriers to effective fundraising at community-based volunteer fire departments and provide tips for overcoming them. Attendees will also be given free access to document samples and templates that will help to fast-track the implementation of these solutions. Ample time will be reserved for questions so that attendees can also pick Chad's brain for solutions to their "not-so-common" fundraising challenges.

PowerPass-Eligible Webinars

[Webinar: 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 lack 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.

[Webinar: 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.

TEMA Q&A

Q: As part of continuity of operations (COOP) planning, are there specific considerations that we should add to our job descriptions to cover working from home?

A: COOP plans should be developed by every municipality because your operations must continue, regardless of weather conditions or staff shortages, as they are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of your residents. Whether by cross-training current employees or sharing employees with a neighboring municipality, your residents expect your township to have a successful plan to continue operating in an emergency or disaster situation.

The COVID pandemic accelerated technology improvements to such an extent that requests by employees to work from home are on the rise, even in the public sector. And while work-from-home arrangements may not always work in the public sector, some public-sector job functions may not require in-person engagement. These requests for work-from-home arrangements or remote work have highlighted the necessity for all employers to review, revise, and update job descriptions. For more information on this subject, click [here](#) to read the full article by Robert A. Vernon of Campbell Durrant.

Q: Are there any podcasts that specifically discuss emergency preparedness?

A: Yes. The [FEMA Podcast](#) is an audio series available to anyone interested in learning more about the field of emergency management and is available on [Apple iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#). Roughly 20 to 30 minutes in length, the podcast will be updated with a new episode semi-weekly or more often. Also included in the weekly podcast is a link to the transcript. Listeners will have the ability to subscribe to new episodes and join the conversation every time a new episode is posted.

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. To access previous editions, log onto www.psats.org and look under the "Newsroom" tab. Email comments and suggestions to TEMA Coordinator James Wheeler at jwheeler@psats.org.



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