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Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

May 2022

Latest News

Reminder: Act 13 Grants Available for Flood Mitigation, Watershed Projects

The state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is accepting applications for Act 13 program grants until May 31, 2022. There are two specific grant programs funded from impact fees from natural gas wells under Act 13 of 2012 that may be of interest to EMCs:

- [Flood Mitigation Program](#): Townships may apply for grants to perform flood mitigation projects.
- [Watershed Restoration and Protection Program](#): Townships may apply for grants to construct, expand, repair, maintain, or rehabilitate new or existing watershed protection best management practices.

Alert! Federal REAL ID Enforcement Begins in One Year

Federal enforcement of REAL ID is scheduled to begin **May 3, 2023**. These regulations will require individuals who want to fly or visit federal facilities, such as FEMA's Emergency Management Institute or any federal courthouse or military base, to have a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or photo ID card. To learn more about how to obtain a REAL ID from the state Department of Transportation, [click here](#).

Reminder: Federal Flood Mitigation Funding Available

Pennsylvania will receive \$5 million through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to support implementation of mitigation actions that will protect against future damage from natural disasters. Properties covered by a National Flood Insurance Program policy that have sustained repetitive losses due to flooding are eligible for the new Swift Current initiative. For more information, [click here](#).

Applications must be submitted by noon, **October 3, 2022**, using the [Mitigation eGrants Management System](#). Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Tom Hughes, the state hazard mitigation officer, at (717) 651-2726 or thughes@pa.gov. The following types of projects are eligible even if an insurance claim has been filed:

- property acquisition and structure demolition/relocation;
- nonstructural retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities;
- structure elevation;

- mitigation reconstruction;
- dry floodproofing of historic residential structures or non-residential structures; and
- structural retrofitting of existing buildings.

Legislative Report

PSATS Testifies on Local Emergency Services Needs

PSATS Director of Government Relations Joe Gerdes recently testified before the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee about various local emergency preparedness issues of concern to townships. Included in his comments, which can be read [HERE](#), were support for additional funding, flexible training requirements, the need for additional and continuing retention and recruitment activities, and legislation to improve the ability for local ambulance companies to directly bill a service recipient's insurance company for payment for any services rendered.

PSATS Testifies on Stream Maintenance, Cleaning, and Flooding Issues

Deven Martin, a supervisor for Delmar Township in Tioga County, recently shared the association's concerns on stream-related issues with the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. He noted that there are few issues which are felt as strongly statewide by the PSATS membership as the need to be able to take preventative action to reduce or eliminate flooding events in a timely fashion without going through a complex permitting process. Click [HERE](#) to view these comments.

Local governments shouldn't be required to go through the extensive permit process and foot the entire cleanup bill when attempting to alleviate flooding hazards, which only results in needing more state and federal funding. Further, the voting delegates at the Association's recent annual conference voted in favor of the following resolution addressing this matter:

- 22-01 RESOLVED, That PSATS seek legislation to require that the state Department of Environmental Protection immediately issue all necessary permits for emergency relief that would allow municipalities to perform standard flood mitigation to remove stream impediments, such as gravel bars, that will prevent the exacerbation of flooding before, during, or after a flood event.

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.

In-person Classes

[Flagger Training](#)

PSATS is offering in-person, instructor-led flagger training for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include, especially during an emergency, township road crews and public works departments, utility companies working on low volume roads, local law enforcement personnel, tow-truck drivers, township managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes). This course has been designed to meet the PennDOT Publication 408 flagger training requirements mandated for all flaggers in Pennsylvania. Click on "Flagger

Training” above to see the current listing of classes.

Virtual Classes

[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.

PSATS PowerPass-Eligible Webinars

[Webinar - Communication - Getting Your Message Right - 5/19/22](#)

Municipal constituents, partners, and other stakeholders are bombarded with communications every day. How do you ensure that your message really reaches the people who need to see it when they need it? This presentation will explore the facets of communication that need to be considered and will touch on the best methods of communication for common types of messages.

[Webinar - National Weather Service Resources For Townships - 6/1/22](#)

Weather events can negatively impact all areas of township operations, from emergency management to road crew readiness. There is no reason these days to not be fully prepared for oncoming weather. In this webinar, presenters from the National Weather Service (NWS) in State College will discuss how your township can take advantage of NWS resources to be better prepared for the weather challenges you are sure to face, whether it be severe rain, high winds, extreme cold, or snow. Register your road crew and emergency management teams to attend this webinar so they can be ready to use the cutting-edge resources from the NWS to keep your township safe from whatever weather comes your way.

[Webinar - Backyard Stream Repair - 7/28/22](#)

This webinar will describe how townships and residents can use native vegetation to protect and restore streambanks that suffer from mild to moderate bank erosion. Topics will include how streambank erosion starts, how to identify suitable restoration sites, plant selection and installation, and maintenance.

[Webinar - FEMA Grant Funding Opportunities - 8/3/22](#)

Tom Hughes, PEMA’s State Hazard Mitigation Officer, will discuss numerous funding opportunities through FEMA, including the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, which helps with hazard mitigation projects. He will also address grants available through the Flood Mitigation Assistance program, which can be used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program.

TEMA Q&A

Q: Do you know of any free cybersecurity training we can provide to our employees, especially on how to recognize “phishing” attacks?

A. Yes. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) offers several free, on-line, self-paced training courses [HERE](#) that might address your needs. In particular, the website offers the following training modules:

- Cybersecurity Awareness Training
- Cybersecurity Essentials Training

- Phishing Training

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.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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