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Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

April 2022

Latest News

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 in Hershey. For all the details about the conference, click [HERE](#).

'Get Ready' at the 2022 Emergency Management Spring Educational Forum!

Supervisors who are responsible for their township's emergency management program, along with their emergency management coordinators, are encouraged to attend PSATS' upcoming Emergency Management Spring Educational Forum from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at the Hershey Lodge.

Click [HERE](#) to register for this event and join other EMCs from around the state to hear from and discuss critically important emergency management issues with PEMA Director Randy Padfield; Erik Avakian, the state's Chief Information Security Officer; Kristin Daniels, Acting Director of the Pa. Office of Homeland Security; and other leading voices in the local emergency management field.

ALERT: Local Government Cyber Warning

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the FBI continue to warn organizations and local governments to beware of a possible rise in state-sponsored cyberattacks. Extra caution should be used for cyber threats to your computer systems. EMCs are encouraged to attend the Emergency Management Spring Educational Forum (see above) to hear more about direct actions your township can take to mitigate the impact of a cyberattack on your township computers.

Reminder: EMS Agencies Must Certify by April 10 to Receive ARP Grant

Emergency medical agencies have until **April 10** to certify their eligibility to receive a portion of the \$25 million in American Rescue Plan funds directed to EMS companies by [Act 10 of 2022](#). Although eligible EMS companies should have already been contacted by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner with information on how to certify, township EMCs might want to check with their local agencies to make sure they know about this deadline. To learn more about this program, [click here](#). To view a list of eligible EMS agencies, [click here](#). If an EMS agency is eligible for these funds but is not included on the list, they should immediately contact the state

Legislative Report

Public utilities information sharing

[HB 1407 / PN 1516](#)

- Would require that at least twice each calendar year a public utility operating any facilities for the transmission of gas or hazardous liquids shall meet with each local emergency management organization in the area in which the facilities are located.
- Status: Before the House Consumer Affairs committee.

[HB 483 / PN 446](#)

- Would require that, in the event of a reportable incident that poses an immediate health or safety risk to the public, a public utility operating any facilities for the transmission of gas or hazardous liquids shall notify by electronic data transmission, or by telephone if electronic data transmission is not available or practicable, a local emergency management organization for any area likely to be affected by the incident.
- Status: Before the House Consumer Affairs committee.

Fire company reimbursements

[SB 1044 / PN 1382](#)

- Would authorize a fire company to seek reimbursement from an insurer for actual and reasonable response costs related to an emergency.
- Status: Before the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committee.

Siting new pipelines

[HB 1403 / PN 1514](#)

- Would task the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) with developing regulations regarding the siting of the new construction of pipelines.
- Status: Before the House Consumer Affairs committee.

Tuition assistance for volunteer responders

[HB 612 / PN 574](#)

- Would create the Active Volunteer Tuition Assistance Program and the Active Volunteer Tuition Assistance Program Fund.
- Status: Before the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committee.

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.

PSATS PowerPass-Eligible Webinars

[Webinar - NIMS Training for Supervisors and EMCs – 4/6/22](#)

The Pa. Emergency Management Agency requires that supervisors who oversee their township's emergency management planning take certain training classes. Likewise, your township's emergency management coordinator (EMC) must also take specific training. This webinar will provide an overview of the classes that supervisors and EMCs must take and explain how to find them. Participants will learn not only how to obtain the training but also how to document that they completed it.

[Webinar - What Your EMC Wants You To Know - 5/4/22](#)

For any organization to be effective in emergency situations, leaders must understand the role filled by each employee during an incident. In municipal government, the emergency management coordinator (EMC) plays a key role in preparedness for, mitigation of, response to, and recovery from all types of emergency incidents, including weather events, infrastructure failure, and more. Sometimes, lack of understanding of this role creates a disconnect between the municipal leaders and the coordinator. This webinar will help bridge the gap between municipal officials and their EMC.

[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.

TEMA Q&A

Q: Are there easy-to-understand suggestions for actions we can take to enhance our cybersecurity preparations?

A. Yes. The [U.S. CISA's "Shields Up" plan](#) provides the following plain-language actions that all companies should take, with some urgency:

1. Mandate the use of multifactor authentication on your systems to make it harder for attackers to get into them.
1. Deploy modern security tools on your computers and devices to continuously look for and mitigate threats.
1. Check with your local cybersecurity professionals to make sure that your systems are patched and protected against all known vulnerabilities and change passwords across your networks so that previously stolen credentials are useless to malicious actors.
1. Back up your data and ensure you have offline backups beyond the reach of malicious

actors and ransomware attacks.

1. Run exercises and drill your emergency plans so that you are prepared to respond quickly to minimize the impact of any attack.
1. Encrypt your data so it cannot be used if it is stolen.
1. Educate your employees about common tactics that attackers use in emails or through websites and encourage them to report if their computers or phones have shown unusual behavior, such as frequently crashing or operating very slowly.
1. Engage proactively with your local FBI field office or CISA regional office to establish relationships in advance of any cyber incidents. Please encourage your IT and security leadership to visit the CISA and FBI websites where they will find technical information and other useful resources.

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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