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June 24, 2022

Latest News

State Fire Commissioner Urges Fireworks Caution

As millions of Pennsylvanians prepare to celebrate Independence Day, Acting State Fire Commissioner Charles McGarvey is urging residents to take the necessary steps to protect both their loved ones and property. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that in 2020, fireworks were involved with an estimated 15,600 injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments.

“Our message today is clear, fireworks are not toys,” said McGarvey. “While dangerous, we acknowledge that these devices have a lengthy shared history with our nation’s Independence Day celebrations. First and foremost, we want people to understand the risks, how to properly handle fireworks and to encourage users to be courteous to their neighbors and communities.” [Click here](#) for fireworks safety reminders that can be shared with your residents.

Reminder: PennDOT Survey on Automated Vehicles Due Today

The state Department of Transportation’s survey of municipal needs for a municipal guidebook on unmanned automated vehicles (AVs) is due today. Please take the three-minute survey at the link if you have not done so already: [Preparing for Automated Vehicles: A Survey of Local Government Officials \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

Today in History...

On June 24, 1972, Tropical Storm Agnes flooded many parts of PA and the mid-Atlantic region after several days of rain dropping nearly 20 inches. Today is the 50th Anniversary of this event. This led to the creation of FEMA, the Federal

Emergency Management Agency, as well as the more rapid deployment of NFIP, the National Flood Insurance Program.

Legislation & Policy



PSATS Testifies on Need for RTKL Legislation

PSATS Director of Government Relations Joe Gerdes testified before the Senate State Government Committee on the need for meaningful Right-to-Know Law reform. He highlighted PSATS support for open and transparent government, while urging senators to provide relief from the financial burden that the act places on townships. Gerdes asked the committee

to give townships with the ability to recover costs from commercial requesters, address privacy concerns over sensitive information, and provide a procedure for municipalities to follow that are harassed by requesters. He provided input on specific language in multiple Right-to-Know Law bills, particularly [SB 492](#) and [HB 2524](#). [Click here](#) to read the testimony. The committee is expected to consider RTKL legislation soon.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.



Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum

This class provides an interactive opportunity to engage in tabletop exercises taught by knowledgeable professionals that reflect real-world experiences and situations.

[9/15/22 – West \(Westmoreland Co.\)](#)

[9/29/22 – PSATS \(Cumberland Co.\)](#)

[10/13/22 – East \(Montgomery Co.\)](#)

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