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## Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

September 2022

### Latest News

#### **Are You Ready for Summer Blackouts and Other Emergencies?**

Register your emergency management team NOW for an upcoming TEMA Fall Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Forum near you!

These upcoming TEMA TTXs will cover a wide range of “what would/should you do” scenarios to help you assess your organizations’ and residents’ level of preparedness. These tabletop activities are intended to be low-stress conversation starters to lead to discussions around your meeting table. Disasters and incidents are always around the corner. Having your emergency management team attend a TEMA TTX will help you better prepare for whatever disaster comes next.

Click on the appropriate link below to register and have your team join us for what will again be dynamic and interactive discussions designed to help improve your emergency preparedness capabilities:

- [Sept. 15: TEMA TTX West – Westmoreland County](#)
- [Sept. 29: TEMA TTX Central – Cumberland County](#)
- [Oct. 13: TEMA TTX East – Montgomery County](#)

The agenda for the forums is as follows:

9:00 a.m. Welcome/Housekeeping  
9:05 a.m. Overview of Municipal Preparedness Requirements  
9:30 a.m. TTX #1: Flooding  
10:45 a.m. TTX #2: Bad Weather  
Noon Lunch (catered)  
12:30 p.m. TTX #3: Widespread Power Outage/Black Sky Event  
3:00 p.m. Adjourn

#### **Interested in Presenting a Workshop at the 2023 PSATS Conference?**

PSATS recently issued its request for proposals for workshop presentations to be made at its 2023 Educational Conference & Exhibit Show, which will be held April 23-26 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey. Workshops will be held during the afternoons of April 24 and 25 and are intended to address a wide variety of topics, including all aspects of township administration, planning and zoning, **public safety and emergency management**, and public works.

Every year, nearly 4,000 elected and appointed township officials, township employees, municipal service providers, and others register to attend this event, which also includes the largest municipal exhibit show in Pennsylvania. **Interested parties must submit workshop proposals to PSATS by September 12, 2022, through the following link: [Conference Workshop RFP](#).** All applicants will be notified by November 28 whether their proposals have been accepted. If you have any questions about the conference workshop RFP process, please call Scott Coburn at (717) 763-0930, ext. 171, or email [scoburn@psats.org](mailto:scoburn@psats.org).

## **PSATS 2022 Stormwater Conferences Announced**

Does your township's stormwater management program need some help? Do you have ongoing flooding problems? Do you want to learn more about the latest best practices for stormwater management? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then you and your township's stormwater team will want to attend the 2022 PSATS Stormwater Conference nearest you.

To register, click on the appropriate link below for your preferred location. Attending a 2022 PSATS Stormwater Conference will improve your township's stormwater efforts. Register early to reserve your spot to learn cost-effective techniques and state-of-the-art practices for improving your overall stormwater management program from the best in the business. Please note that we are offering the Policy and Technical tracks on separate days at the PSATS office if you want to attend both tracks:

- [Oct. 20 – Policy Track / DoubleTree Convention Center, Monroeville \(Allegheny County\)](#)
- [Oct. 20 – Technical Track / DoubleTree Convention Center, Monroeville \(Allegheny County\)](#)
- [Nov. 2 – Policy Track / PSATS Education Center, Enola, \(Cumberland County\)](#)
- [Nov. 3 – Technical Track / PSATS Education Center, Enola, \(Cumberland County\)](#)
- [Nov. 17 – Policy Track / DoubleTree Suites, Plymouth Meeting \(Montgomery County\)](#)
- [Nov. 17 – Technical Track / DoubleTree Suites, Plymouth Meeting \(Montgomery County\)](#)

Each event starts at 9 a.m. and concludes by 3:15 p.m. **Register before October 1 to get the "early bird" discount fee of \$150;** after that, registration is \$175 per person. Registration includes lunch, breaks, certificate of attendance, and all workshop presentation materials. If you are a member of a municipal stormwater operations staff, select the Technical track. If you have managerial/administrative/emergency planning responsibilities, select the Policy track.

## **ALERT! New Training Requirements for Township EMCs Announced by PEMA**

The Pa. Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) recently released a new [directive \(#2022-2\)](#), which revises the training for municipal emergency management coordinators (EMCs) and their staff. While this new directive retains the requirements that EMCs complete certain training courses within one and three years of appointment, the list of classes has changed considerably and added many new requirements.

The new Associate Certification classes (previously called Basic Certification) that must be completed **within one year of appointment** are:

- P-002: Duties and Responsibilities (in-person or virtual)
- P-004: Initial Damage Reporting (in-person or virtual)
- P-012: Resource Request Process Training (virtual)
- IS-29: Public Information Officer Awareness
- G-191: ICS/EOC Interface (classroom or virtual)
- IS-230: Fundamentals of Emergency Management
- G-235: Emergency Planning
- IS-1000: Public Assistance
- IS-2000: National Preparedness Goal and System Overview
- IS-2200: Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions

- IS-2500: National Prevention Framework, an Introduction
- IS-2600: National Protection Framework, an Introduction
- IS-2700: National Mitigation Framework, an Introduction
- IS-2900: National Disaster Recovery Framework Overview
- IS-2901: Community Lifelines
- Attend two In-Service Training (IST) sessions provided by either PEMA or your county EMA.

The new Professional Certification classes (previously called Advanced Certification) that must be completed **within three years of appointment** are:

- AWR-401W: Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk
- Assessment and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (virtual)
- AWR-923W: Radiological Emergency Management (virtual)
- IS-5: An Introduction to Hazardous Materials
- IS-26: Guide to Points of Distribution
- IS-120: Introduction to Exercises
- G-271: Hazardous Weather and Flooding Preparedness
- G-290: Basic Public Information Officers Course or E/L105: Public Information Basics
- G-393: Mitigation for Emergency Managers
- IS-922: Applications of GIS for Emergency Management
- IS-1300: Introduction to Continuity of Operations
- K/E-2300: Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions
- Service at the Associate Certification level for one year.
- Attend two In-Service Training (IST) sessions provided by either PEMA or your county EMA.

### **Recertification required**

More important, this new training directive requires recertification every five years after completing the Professional Certification courses. Recertification will require a minimum of 75 continuing education training hours in three of the five mission areas: prevention, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation. Additional requirements include at least four contributions to the emergency management profession, such as:

- joining an emergency management association;
- presenting at an emergency management conference;
- instructing PEMA, FEMA, or ICS courses;
- publishing an emergency management news article in a newsletter, newspaper, or journal;
- receiving an award or special recognition within the municipal or emergency management community; and
- advocating for legislative changes to help emergency management.

PSATS is working with PEMA and others to make sure these new and expanded training requirements do not unnecessarily complicate the ability of local governments to find residents willing to participate in the emergency management field as an EMC.

### **Sovereign and Governmental Immunity Report Released**

The Joint Legislative Budget & Finance Committee recently released the report *Limitations on Liability under Pennsylvania's Sovereign and Governmental Immunity Laws*. The report was prompted by recent court decisions that questioned whether the current damages caps on the commonwealth's and local government liability are sufficient and urged the General Assembly to consider changes.

The report found that the current local government liability cap of \$500,000 is sufficient for over

99% of claims against local government entities reviewed by the committee. Only 1% of claims resulted in payouts from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

The report makes several recommendations, including that the caps remain as they are for non-catastrophic claims and be increased only for catastrophic claims and medical expenses for non-economic damages based on the Consumer Price Index since 1978. In addition, the report recommends that local governments report their insurance carrier for property and liability coverage using DCED's municipal statistics database. To read a one-page summary of the report, [click here](#). For the full report, [click here](#).

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## Legal Update

### No Standing for Residents to Challenge Township Zoning Ordinance over Oil and Gas Concerns

In *Lodge v. Robinson Twp. Zoning Hearing Bd.*, No. 813 C.D. 2020, 2022 WL 3094370 (Pa.Cmwlth. Aug. 4, 2022), the court rejected several residents' effort to challenge a 2014 ordinance that permitted oil and gas development as a principal use in several zoning districts and a conditional use in others but prohibited it in single-family residential and general residential zoning districts.

The Commonwealth Court agreed with the trial court's decision that the residents did not establish that the ordinance or well pad caused their alleged harms and that there were a variety of potential sources that existed prior to the ordinance, including pipelines, drilling in neighboring townships, air traffic, road traffic, illuminated billboards, and more.

The court also noted that the Supreme Court's decision in *Robinson Twp.* "in no way announced a new rule of law that individual objectors have automatic standing to pursue the validity of a zoning ordinance in the abstract or that oil and gas development is necessarily incompatible with Pennsylvania citizens' constitutional rights."

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## Legislative Report

*The following is a summary of legislation affecting townships that has recently been considered by the General Assembly.*

### Firefighting foam

SB 302/PN 1773

#### Major provisions:

- Would prohibit the use of Class B firefighting foams that contain PFAS in training exercises and testing purposes unless required by law.
- Would direct the State Fire Commissioner to assist fire companies with the transition to Class B firefighting foams that do not contain PFAS.
- Would continue to allow these foams to be used for emergency firefighting and fire suppression operations.

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

### Firefighter training for minors

SB 1027/PN 1743

HB 2268/PN 3128

#### Major provisions:

- Would allow a 17-year-old to train for an interior firefighting module with live burns if they have

permission to engage from a fire chief and a parent or guardian.

- Would require the minor to be under supervision of a credentialed Pennsylvania State Fire Academy instructor.

**Note:** Both bills would address a PSATS resolution.

**Status:** SB 1027 has passed the Senate and is before the House Labor and Industry Committee. HB 2268 has passed the House and is before the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

#### **Online firefighter training courses**

SB 1265/PN 1703

##### **Major provisions:**

- Would require the State Fire Commissioner to facilitate online access to all available fire and emergency services training courses.
- Would require the State Fire Commissioner to ensure that the online training allow for completion of transcripts and printable certificates for online courses and restrict fees to no more than \$1 per course to be used for administrative purposes.

**Status:** Before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

#### **Highly automated vehicles**

HB 2398/PN 3256

##### **Major provisions:**

- Would regulate the operation of highly automated vehicles (HAVs) with and without a driver and authorize testing conditions for these vehicles, including platooning.
- Would direct the state Department of Transportation to oversee and regulate the operation of HAVs.

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

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## **Upcoming PSATS Educational Opportunities**

### **Virtual Classes**

#### **[Virtual Class – Stormwater 101 – 9/23/22](#)**

This virtual half-day, introductory class will educate you on the basics of municipal stormwater management, including the effects of stormwater runoff, the impacts of new development and redevelopment within your municipality, and best practices that your municipality can implement to efficiently manage stormwater without breaking your budget. This course is intended as a primer for elected officials, managers, secretaries, and others looking to gain a fundamental understanding of stormwater management.

### **In-person Classes**

#### **[Stormwater 101 – 9/9/22 – Crawford County](#)**

This half-day, in-person, introductory class will educate you on the basics of municipal stormwater management, including the effects of stormwater runoff, the impacts of new development and redevelopment within your municipality, and best practices that your municipality can implement to efficiently manage stormwater without breaking your budget. This course is intended as a primer for elected officials, managers, secretaries, and others looking to gain a fundamental understanding of stormwater management.

#### **[The Role of the Planning Commission – York County - 9/14/22](#)**

In this class, you will learn the integral role that the planning commission plays in the short- and long-term development of the township and residents' quality of life. The class will cover how much authority planning commissions do and do not have under the Municipalities Planning Code and township ordinances, the development of comprehensive plans, the interplay between planning commissions and township staffs and boards, compliance with the Sunshine Act, and much more. Instructors will also discuss best practices for the internal management of your planning commission.

### [Flagger Training](#)

PSATS is offering in-person, instructor-led flagger training for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on public roads. 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, and tow-truck drivers, as well as township managers and elected officials to understand the importance of flagging and budgetary needs. This course meets the PennDOT Publication 408 flagger training requirements. Click on “Flagger Training” above to see the current list of classes.

### **SAVE THE DATE! Spring 2023 Emergency Management Forum – April 23, 2023**

Make plans to join us at our in-person Spring 2023 Emergency Management Forum at the Hershey Lodge for the latest update on important local emergency management issues.

### **PSATS PowerPass-Eligible Webinars**

#### [Webinar – Taking Charge: Using Conservatorship to Eliminate Blight – 9/14/22](#)

A property is abandoned, and the neighbors are outraged. What do you do when an owner ignores/avoids code enforcement and tax sales? The Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act gives municipalities a powerful tool to eliminate persistent blight. This webinar will introduce participants to the process of conservatorship, how to evaluate if a property fits the qualifications, and how to bring a property from blight to blessing in just one year.

#### [Webinar – Municipal Policing Potpourri – 9/21/22](#)

If your township has a police department, contracts with another department for police services, or is part of a regional police department, you will want to attend this webinar to get caught up on recent laws and proposed legislation affecting municipal police departments. You will also learn about changes your townships and departments may need to make as a result of these new laws and legislation.

#### [Webinar – Stormwater Management Practices for Residential Property Owners – 9/28/22](#)

In this webinar, learn how your township can help its residents (and itself) with better stormwater management practices on residential properties. This presentation will discuss small-scale practices designed to minimize runoff from residential properties, including rain gardens, rain barrels and cisterns, pervious pavement, lawn to natural area conversions, tree planting, and sustainable turf care.

#### [Webinar – Protecting Your Township Against Cybersecurity Threats – 10/5/22](#)

In this webinar, representatives from Splashwire will review the three P's — process, policy, and procedures — necessary to best protect your township against the ever-increasing number of cyber threats, whether malware, phishing attacks, or other sinister efforts to access, take, or freeze your township's data. They will also review the tools and ongoing management standards laid out by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and how they can be applied to your township.

#### [Webinar – What Township Records Are Confidential? – 11/16/22](#)

In this webinar, Tricia Springer, an experienced practitioner before the Office of Open Records, will provide the latest insight into what is confidential and what cannot be considered confidential in the workplace. She will use real-world examples to make sure that your records are properly protected and will discuss the increasing use of electronic data in the workplace and who can access that data.

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## **TEMA Q&A**

**Q: Has PEMA updated the checklists for tracking our EMC's mandatory training?**

**A:** Yes. New checklists reflecting the revised training curriculum are available online. The Municipal Associate Checklist (previously called Basic Certification) is available [HERE](#). The Municipal Professional Checklist (previously called Advanced Certification) is available [HERE](#).

**Q: What if we have questions about the current status of our certification?**

**A:** PEMA has provided answers to frequently asked questions on this topic. All EMCs are encouraged to carefully review this document, which is available [HERE](#).

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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. To access previous editions, log onto [www.psats.org](http://www.psats.org) and look under the "Newsroom" tab. Email comments and suggestions to TEMA Coordinator James Wheeler at [jwheeler@psats.org](mailto:jwheeler@psats.org).



**Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

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