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## Newsletter of the Township Emergency Management Association

October 2022

### Latest News

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

Register your emergency management team NOW for our final TEMA Fall Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Seminar of the year!

This tabletop exercise will cover a wide range of “what would/should you do” scenarios to help you assess your level of preparedness. These tabletop activities are intended to be low-stress conversation starters to prompt discussion 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 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.

- [Oct. 13: TEMA TTX East – Montgomery County](#)

The agenda for the seminar 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

#### **Make Sure Your Township Budgets Funds for EMC Training!**

You are encouraged to begin working with your township now to make sure they include a line item in their 2023 budget so you can attend our Spring 2023 Emergency Management Seminar at the Hershey Lodge for the latest update on important local emergency management issues, as well as our Fall 2023 Emergency Management Tabletop Exercise Seminar.

#### **PSATS 2022 Stormwater Conferences Now Virtual!**

Does your stormwater management program needs some help? Are there problems complying with the current MS4 permit? Do you want to know more about the next MS4 permit? Are you interested in learning the latest best practices for stormwater management? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then you (and they!) will want to attend either the “2022 PSATS Virtual Stormwater Conference Technical Track” or the “2022 PSATS Virtual Stormwater Conference

Policy Track” as appropriate.

Click on the appropriate link below to register for one of these tracks to learn effective ways to improve compliance with your MS4 NPDES permit 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 “Technical” track on Nov. 9 and the “Policy” track on Nov. 10 for those who want to take advantage of both tracks.

[Virtual Technical Track on Nov. 9](#)

[Virtual Policy Track on Nov. 10](#)

Each event starts at 9 a.m. and concludes by 3:15 p.m. **Registration is \$150 per person** and includes a certificate of attendance and all workshop presentation materials. If you are a consulting engineer or a member of a municipal stormwater operations staff, select the “Technical” track. If you have managerial and administrative stormwater responsibilities, select the “Policy” track.

### **Urgent Alert: FEMA 2022 Non-Disaster Mitigation Grants Now Available!**

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency has announced that the application period for this year’s Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities grant program and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program is now open.

The [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program](#) makes federal funds available for hazard mitigation activities. The program recognizes the growing hazards associated with climate change and the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities to promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to those hazards.

The [Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program](#) makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. It recognizes the growing flood hazards associated with climate change and the need for flood hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation, equity, and resilience with respect to flooding. These include both acute extreme weather events and chronic stressors that have been observed and are expected to increase in intensity and frequency in the future.

**If your township is interested in applying for either of these grant programs**, PEMA must receive your Letter of Interest by **5 p.m. Wednesday, October 19, 2022**. This form can be found on the PEMA website [HERE](#). All COMPLETE applications are due to PEMA by **5 p.m. Wednesday, November 16, 2022**. For help or more information on these grant programs, email [RA-Shazmitoff@pa.gov](mailto:RA-Shazmitoff@pa.gov).

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## **Legal Update**

### **Court Upholds Forced Sale of Property with Continued Maintenance Problems**

In [North Coventry Twp. v. Tripodi](#), No. 1023 C.D. 2020, 2022 WL 4088309 (Pa.Cmwlt. Sept. 7, 2022), the court affirmed a trial-court order compelling a sale of property with continued maintenance problems because the owner repeatedly ignored court orders aimed at addressing those problems.

The township first obtained injunctive relief against Tripodi, the property owner, in 2008 when the court entered an order with a settlement agreement whereby Tripodi agreed to sell the property and provide access to a master who would conduct inspections and oversee work on the property. The trial court later found Tripodi in contempt of many of its orders and ordered Tripodi to pay fees and place money into escrow for the master’s use.

After additional contempt petitions, the trial court ordered Tripodi to pay more than \$60,000 to the master and almost \$35,000 in attorney's fees and costs to the township. It later noted that Tripodi's failure to comply might result in the sale of the property and that Tripodi must deliver the master a \$500,000 check or personal financial information. It finally ordered the sale of the property. The Commonwealth Court ruled that the trial court did not abuse its discretion in issuing the order forcing the sale.

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## Legislative Report

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

The Senate returns to session October 17 and has only six scheduled session days remaining in the 2022-2023 legislative session. The House returns October 24 and has only three session days remaining. Any bills that don't make it to the governor by the end of the current session will "die" and would need to be reintroduced in the 2023-2024 session, which begins in January.

The following bills saw legislative action in September:

[SB 1027/PN 1743](#) 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. The minor would be required to be under the supervision of a credentialed Pennsylvania State Fire Academy Instructor. This bill would address a PSATS resolution.

**Status:** Re-referred to House Appropriations Committee.

[HB 1178/PN 3467](#) would eliminate the 10-year limit on additional funding for merged fire companies from the Fire Company and EMS Grant program. In addition, the bill would create new programs funded by the fireworks tax in Act 74 of 2022. This includes a loan forgiveness and tuition assistance program for active volunteer firefighters and volunteer EMS providers; scholarships for EMS personnel; fireworks danger education; and capital and operational grants for municipal fire departments and EMS training centers. The bill would address PSATS resolutions.

**Status:** Referred to the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

[HB 804/PN 3488](#) would exempt volunteer first responders that drive their own vehicles to incidents from paying vehicle registration fees.

**Status:** Reported as amended from the House Transportation Committee.

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## Upcoming PSATS Educational Opportunities

### In-person Classes

#### [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.

### PSATS PowerPass-Eligible Webinars

### [Webinar – Using Drones for Emergency Management - 11/2/22](#)

Drones, or unmanned aerial systems (UAS), are becoming a large part of public safety operations. As this trend continues, township officials and emergency managers need to understand the capabilities and strategies for UAS use for emergencies. This presentation will provide the information needed when considering a new UAS program deployment.

### [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: What resources are available to help us better understand how to combine our local comprehensive plan and subdivision and land development ordinance into our hazard mitigation plan?**

**A:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a guidance document on how you can integrate risk reduction strategies into existing local comprehensive plans, policies, codes, and programs for community development or redevelopment patterns. Click [HERE](#) to access this document. [HERE](#) is a link to another FEMA document about how local leaders can take a prominent role in promoting the local benefits of integrating hazard mitigation into local land use plans.

**Q: I understand that the Pa. Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) has begun its work to update the state's 2023 hazard mitigation plan as is required by FEMA. How can our township provide input on what might be needed from our perspective?**

**A:** You are correct. PEMA understands that township supervisors and local emergency management coordinators play a critical role in this plan update process and has therefore [provided a survey for your input](#). As additional background for your input, you can access PEMAs ["2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan Standard Operating Guide."](#)

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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).



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