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December 9, 2022

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## Latest News

### **Commonwealth Flags Lowered in Honor of Fallen Firefighters**

Gov. Tom Wolf [ordered the commonwealth flags](#) on all commonwealth facilities, public buildings, and grounds to fly at half-staff immediately in honor of three firefighters who have died in the line of duty this week. Commonwealth flags should remain at half-staff until the time of the firefighters' internments which have not yet been set.

The order honors Kurt Keilhofer of the Mapleton Fire Department in Huntingdon County, and Marvin Gruber and Zachary Paris of the New Tripoli Fire Department in Lehigh County.

Keilhofer died Tuesday after he was struck while responding to a vehicle accident in Union Township. Gruber and Paris died Wednesday after they became entrapped in a burning house near Tamaqua in Schuylkill County.

### **DGS to Auction More Than 450 Vehicles on Tuesday, December 13**

The state Department of General Services will auction more than 450 vehicles on Tuesday, December 13, at 10 a.m. at Manheim Keystone Pennsylvania, 488 Firehouse Road, Grantville. Townships may bid on these vehicles because they are being sold by the commonwealth.

There will be a wide selection of vehicles used by state agencies, as well as vehicles seized by law enforcement. Vehicle offerings will include a variety of SUVs, utility vehicles, and pickup trucks from Chevrolet, Dodge, Ford, GMC, and Jeep, as well as sedans and mini vans. Also included will be several utility/box trucks, Police Interceptor sedans and SUVs.

Preregistration and in-person previewing of vehicles will take place now through Sunday, December 11. Preregistration is mandatory and must be completed by Sunday at 4 p.m. Buyers must purchase with certified funds in the form of money order, cashier's check or certified check – made payable to “Manheim Keystone PA.” [Click here](#) to learn more and to register.

### **DEP Lifts Drought Watch for 15 Counties**

The state Department of Environmental Protection has lifted a drought watch for 15 counties, while a drought watch remains in effect for five counties. Drought watch has been lifted for Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Dauphin, Juniata, Lebanon, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, and Union counties.

The following counties remain on drought watch: Carbon, Luzerne, Northampton, Potter, and Schuylkill counties.

Residents on drought watch are asked to reduce their individual water use by 5% to 10% or three to six gallons of water per day. Water suppliers in these counties are being notified of the need to monitor their supplies and prepare to update their drought contingency plans. [View DEP's drought map](#) online. [Click here](#) for the press release.

### **Today in History.....**

On December 9, 1979, a commission of scientists declared that smallpox had been eradicated. The disease, which carried around a 30 percent chance of death for those who contract it, is the only infectious disease afflicting humans that has officially been eradicated.

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## Learn

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

### **In The Line Of Fire: Best Practices In Police Department Management**

A primary goal of the training is to arm the attendees with practical guidance on how to conduct a meaningful assessment of their departments to ensure compliance with federal and state law.

[1/24/23 - Chester County](#)

[2/16/23 - Lehigh County](#)



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