



# EMergent News

Engaging You, Engaging the Community

July-August 2018



## BOOTS ON THE GROUND: SLIP SLIDING AWAY

By Matt Brown, CEM, CFPS, Chief,  
Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services

### Landslide Response and Recovery in Allegheny County

Shortly after ringing in the New Year, Allegheny County and much of the surrounding region began seeing extreme levels of precipitation and temperature shifts and repeated cycles of heavy precipitation. Much of the precipitation (snow and rain) remains just below the ground surface even today, nearly eight months into the year.



Photo © Matt Brown

The continuous impacts of the flooding and overall precipitation continue to plague Allegheny County and probably will for quite some time. Allegheny County Emergency Services (ACES) has been assisting with preparing for, responding to and recovering from flooding, river ice jams, flash flooding, landslides and embankment failures since February. However, the normal emergency management posture can be challenging when the event or incident seems to never end and continues to progressively worsen.

#### The Impact Communication

The following executive summary was drafted and released for the purposes of elevating the attention of what we were seeing play out in front of us on a weekly basis. My previous career was also in public safety/emergency response, but in the private sector. We would use these summaries to draw attention to matters or incidents at the executive level. This executive summary became the basis for our Impact Statement.

*“Normal emergency management posture can be challenging when the event or incident seems to never end and continues to progressively worsen.”*

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PEMA, SATCOM Truck

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## BOOTS: ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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April 7, 2018

Allegheny County has been and continues to be adversely impacted by extreme amounts of precipitation since February 15, 2018 to the current date. The impacts to the communities and the businesses within Allegheny County have been severe in many cases and include flood damages, river ice jams, continuous large-scale landslides, utility damages including exposed piping, wires and downed poles, major and frequent interruptions to transportation systems and routes and in the most severe cases, complete destruction of individual homes and properties. Lastly has been the extreme impact to Allegheny County public safety agencies, many of which are volunteer and have had their own member's homes and properties impacted from the constant string of severe weather. Several municipalities have current disaster declarations enacted. The National Weather Service (NWS) Pittsburgh has confirmed that February 2018 is recorded as receiving the highest level of precipitation on record for Allegheny County in the month of February. NWS Pittsburgh official records show from February 15<sup>th</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup>, a total of 9.68" of precipitation was recorded at Pittsburgh International Airport and 8.68" of precipitation was recorded at Allegheny County Airport.

ACES has communicated, and continues to communicate, the watches and warnings to all 130 municipal emergency management coordinators and first responders. ACES prepared for and organized a formal damage assessment process with the assistance of the PEMA Western Area Office beginning after the first back to back weeks of severe rainfall in late February. All known damages related to public assistance (PA) and individual assistance (IA) have been documented and the list continues to grow daily. Currently the PA number just for Allegheny County exceeds \$12.2 million. The IA number includes over 55 residences impacted and dozens of structures in danger of being impacted.

Many municipalities within Allegheny County are extremely stretched financially or have completely

exhausted their available budgets related to storm, rain and flooding damages, as well as landslide response – and we are only into early April with many spring weather events predicted. The continuous nature of these weather cycles has severely impacted every person and element of Allegheny County and continues to threaten the area with additional flooding and landslides as we speak. Resiliency is a cornerstone of Allegheny County in all aspects of government and with our residents; however, our combined capacity to recover from these extreme conditions continues to be in jeopardy and impactful to the residents of Allegheny County.

### The Geologist Perspective

The following excerpt is reprinted with permission by Ben Schmitt: *Historic Precipitation Drowns Western Pennsylvania in Landslides*. Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, May 4, 2018, <http://triblive.com>.

Bruce Roth can't remember a more active landslide season in Western Pennsylvania during his 30 years as a geotechnical engineer.

Blame the record-breaking wet weather.

"When you have more rain and the water table rises, that's a big factor in whether or not some of these slide-prone areas become unstable," said Roth, director of engineering for GAI Consultants in Homestead. Record-setting precipitation has given way to hundreds of landslides across Southwestern Pennsylvania, according to a PennDOT count.

Some 70 slides have been reported in PennDOT's District 11, which includes Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. More than 200 have been reported in both District 10 (including Armstrong, Butler and Indiana counties) and District 12 (made up of Greene, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties.)

From Jan. 1 through this week, the region broke a more than century-old record with 18.71 inches of precipitation. The normal is 11.25 inches.

(Continued on page 3)

## BOOTS: ALLEGHENY COUNTY

(continued from page 2)

The previous wettest start to a year occurred in 1890, with 18.43 inches of precipitation, according to Chris Leonardi, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Moon. The region's hilly areas, steep grades and geology are a perfect formula for landslides, Roth said.

Southwestern Pennsylvania is home to a type of rock called redbed — claystone that weakens and crumbles when it becomes wet. Redbed layers are particularly common in the region's hillsides.

"When redbed weathers to soil, that soil is very weak," Roth said. "Add water to that, and you have a landslide."

### The Continued Tasks and Impacts

Fast forward to today, Allegheny County has issued three disaster declarations thus far in 2018. The first related to landslides and embankment failures that resulted from record setting amounts of precipitation. Two additional declarations were made for flooding on June 20<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 5<sup>th</sup>. ACES continues to tally damage assessments related to all three disasters and, yes, the ground is still saturated and moving all over the county. Our Swiftwater/Flood Response Teams have completed hundreds of physical rescues since the start of the new year. We have completed assessment reviews for two of the disasters through the local, county, PEMA and FEMA. We have assisted in organizing multiple MARC's (multi-agency resource center) and now an SBA declaration.



Photo © Matt Brown

Most recently, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald created a Landslide Task Force which I am co-chairing along with Public Works Director Stephen G. Shanley, PE. The group is comprised of county emergency management, utility representatives, the National Weather Service, the US Army Corp of Engineers, PEMA, and regional geologist experts from the private sector and area universities. This task force is in the early stages, but plans to organize a shared mission related to regional flooding and landslides for the purposes of determining recommendations for improvement in preparedness and response of additional flooding and landslides. These are long-term issues that have the potential to continue to impact our county for many years to come

We continue to see large amounts of rain, often in short periods of time and in isolated areas throughout our county and region. The statements we made in early April continue to unfold almost every time it rains or storms – more flooding, more landslides, more embankment failures, more damage assessments and no quick solution. With effective communication and a resilient frame of operations, we will continue to improve and recover.

### **For more information, contact :**

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## PEMA DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

By Richard D. Flinn, Jr., Director

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency



I hope everyone is having an enjoyable and safe summer. I recently attended two events that provided excellent information that I shared at the recent In-Service Trainings throughout the state. I thought it would be valuable to you if I summarized some of the key points from these events. In this issue, I'll address the National Emergency Management Association's (NEMA) Board of Directors meeting.

I attended the Board of Director's meeting in Lexington, KY, that focused on NEMA's strategic plan. Dave Kauffman, former FEMA Associate Administrator, provided a session on Planning for the Future. Some of the key points provided were:

- Emergency Management tends to focus on looking back versus looking forward in preparedness, response, and recovery planning.
- The world continues to change and as emergency managers, we need to plan for those changes. Mr. Kauffman focused on four general areas of change:
  1. Population Growth
  2. Demographic / Population Diversity
  3. Public Health Challenges
  4. Global Warming
- Population Growth- 1.5 million people are added to the global population every week. Over 80 percent of that population will live in what was described as Mega Regions or primarily Urban Areas. The global population will increase by 60-million in the next 25 years.

- Demographic/Population Diversity:
  - A. Aging: The population will continue to have a greater number of senior citizens. It is estimated that by 2040 22 percent of the population will be 65 or older.
  - B. Diversity: We will continue to serve an increasing number of citizens that have cultural, religious and linguistic differences.
- Public Health Challenges: Increase in health issues ranging from obesity, diabetes to infectious diseases. We are already faced with Ebola, Zika and the Opioid Epidemic and the Health Funds from the Federal Government will or may continue to dwindle.
- Global Warming: Changes in Concentrations of Water - an example was given in a 12-month period two states, Missouri and Texas, saw record flooding one year and the very next year, record droughts. Additionally, we have experienced more intense storms from 10 inches of rain in a four hour period causing massive flash floods to landslides to tornadoes to severe wild fires.

The key point of this presentation was that as emergency managers, we must plan for addressing the consequences of the future.

In the next issue, I'll talk about the First Annual National Emergency Managers Leadership Conference.

Thank you for your continued dedication to emergency management and I hope you continue to have a great summer.



[www.nemaweb.org](http://www.nemaweb.org)



## Pennsylvania Landslides

Helen L. Delano P. G. | Senior Geologic Scientist

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey

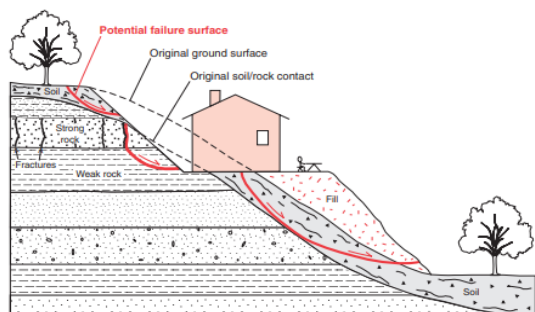
Landslides are natural features, but commonly interact with human infrastructure. Retaining walls fail. Water lines leak. Storm drains clog or leak or are diverted. These can be either contributing causes or effects of landslides.

There are multiple types of landslides but all involve material strength, slope and gravity. On a stable slope these are balanced, but when strength, weight or slope changes, support can fail and a landslide occurs. Depending on the strength of the rock and soil, landslides can occur even on fairly gentle slopes.



© WPXI Pittsburgh, March 27, 2018

The most common change triggering landslides is increased moisture which weakens soil or fill material. Heavy rain or a long period of wet weather leads to increased soil moisture. This is at the root of the winter/spring surge of landslide activity that has plagued southwestern Pennsylvania in 2018. We cannot control rainfall, but we can make sure that storm drains direct water away from sites where water will increase slide hazards. Aging infrastructure is another source of water. Small movement of a slide can rupture water or sewer line and become a larger problem very rapidly.



Some possible landslide types on a cut and filled slope common in residential developments in

In southwestern PA, two common landslide types are shallow debris flows and deeper seated soil and debris slumps and slides in rock, soil and/or fill. The shallow ones are commonly fast moving, involve only soil and trees and debris, and occur with heavy local rain events. Deep slides may creep slowly for months or years before speeding up suddenly with increased moisture and commonly reactivate after an apparent halt.

Managing safety in a landslide situation may need to include thinking bigger than the immediately obvious damage. Many active slides are small parts of larger, older complexes that have moved in the past. Progressive upslope failure, downslope movement of material, and disruption of roads

and utilities are common.

Landslides may damage buildings, but also affect roads, parking lots, wooded slopes and almost anywhere with a slope. Damage to community happens from commuter delays, loss of access from a closed road that is a key route for emergency vehicles, or a driveway or dead-end road that is the only access to homes. Damage to utility lines can make otherwise sound houses unusable.

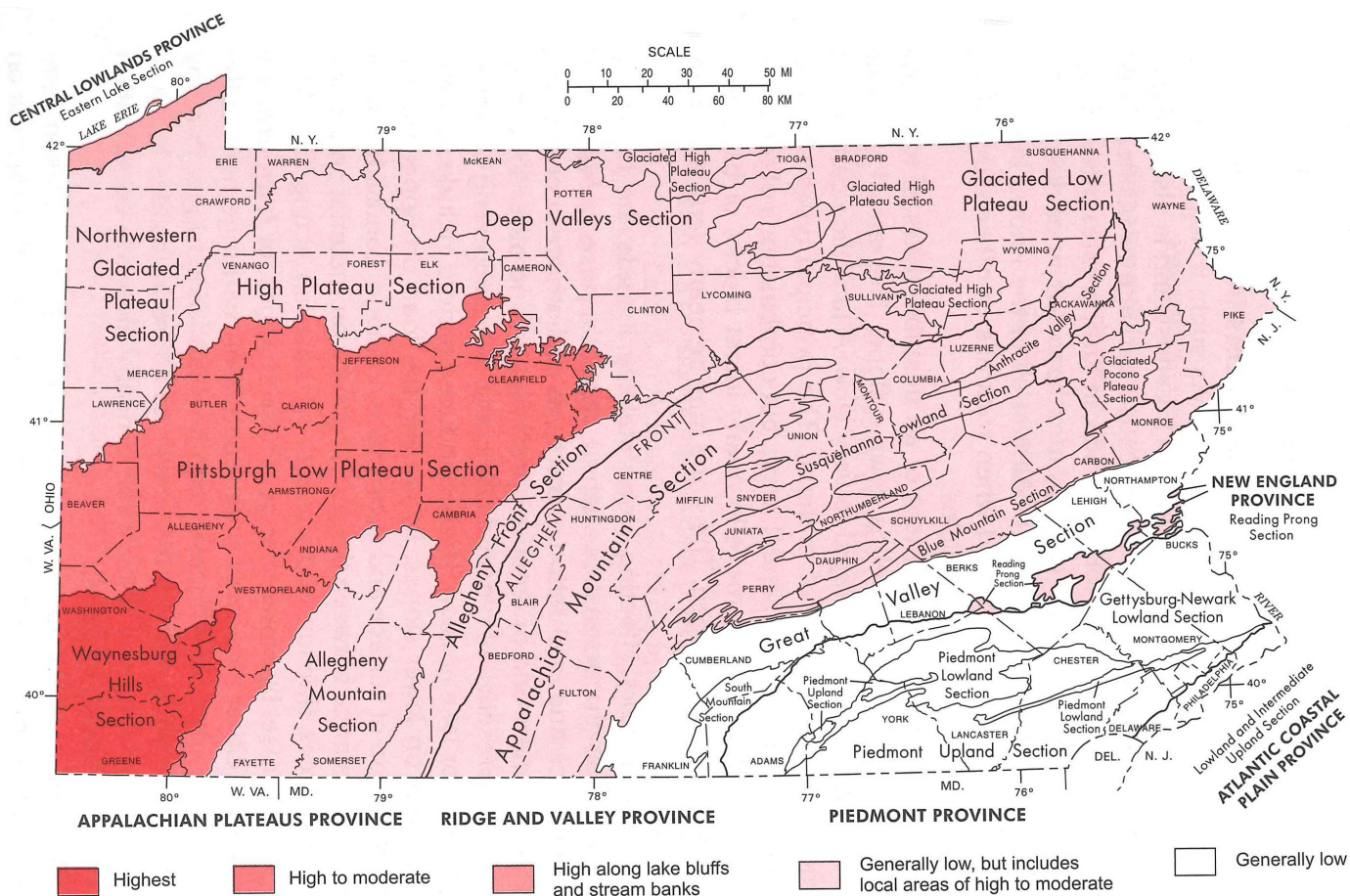
A landslide may slow or stop when the immediate source of water or stress is removed. The basic weakness remains and reactivation is easier than starting initial movement.

There is no specific legal structure for landslides in Pennsylvania, unless linked to another regulated

Links to more information can be found at <http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Geology/GeologicHazards/Landslides>

## Pennsylvania Landslides (continued from page 4)

### Pennsylvania Landslide Susceptibility



**Figure 1. The physiographic provinces and sections of Pennsylvania, and landslide susceptibility.**

#### Landslide Dos and Don'ts for homeowners to avoid potential disaster

- DO look at surrounding area for evidence of other potential movement and monitor for changes.
- DO try to divert or limit water flowing into a landslide area.
- DO consult licensed professional geologist or engineer familiar with slope stability and local geology to determine site conditions and develop plan of action.
- DO NOT add fill or excavate material from a landslide area without careful analysis of the entire site. It is easy to make the situation worse by hasty action.



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

[www.DCNR.pa.gov](http://www.DCNR.pa.gov)  
[www.DCNR.pa.gov/Geology](http://www.DCNR.pa.gov/Geology)

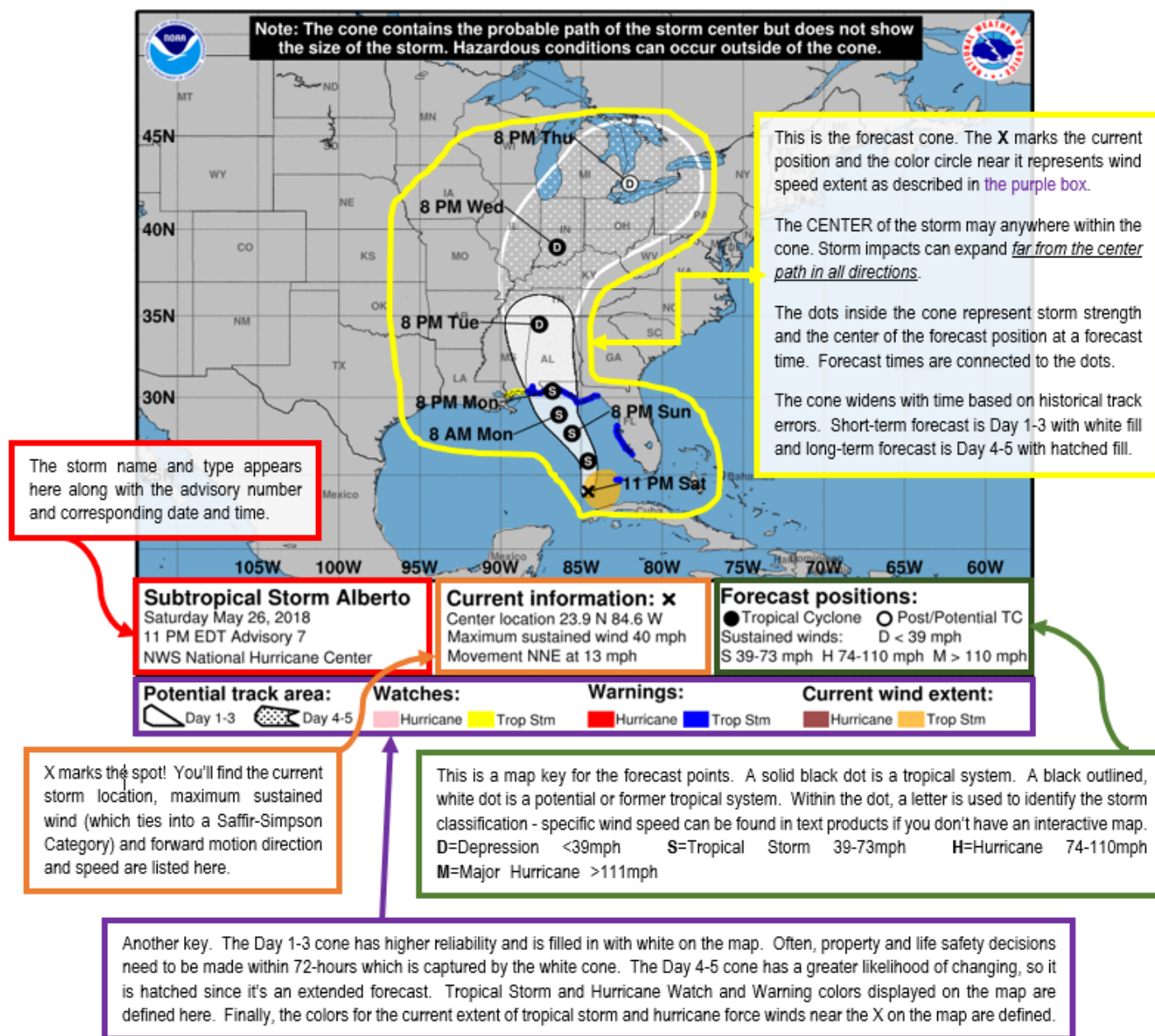
## MAPPING OUT THE DETAILS

By Jeff Jumper, State Meteorologist

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency

We're one month into hurricane season and we've already seen the National Hurricane Center (NHC) forecast maps posted for 2018. There is a lot of information contained on the map and this article is designed to be a mini-tutorial on some key points to consider when reading the NHC forecast map.

We'll use Subtropical Storm Alberto as our example. This is the NHC forecast from Saturday, May 26, 2018 at 11PM. The NHC typically issues new forecasts for storms every six hours (5 A.M., 11 A.M., 5 P.M., and 11 P.M) with position updates (usually 8 A.M., 2 P.M., 8 P.M., and 2 A.M). Details on how to read the map are below based on color coded parts of the map.



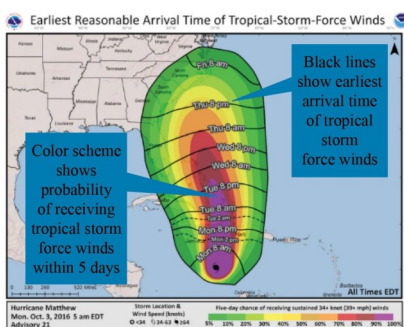


## 2018 HURRICANE SEASON

June 1st marked the annual beginning of the Atlantic hurricane season. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) posts forecasts for storms and their potential impacts at [www.hurricanes.gov](http://www.hurricanes.gov).

The NHC recently issued guidance for responders and the public. Below is what you can expect to see this season:

### Tropical Storm Wind Arrival Graphics:



Newly operational in 2018, they depict when tropical storm winds could begin for locations. These include the most likely arrival time and the earliest reasonable arrival time.

### Public Advisory:

Information about watches, warnings, and anticipated hazards. Previously, information was limited to a 48-hour discussion of the forecast. This year, Public Advisories will discuss the track and intensity forecast routinely through 72 hours, and allow the flexibility to discuss the forecast through five days when conditions warrant.

### Potential Tropical Cyclones:

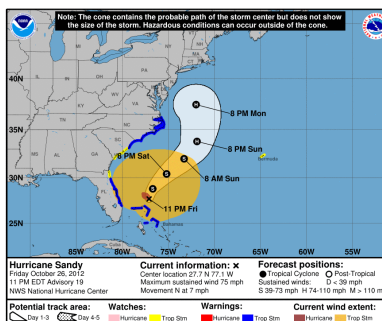
The NHC can initiate advisories for systems that are not yet Tropical Cyclones, if they could bring Tropical Storm or Hurricane conditions to land within 48 hours.

**DID YOU KNOW?**



The National Hurricane Center does not control the naming of tropical storms. Instead, there is a strict procedure established by the World Meteorological Organization. For Atlantic hurricanes, there is a list of male and female names which are used on a six-year rotation.

### Cone Graphic with Initial Wind Field:



Last season, the NHC added the initial wind field to the forecast cone graphic. This change reinforces that the forecast cone is not an impact graphic and hazards can occur well outside the cone.

### Important Definitions:

**Hurricane Watch** - Hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area, generally within 48 hours of the onset of tropical storm force winds.

**Hurricane Warning** - Hurricane conditions are expected within the warning area, generally within 36 hours of the onset of tropical storm force winds.

**Storm Surge Watch** - There is the possibility of life-threatening inundation generally within 48 hours.

**Storm Surge Warning** - There is a danger of life-threatening inundation generally within 36 hours.

**Tropical Depression** - Sustained winds are less than 39 mph

**Tropical Storm** - Sustained winds are between 39 and 73 mph

**Hurricane** - Sustained winds are 74 mph or greater

**Major Hurricane** - Sustained winds are 111 mph or greater

### 2018 Atlantic Hurricane Names

<i>Alberto</i>	Helene	Oscar
<i>Beryl</i>	Isaac	Patty
<i>Chris</i>	Joyce	Rafael
<i>Debby</i>	Kirk	Sara
<i>Ernesto</i>	Leslie	Tony
Florence	Michael	Valerie
Gordon	Nadine	William







## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Westburn Majors

Legislative Liaison, PEMA

### Title 35 Update

**BUDGET:** After months of negotiation with bipartisan legislative leaders, Governor Wolf signed the General Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018-2019 ahead of the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. The \$32.7 billion spending plan, represents a 1.7 percent increase over the previous year with no increases in state taxes or fees.

This bi-partisan budget includes continuing investments in education and workforce development and expands options for access to quality, affordable healthcare, increase funding for public safety, environmental protection, as well as working to streamline government to better serve Pennsylvanians.

**OPIOIDS:** On June 28<sup>th</sup> Governor Wolf announced the second renewal of his 90-day opioid disaster declaration, which was introduced in January, renewed in April and set to expire July 4<sup>th</sup>. The renewal allows for the initiatives introduced in the past 180 days to continue without interruption, including the enhanced collaboration across state government through regional Opioid Command Center meetings and increased data collection with the Opioid Data Dashboard.

In addition to the extension of the opioid declaration, the Governor signed Senate Bill 978 into law which gives hospice staff the authority to properly destroy unused drugs following a patient's death. Previously, hospice staff had to return any unused pharmaceuticals to the family. This bill, sponsored by Senator Lisa Baker, was designed to streamline the disposal process for unused medication as well as to prevent prescribed drugs from falling into the wrong hands.

The General Assembly is currently recessed for the summer. The Legislature is scheduled to return to session after the Labor Day holiday. When they do return, there are only 11 voting days planned to close out the 2017-2018 Legislative Session.

This provides the Legislature with a very small window to move legislation that PEMA would like to

see signed into law.

### Senate Bill 1001: Creation of a Public Health Emergency Declaration

- In April, Senator Costa introduced legislation to empower the Secretary of Health to declare a public health emergency. This would provide for a streamlined tool for deploying resources to deal with opioid or another health crisis.
- Prior to the break for summer recess, the Senate unanimously passed an amended version of the bill to create the designation of a Public Health Emergency Declaration, which empowers the Department of Health to waive regulations, create new temporary regulations, publish notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin for tracking and treating a disease, illness, or event, and allow public workers to provide treatment to control the emergency.
- The bill is currently awaiting consideration in the House Health Committee.

### Senate Bill 1019: Title 35 Rewrite

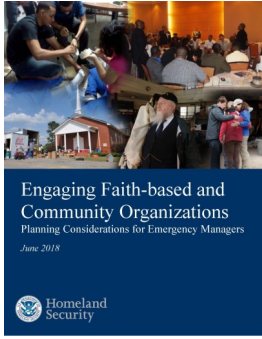
On June 13<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee met to consider Senate Bill 1019. The bill, sponsored by Senator Vulakovich, provides for the update to the Emergency Management Services Code known as Title 35. The bill, as originally drafted, made revisions that PEMA recommended after years of work with our stakeholder community.

The Senate committee adopted several amendments to the bill, including:

- Technical changes agreed to by PEMA, CCAP, PSATS, and the Boroughs Association.
- Requiring Senate confirmation of the PEMA Director.
- Repealing the prohibition on firearm sales during an emergency declaration.
- Adding the Fire Commissioner and chair of the Geospatial Coordination Board as voting members of the 9-1-1 Advisory Board.
- Extending the 9-1-1 law for an additional two years, June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2021.
- Clarifying language that online training is available for career and volunteer firefighters; expanding eligible use of fire grants and fire relief funding. (*continued next page*)

## Engaging Faith-Based and Community Organizations: Planning Considerations for Emergency Managers

By Karl Jones, Secretary  
Pennsylvania VOAD



Recently, released by FEMA and the DHS Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives, this guide provides a methodology for emergency managers to engage with faith-based and community organizations in enhancing the resiliency of our communities. By identifying, engaging, and building partnerships with these groups, particularly those in racially, ethnically, economically, and religiously diverse communities, emergency managers can provide training and technical assistance to strengthen their skills, connect them with existing partners, and then integrate them into emergency management plans and exercises before an event occurs thus increasing response and recovery capability. This document also provides lists of resources available to help build relationships between emergency management and faith-based and community organizations.

To download a copy, click here: [Engaging Faith-based and Community Organizations: Planning Considerations for Emergency Managers](#), or visit: <https://www.fema.gov/plan>.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE *(Continued From Page 7)*

The bill *is* currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. This committee reviews the legislation to determine if it will have any fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. Senate Bill 1019 will need to be voted out of committee, and the full Senate before receiving consideration in the House.

PEMA and the administration have concerns with the bill in its current form, including language that requires Senate confirmation of the PEMA Director, and repealing the Governor's ability to prohibit firearm sales during an emergency declaration.

### PEMA GRANTS UPDATE



The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is pleased to announce the implementation of Electronic Single Application (ESA) and electronic signature (E-Signature) on federal and state-funded grants to be issued for the upcoming State Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Radiation Emergency Response Fund (RERF) and Hazardous Material Response Fund (HMRF), and the Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP).

PEMA will issue E-Signature invitations via email to the authorized signatories within the county whose names the agency has on file. Each signer will be required to complete a one-time individual registration in the ESA E-Signature system. Once registered, each individual who is issued an E-Signature notification via email will be required to utilize the User ID and Password established at the time of registration.



#### Important Dates

7/15 - EMGP 3rd Quarter Report Due  
7/31 - HMRF Final Report Due  
7/31 - RERF Final Report Due  
8/31 - HSGP Closes

For questions or more information, contact the PEMA Bureau of Grants Management at [RA-dgmhmgrants@pa.gov](mailto:RA-dgmhmgrants@pa.gov)

Additionally, upon consideration and understanding of the strong concerns expressed by the EM community throughout the process to date, PEMA will pursue removal of language that would expand the executive board of regional task forces.

PEMA remains engaged and will continue to work with the General Assembly to address these issues prior to the end of this session.

If the bill does not reach the Governor's Desk prior to the end of the session, then all interested parties will need to start this process over in the 2019-2020 session which begins in January.

## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS



FEMA's National Preparedness Assessment Division released the updated Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 201 to reflect the changes in methodology for the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and the Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), formerly the State Preparedness Report. The updated methodology goes into effect this year.

### Updated SPR Methodology for 2018

Jurisdictions will now:

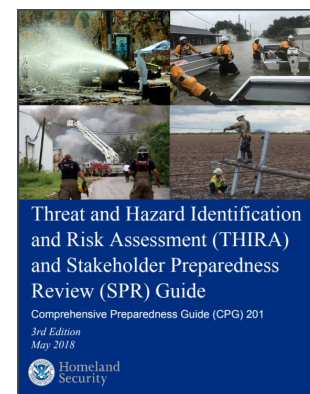
- Report a numerical capability gap based on their capability target;
- Identify specific POETE areas that contain gaps;
- Provide free text descriptions for each POETE area;
- Describe their intended approaches to bridge those capability gaps – This will be the basis for projects in FY2019

### Pennsylvania THIRA Process for 2018

- Step 1: Identify Threats and Hazards
- Step 2: Define Contexts and Impacts
- Step 3: Set Capability Targets

### Pennsylvania SPR Process for 2018

- Step 1: Access Capabilities
- Step 2: Identify and Address Capability Gaps
- Step 3: Report Grant Impacts on Gaps



### Next Steps

- PEMA will continue to schedule meetings with the task forces, and looking for additional data from counties to help complete the process
- PEMA will send out guidance and tools so you may gather information prior to meetings:
- Whole Community Input Form (pre-filled with the scenarios, impacts, and statements)
- CPG 201 v3 & Summary
- NIMS Reporting
- ALL THIRA/SPR information (on your Whole Community input forms) are due to PEMA no later than September 30, 2018.

For more information, please see CPG-201, 3rd Edition, available at:

<https://www.fema.gov/threat-and-hazard-identification-and-risk-assessment>.

For Assistance from PEMA, contact one of the following:

- Kirsten Cohick, NIMS Coordinator at [kcohick@pa.gov](mailto:kcohick@pa.gov)
- Robert Goodman, Planner 2 at [rogoodman@pa.gov](mailto:rogoodman@pa.gov)
- Lexi Passaro, Planner 2 at [apassaro@pa.gov](mailto:apassaro@pa.gov)



## PENNSYLVANIA'S NEW FIREWORKS LAW



House Bill 542 was signed into law on October 30, 2017. Under the new law, the Fireworks Act of 1939 was repealed and replaced in its entirety. The questions and answers below highlight the most noteworthy changes.

Q: Which fireworks are Pennsylvania residents now allowed to purchase and use?

A: Consumers can now purchase and use "Class C" or "consumer-grade" fireworks that include firecrackers, Roman Candles, bottle rockets, and similar fireworks that contain a maximum of 50 milligrams of explosive material. The expansion includes those fireworks that were previously only available to out-of-state residents.



"Display fireworks," which are classified as including salutes that contain more than two grains or 130 milligrams of explosive materials, and professional-grade aerial shells containing more than 60 grams of pyrotechnic compositions, are still only to be used by professionals with a permit from the municipality where the display will take place.

Q: Who can purchase fireworks?

A: Anyone 18 years of age or older can purchase them.

Q: What are the restrictions on where they can be used?

A: They cannot be ignited or discharged on a public or private property without express permission of the property owner.

- They cannot be discharged from or within a motor vehicle or building.
- They cannot be discharged toward a motor vehicle or building.
- They cannot be discharged within 150 feet of an occupied structure.
- They cannot be discharged while the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or another drug.
- Also, it is recommended that you check with your local municipality, as you may also be subject to applicable local ordinances.

Q: Where can the fireworks be purchased?

A: They can be purchased at any licensed facility, including temporary ones. The licenses are issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Examples of temporary facilities include tents or other structures found in parking lots. These temporary structures can sell fireworks between the dates of June 15<sup>th</sup> through July 8<sup>th</sup>, and December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup> each year. For more information on Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture licensing, go to [http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Business\\_Industry/fireworks/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Business_Industry/fireworks/Pages/default.aspx)

## PENNSYLVANIA DISASTER IN HISTORY

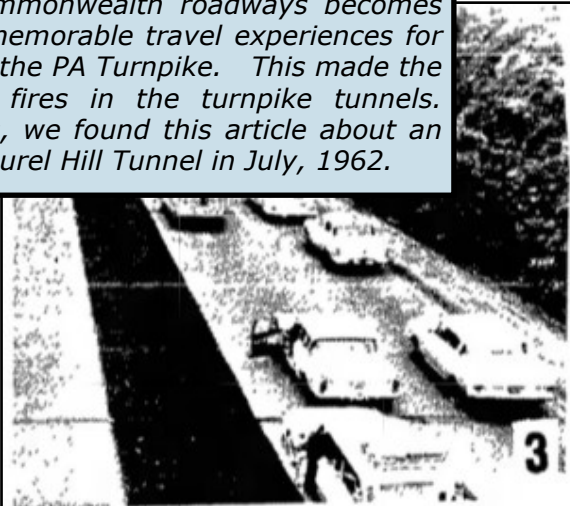
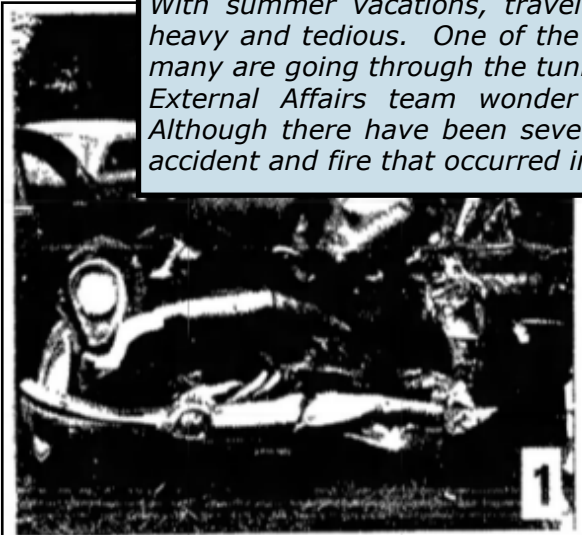
The Troy Record New York 1962-07-17

### Somerset, PA Collision Inside Tunnel, July 1962

Crash Kills Pair; 23 Hurt.

Somerset, Pa. (AP) - An elderly out-of-state couple were killed yesterday in a fiery accident inside the Laurel Hill Tunnel of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. At least 23 persons were taken to a hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation, State Police report. The dead were identified as Elmer J. Burnsvold, 76, of Tampa, Fla., and his wife, Maude, about 75. State Police said the couple were killed in a collision between a car and tractor-trailer hauling steel. The man was dead on arrival at Frick Memorial Hospital in Mount Pleasant, and the woman died there shortly after arrival. A fire caused by the collision choked the tunnel with dense smoke, hampering the efforts of police and firefighters to untangle the resulting traffic jam and reach the accident. But firemen extinguished the blaze some 80 minutes after it began. At least 23 persons were taken to the Somerset Community Hospital for treatment for shock and smoke inhalation and at least twelve of them were hospitalized, a hospital spokesman said.

*With summer vacations, travel on commonwealth roadways becomes heavy and tedious. One of the most memorable travel experiences for many are going through the tunnels on the PA Turnpike. This made the External Affairs team wonder about fires in the turnpike tunnels. Although there have been several fires, we found this article about an accident and fire that occurred in the Laurel Hill Tunnel in July, 1962.*



#### IN TRAFFIC MISHAP

A head-on collision near the east end of the Laurel Hill tunnel on the Pennsylvania Turnpike near the Donegal exit killed two elderly persons and sent 26 to the hospital suffering from smoke inhalation Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer J. Brunsvold, of Tampa, Fla., aged 78 and 75, died when their car, (photos 1 and 2) struck a tractor and trailer driven by Merle Eutsey of Stahlstown.

An apparent rupture of side gas tanks on the rig caused the truck to burst into flames seconds after Eutsey escaped. He was uninjured.

Photo 1 shows the driver's side of the death car which took most of the impact. This side was also damaged by the fire.

Photo 2 shows the passenger's side with the front end bent in the crash.

Traffic was held up along the turnpike for hours, with most cars being re-routed over the tunnel by-pass, usually used when weekend and holiday traffic causes an overload of the Laurel Hill tunnel. Traffic on Route 31 was heavy, but not nearly as congested as this view, photo 3, of the turnpike facing east just before the Donegal exit.

At times the traffic was backed up for a reported 15 miles at this end, with traffic at the Somerset exit coming west in nearly the same condition.

(Courier Photos—by Richard L. Sine)

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## UPCOMING TRAINING—August/September

Session Name	Start Date	Location	Registration Deadline
Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) Train-the-Trainer	7-Aug-18	Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center	20-Jul-18
AWR343 Hurricane Awareness Course	9-Aug-18	Montgomery County EOC	2-Aug-18
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PEMA Headquarters Orientation for Emergency Management Coordinators	10-Aug-18	PEMA Headquarters Rm 127 (Elmerton Ave)	6-Aug-18
AWR232 Mass Fatalities Planning and Response for Rural Communities AWR-232	11-Aug-18	Cumberland County Department of Public Safety	27-Jul-18
AWR136 Essentials of Community Cybersecurity (AWR-136)	13-Aug-18	PEMA Headquarters Rm 112 (Elmerton Ave)	13-Aug-18
L948 Situational Awareness and Common Operational Picture for EOCs	14-Aug-18	Montgomery County Fire Academy	7-Aug-18
Flood Proofing Workshop (Afternoon format)	14-Aug-18	York County OEM	14-Aug-18
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nonstructural Flood Risk Management Workshop	14-Aug-18	York County OEM	13-Aug-18
Flood Proofing Workshop (Afternoon format)	15-Aug-18	Trade and Transit Center	15-Aug-18
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nonstructural Flood Risk Management Workshop	15-Aug-18	Trade and Transit Center	14-Aug-18
G386 Mass Fatalities incident Response Course	16-Aug-18	Chester County Public Safety Training Campus	10-Aug-18
Flood Proofing Workshop (Afternoon format)	16-Aug-18	Wellsboro Borough Fire Department	15-Aug-18
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nonstructural Flood Risk Management Workshop	16-Aug-18	Wellsboro Borough Fire Department	15-Aug-18
G191 ICS/EOC Interface Workshop (G-191)	17-Aug-18	PEMA Headquarters Rm 112 (Elmerton Ave)	17-Aug-18
MGT385 Community Cybersecurity Exercise Planning (MGT-385 cyber) (TEEX)	30-Aug-18	PEMA Headquarters Rm 112 (Elmerton Ave)	27-Aug-18
G290 Basic Public Information Officer	30-Aug-18	Chester County Public Safety Training Campus	24-Aug-18
MGT384 Community Preparedness for Cyber Incidents (MGT-384)	30-Aug-18	PEMA Headquarters Room 112B	5-Aug-18
PER335 Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks	5-Sep-18	Northampton County EOC	31-Aug-18
AWR147 Rail Car Incident Response (AWR-147 RDPC format)	8-Sep-18	Lebanon County Fire School	8-Sep-18
MGT418 Readiness: Training Identification Preparedness Planning	11-Sep-18	Bucks County Public Safety Training Center	1-Aug-18
G271 Hazardous Weather and Flooding Preparedness	12-Sep-18	Clarion University	12-Sep-18

To register, visit Train PA: <https://pa.train.org>







## Need Ideas For Getting The Word Out?

Each month, the PEMA External Affairs Office distributes numerous preparedness resources designed to help make communicating to your communities about preparedness easy. We encourage everyone to share this valuable information with their partner agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, family and friends.

These tools are emailed each month and are also available on at [www.ready.pa.gov](http://www.ready.pa.gov).



**ReadyPA Monthly** - Community preparedness information designed for citizens. Forward to libraries, schools, local municipalities, etc.



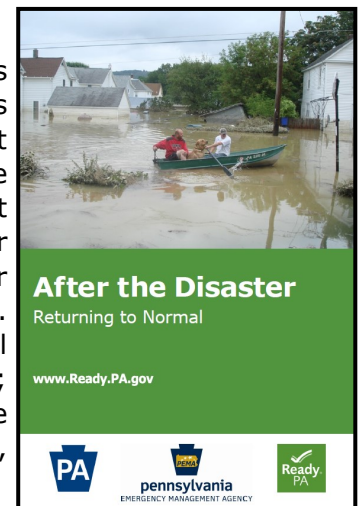
**Fact Sheets** - One-page preparedness material about a specific hazard. Please make this easily printed information available to your community members, elected officials, civic organizations, and anyone who could benefit from this valuable information.



**Talking Points and Social Media Toolkit** - Graphics, tweet suggestions, and talking points for you to use on social media, websites, and when speaking to groups.

### Featured Emergency Manager Tool

During the recovery phase of a disaster, disaster survivors do not always know where to turn for assistance. The After the Disaster booklet is designed to provide disaster survivors with information to help them get their lives back to normal. It provides information on how to help take care of your family and pets; how to deal with damaged property; and what documentation you will need to contact your insurance company, bank, or other entities. In addition, it provides names and contact information for agencies that may be available in the area to assist with the recovery. Finally, the booklet has a section where the disaster survivor can write vital information into the booklet such as location of the loss; vehicles destroyed; insurance company name; and more. The After the Disaster Booklet will be available to the county emergency management agencies after a disaster, through the PEMA area offices.



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