



EMergent News

November—December 2019

Engaging You, Engaging the Community

RADIOLOGICAL DIRECTIVE D2019-5 NOW IN EFFECT

By Laurin E. Fleming, Emergency Management Specialist
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Bureau of Technological Hazards

Radiological preparedness is one part of an All Hazards Readiness the Commonwealth needs. With five nuclear power plants, scores of radioactive shipments annually, daily movement of radiopharmaceuticals, and thousands of applications for radioactive materials in the Commonwealth there is a need for a robust radiological response capability.

Since the 1980s, Pennsylvania has maintained the training and certification of radiological responders across the Commonwealth. It is our desire that each county maintain a trained and equipped group of certified radiological responders to cover the immediate needs and decision making should an incident occur. Each county should assess its radiological risks and provide the correct level of preparedness for the likely hazards that it might face – some counties will need robust capacity due to proximity to know radiological concerns while others may need far less.

D2019-5 replaces D2014-1 which lays out the requirements for radiological responders to achieve certification and establishes an expectation for counties to have and maintain at least a limited capacity for response. This revision clears up some of the areas of misinterpretation and attempts to simplify the previous directive.



PA Department of Corrections receives G-320 Class

The executive summary of the directive requires that each county have a minimum of four radiological response technicians who can perform basic response duties and a radiological officer who has more advanced knowledge to lead the technicians, provide sound guidance to incident command or the Emergency Operations Center, and maintain the counties radiological documents, equipment, and personnel. The directive defines

the training and ongoing certification of these personnel and provides for surge training of personnel should an event occur. *(continued on next page)*



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NEW RADIOLOGICAL DIRECTIVE

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The certification program is maintained so that there is a training commonality of first responders across the Commonwealth. This program provides both the initial and ongoing training standards and addresses the certification of competent instructors to maintain an ongoing program. The directive does allow for counties to combine with other counties to meet the requirement for a radiological response element or to allow the contracted county Hazardous Materials Response Team to fill the need.

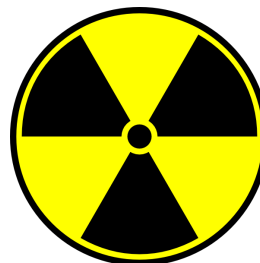
Each county should have the plans and resources in place to handle a radiological incident, commensurate with their risk, should a radiological incident take place. The intent is that the local teams will provide the initial support and response until other trained responders and resources can be mobilized and arrive. This directive supports that goal by specifying and maintaining the capabilities of the responders.

Counties looking to begin or upgrade radiological response, train radiological responders, or have other related questions can contact Laurin Fleming who is the coordinator of radiological training across the Commonwealth.



Laurin Fleming instructs during the 2019 RODEO held at PEMA Headquarters in Harrisburg

Photos from 2019 RODEO held at PEMA Headquarters in Harrisburg



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NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) AWARD



October 28, 2019 Presentation
Town Hall, Town of Bloomsburg, Columbia County

Throughout the United States, there are well over 20,000 communities participating in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, with 2,477 of them located here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Each participating community must meet certain minimum criteria in order to gain and maintain its basic NFIP participation status.

Nationally, a relative handful (approximately 5%) of these communities choose to go above and beyond the minimum requirements for NFIP participation, and these additional efforts and activities result in a community that is both safer and better prepared for future flooding events.

In addition, these communities qualify themselves to participate in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) Program, a program which includes 10 different class rating levels based on the number and types of activities voluntarily initiated by the community. The 10 different levels involve an ascending scale of premium discounts being applied to the NFIP flood insurance policies written in the community.

The Town of Bloomsburg was recognized because, effective October 1, 2019, they had achieved the distinction of a Class 7 rating (from a Class 8) on the CRS scale, one of only 35 PA communities to qualify for participation in this elite program and one of only 7 PA communities that have achieved a 7.

Perhaps more tangible to the residents of Bloomsburg, the Class 7 rating qualifies each NFIP policyholder there for an average \$207.00 (approx. 15% reduction) savings on their annual premium. Overall, the Town of Bloomsburg's CRS accomplishment resulted in a total annual savings of \$57,863.00 for NFIP policyholders within the Town.

Take time to recognize the Town of Bloomsburg for its leadership, hard work and accomplishments. On behalf of the Federal Insurance Administrator and the National Flood Insurance Program, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, congratulations and thank you



Teri Provost, SEDA-COG, Charlie Fritz, Town of Bloomsburg CRS Coordinator and Tom Hughes, PEMA, Acting NFIP Program Manager



Bloomsburg Town Counsel receives recognition on October 28, 2019

WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS



When it comes to Pennsylvania, we tend to see wintry weather anywhere from October through April, with the greatest impact typically during the months of January, February, and March. Snow, sleet, ice, heavy rain, cold, wind, flooding, and ice jams can all impact Pennsylvania during winter. Learn more about winter weather and preparedness from the Pennsylvania State Meteorologist Jeff Jumper.

The terms "**Winter Storm**" or "**Winter Weather**" are all-encompassing for storms containing snow, ice or both, and are the most common set of terms you will see during Pennsylvania winters. Freezing rain covers general icing, while ice storm is reserved for significant ice accumulations that can produce major and widespread damage to property, trees, and utilities. Blizzard is reserved for a storm with blowing snow and strong wind lasting at least three hours (it does not have to be actively snowing for a blizzard). Snow squalls are small, short-lived, bursts of snow and wind which reduce visibility and slicken roadways. Wind chills and damaging non-storm winds are sometimes dangerous too during the winter, and can result in special NWS alerts. Any frost/freeze alerts are issued around agriculture and growing season. Of course flooding from snowmelt, heavy rain, or ice jams and severe weather alerts can be mixed in on rare occasions. We even had several tornadoes in recent years during February!

Snow squalls are not new, but our understanding of what causes them and how dangerous they can be to drivers has improved drastically in recent years. Similar to a thunderstorm, a snow squall is a brief and intense storm moving quickly and covering a small area. Snow squalls create instant whiteout, blinding conditions while quickly slickening the roadway. Drivers often go from clear, sunny, cold weather on dry pavement into a wall of white, with icy roadways in a matter of seconds. Numerous multi-vehicle accidents have occurred on Pennsylvania interstates over the years because of snow squalls, with limited warning to drivers.

The National Weather Service (NWS) will issue a few different alerts for winter weather hazards, including winter storm, ice storm, freezing rain, wind chill, blizzard, and snow squall. Each of these hazards are unique, but all should be taken seriously. A few days prior to an event, the NWS may issue a **watch** when the ingredients are coming together for winter weather, but the confidence and details are still a bit uncertain. Closer to a winter weather event, an **advisory or warning** may be issued. An **advisory** is issued when wintry weather is *likely*, but is more of an *inconvenience, nuisance, or a disruption*. A **warning**, the most serious alert, is issued when wintry weather is *likely* and may be a *threat to life and property*. You can receive these messages on TV, radio, weather radio, phone or email. Be sure to visit [AlertPA](#) to sign up for notifications. The graphic at the right provides a simplified pictorial explanation for the terms outlook, watch, advisory, and warning.



COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT



Radiation Specialist Course Announcement Meridian, MS January 27th - 31st, 2020



The US Department of Energy (DOE) Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) is offering a Radiation Specialist Course in Meridian, MS the week of January 27th - 31st, 2020. The five-day training session will be held at the Meridian Public Safety Training Facility. This course is designed to meet the training competencies outlined in the 2018 version of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 472, Chapter 18 *Competencies for the Hazardous Materials Technician with a Radioactive Material Specialty*. The training will be held Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. On Friday training will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m.

The goal of this program is to provide the Radiation Specialist with the knowledge and skills to perform the following tasks safely:

- Analyze a hazardous materials incident involving radioactive materials to determine the complexity of the problem and potential outcomes.
- Plan a response for an emergency involving radioactive material within the capabilities and competencies of available personnel, personal protective equipment, and control equipment based on an analysis of the radioactive material incident.
- Implement the planned response to a hazardous materials incident involving radioactive material.

The course will include the use of high activity “live” radiation sources. Students are encouraged to bring their jurisdiction’s radiological survey instrumentation. The training will provide students the opportunity to work with and gain experience using those instruments in a field of radiation. This is an advanced level training course and students will be expected to be proficient in basic algebra, in addition to meeting the following technical prerequisites:

- Technician Level Hazardous Materials Certification
- Completion of the US Department of Energy’s Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT), DHS/FEMA Radiological Response Team Initial Course, or equivalent
- Completion of NIMS, ICS-100 & 200 Incident Command Courses

If you are selected for attendance, there will be no tuition cost for the training course. Students are responsible for their own travel-related expenses (lodging, per diem, etc.). Further information on lodging locations and other logistics will be provided once students are accepted into the course. Seating for this course is limited to 35 students. If you are interested in attending, please complete the [course application](#).

If you have questions about the course, feel free to telephone Tom Clawson at (208) 528-8895 or email tom@trgroupinc.com. For a detailed listing of the Radiation Specialist Course Chapter and Objective listing, visit <http://www.trgroupinc.com/specialist/>.

Course Application Link: <https://trginc.wufoo.com/forms/mississippi-radiation-specialist-2020/>

KEMA NEWS



Keystone Emergency Management Association

As a professional organization, KEMA's mission is to promote collaboration across a statewide forum for the exchange of ideas, information, and best practices in the field of emergency management. Membership is open to all emergency management and public safety professionals across all levels of government, as well as the non-profit and private sectors, voluntary organizations, or any individual interested in gaining a better understanding of emergency management in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Membership benefits include

- Access to a broad network of emergency management professionals;
- Networking opportunities across all levels of government;
- Access to the annual conference;
- Voting and nomination privileges, including Executive Board and Committee positions;
- Growth and development opportunities;
- Updates on and the ability to provide inputs to legislative changes;
- Mentorship, employment, and/or collaborative partnerships with industry professionals.

Please join us for our 2019 Emergency Preparedness Conference at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, PA from October 27 – 29, 2019!

Please go to <http://kemaconference.com> for more information.



PA-VOAD UPDATE

The Pennsylvania Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (PA-VOAD) held their annual meeting and dinner in Altoona on Sunday, October 27th. The keynote speaker for the event was MaryAnn M. Tierney, Regional Administrator for FEMA Region III.

During the meeting, the slate of officers for the PA-VOAD were elected. Their new officers are:

- ✓ President: Ed Robertson, Episcopal Diocese of Central PA
- ✓ Vice President: Kenton Hunt, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief
- ✓ Secretary: Karl Jones, PA Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ
- ✓ Treasurer: Kelly Gollick, CONTACT Helpline



FEMA Region III Administrator,
MaryAnn Tierney



Stephen Michelone, PA DHS, thanking the
PA-VOAD

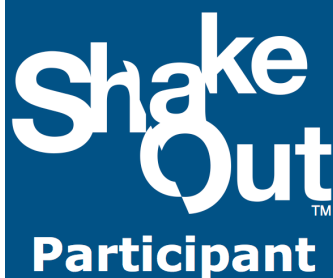
Also during the meeting, Stephen Michelone, PA Department of Human Services, was presented with a plaque expressing the appreciation of the PA-VOAD for his time as the Volunteer Agency Liaison (VAL) during his years at PEMA. Congratulations Steve and all the newly elected officers of the PA-VOAD.



Pennsylvania
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

2019 GREAT SHAKEOUT



**Shake
Out**
Participant

shakeout.org

Thank you for participating in the 2019 Great ShakeOut. This year, more than 24.1 million people participated in ShakeOut on October 17th. They are a part of millions around the world holding earthquake drills and exercises all throughout the year. Congratulations for making 2019 another record-breaking year. As a reminder, International ShakeOut day is every third Thursday of October, but you can register and hold a drill on any day of the year too.

Pennsylvania is part of the Northeast ShakeOut Region along with New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. The total participation for the northeast was 215,000 plus. Pennsylvania had the largest participation with 157,670. Here is a breakdown of the states in the northeast.

| State | Participants | State | Participants |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pennsylvania | 157,670 | Connecticut | 7,952 |
| Massachusetts | 19,914 | New York | 5,062 |
| New Hampshire | 11,878 | Vermont | 48 |
| New Jersey | 9,266 | Maine | 43 |

Pennsylvania Participation in the 2019 Great ShakeOut by groups

REMINDER

2020 Great ShakeOut day is
Thursday, October 15th
at 10:15 a.m.



| Category | Registrants |
|---|----------------|
| Total: | 157,670 |
| Individuals/Families | 69 |
| Childcare and Pre-Schools | 765 |
| K-12 Schools and Districts | 145,921 |
| Colleges and Universities | 3,300 |
| Local Government | 201 |
| State Government | 225 |
| Federal Government (Including Military) | 800 |
| Tribes | 0 |
| Businesses | 3,650 |
| Hotels and Other Lodgings | 0 |
| Healthcare | 2,259 |
| Senior Facilities/Communities | 275 |
| Disability/AFN Organizations | 0 |
| Non-Profit Organizations | 160 |
| Neighborhood Groups | 0 |
| Preparedness Organizations | 0 |
| Faith-based Organizations | 0 |
| Museums, Libraries, Parks, etc. | 0 |
| Volunteer/Service Clubs | 0 |
| Youth Organizations | 0 |
| Animal Shelter/Service Providers | 0 |
| Agriculture/Livestock | 0 |
| Volunteer Radio Groups | 0 |
| Science/Engineering Organizations | 0 |
| Media Organizations | 0 |
| Other | 45 |



PEMA GRANTS UPDATE

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Bureau of Grants Management, is providing this timeline as a reminder for when performance reports are due for the below listed grants

| Grant | Performance Report Due Dates |
|---|---|
| Hazardous Materials Response Fund (HMRF) | Due no later than 30 days after the end of the performance period |
| Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) | 1st Quarter (October 1 to December 31) - January 15 |
| | 2nd Quarter (January 1 to March 31) - April 15 |
| | 3rd Quarter (April 1 to June 30) - July 15 |
| | 4th Quarter (July 1 to September 30) - October 15 |
| Radiation Emergency Response Grant (RERF) | Due No later than 30 days after the end of the performance period |

Important things to remember

Due dates for applications cannot be extended.

All grant applications must be submitted using the Electronic Single Application (ESA)

Designated signatories must have a User ID and Password

There currently are no open application in the ESA

Questions regarding grants, contact:
ra-dgmhmgrants@pa.gov

ESA login:
<https://www.esa.dced.state.pa.us>

Guidance

For further guidance and instructions for each grant, please visit:

<https://www.pema.pa.gov/about/Pages/Grants.aspx>

Reminders

Deadline and due dates may vary from year to year; please refer to PEMA guidance for each individual grant.

EMPG reimbursement requests or performance reports due quarterly on the 15th of the month after the quarter ends.



FEMA FEMA UPDATE

THE FEMA PODCAST

Now available

Download episodes from
iTunes or fema.gov/podcast



FEMA Podcast Episode 51: "A Walking Tour of the National Response Coordination Center"

In episode 51, listen in on a walking tour of the National Response Coordination Center from Josh Dozor, the Deputy Assistant Administrator for FEMA Response Directorate, during the recent Hurricane Dorian

activations. The NRCC includes representatives from across the federal government that help to coordinate the overall federal response and recovery.

The FEMA podcast is an audio program series available to anyone interested in learning more about the Agency, hearing about innovation in the field of emergency management, and listening to stories about communities and individuals recovering after disasters.

PREP Talks

New perspectives for emergency managers

FEMA Releases PrepTalk: "Our Changing World: The Challenge for Emergency Managers"

This week, FEMA released David Kaufman's PrepTalk "Our Changing World: The Challenge for Emergency Managers" (<https://www.fema.gov/preptalks/peelen>). In his PrepTalk, Kaufman explains the evolving trends around the world, where they intersect, and how they will dictate the future of emergency management.

Kaufman is the Vice President and Director for Safety and Security at CNA, a non-profit research and analysis organization located in Arlington, VA. He has also served as the Associate Administrator for the Office of Policy and Program Analysis, and the International Affairs Division at FEMA. His PrepTalk video and additional resources are available on the FEMA website.

PrepTalks are a partnership between FEMA, the International Association of Emergency Managers, the National Emergency Management Association, the National Homeland Security Consortium, and the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

Email Updates



To sign up for FEMA updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please click here.

(https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDHSFEMA_1324)

The Department of Homeland Security collects this information to distribute notices, updates, and subscriptions, as requested by the user.

SAVE THE DATE

Aptly titled ***One Commonwealth ~ One Mission***, the 2020 Governor's Emergency Preparedness Summit will bring partners together from multiple agencies, organizations and all levels of government, as well as the public and private sectors to provide an unsurpassed educational opportunity. The Summit is a coordinated effort of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security to increase the shared learning and exchange of ideas and showcase best practices that will enhance our resilience as a Commonwealth.

Please stay tuned for more information on how you can register and make your room reservations. Until then, please SAVE THE DATE!

Governor's Emergency Preparedness Summit



May 18-20, 2020



Kalahari Convention Center and Resort
Pocono Manor, PA

SAVE

THE

DATE

#GEPS2020



pennsylvania
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



pennsylvania
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
HOMELAND SECURITY

PENNSYLVANIA DISASTER IN HISTORY



EXPLOSION KILLS EIGHT. SEVEN OF VICTIMS, BLOWN TO PIECES IN NEW COAL MINE. TIPPLE AND RIGGING WRECKED.

Monongahela City, Pa., Nov. 16. --- Undoubtedly killed and probably blown to pieces, seven men are lying in the depths of the new shaft of the Braznell Coal Company, on the outskirts of Bentleyville, while another outside the mine is dead, as the result of a gas explosion.

The dead: Ed Farragut, day boss; Ed Hastle, shift boss; F. H. Newman, machine runner; G. B. Wagoner, machine runner; Joe Stokes; John McCatey; J. Shicola; J. Hoskins.

The Braznell Coal Company has been sinking the new shaft since last summer. Two weeks ago it was learned that a pocket of gas had formed in the bottom of the mine, which is 185 feet deep. Orders were given for all the men to work with safety lamps, and this had been done. Day Boss Farragut and his six men, without a thought of danger, stepped into the cage and descended into the mine. They were building a concrete water ring or ditch 50 feet down the shaft in order to catch dripping water. About five minutes after the men descended a terrific explosion occurred, which blew huge pieces of timber out of the mine like skyrocketing as high as 150 feet into the air. The tibble and all the mine rigging were torn down and debris scattered in heaps all around. A shovel which lay at the top of the shaft was hurled with such violence that it sank four inches into a plank. What must have befallen the seven men down in the shaft is terrible to contemplate. It is believed that they were instantly killed and probably fell to the bottom of the shaft. John McCatey, on the outside, was killed by the falling tibble, and others were seriously, though not fatally, hurt.

Mine Inspector Harry O. Loutain believes the explosion was caused by fire damp. He believes the gas came upward and reached the miners' lamps just as it was at the explosive point. But as it would have been practically impossible for safety lamps in working order to ignite the gas, it is a mystery what actually did ignite it. There must have been some kind of open light used. An ordinary miners' torch badly battered, was found near the mouth of the shaft, and this tends to show that someone disobeyed orders and carried a lighted torch into the shaft.

Tyrone Daily Herald Pennsylvania 1905-11-16



Coal Miners © USMineDisasters.com

UPCOMING TRAINING

| Course Title | Session Start Date (first scheduled session) | Session Location (first scheduled session) | Registration Deadline |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|
| PA-PEMA: MGT418 Readiness: Training Identification and Preparedness Planning | 12/9/2019 8:00:00 AM | Indiana County EMA | 11/22/2019 |
| PA-PEMA: P236 CEM Planner - School Specific | 12/4/2019 8:30:00 AM | IU8 Executive Office | |
| PA-PEMA: P236 CEM Planner Train the Trainer | 12/5/2019 8:30:00 AM | IU8 Main Office | |
| PA-PEMA: PER335 Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks | 12/10/2019 8:00:00 AM | Montgomery County Fire Academy | 12/2/2019 |
| PA-PEMA: P010 Area Office Orientation for Emergency Management Coordinators | 12/5/2019 10:00:00 AM | PEMA Eastern Area Office | |
| PA-PEMA: P004 Initial Damage Reporting | 12/5/2019 11:15:00 AM | PEMA Eastern Area Office | 12/6/2019 |
| PA-PEMA: CRCC - Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) Training | 12/2/2019 9:00:00 AM | PEMA Headquarters CRCC | 12/2/2019 |
| PA-PEMA: CRCC - Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) Training | 12/4/2019 9:00:00 AM | PEMA Headquarters CRCC | 12/4/2019 |
| PA-PEMA: P011 PEMA BARCO Sidebar Training (CRCC Specific) | 12/3/2019 9:00:00 AM | PEMA Headquarters CRCC | 12/3/2019 |
| PA-PEMA: P010 Area Office Orientation for Emergency Management Coordinators | 12/4/2019 10:00:00 AM | PEMA Western Area Office | 12/4/2019 |
| PA-PEMA: P236 CEM Planner - School Specific | 12/11/2019 8:00:00 AM | Coatesville | 12/11/2019 |
| PA-PEMA: P236 CEM Planner Train the Trainer | 12/12/2019 8:00:00 AM | Coatesville - Room 1 | 12/12/2019 |
| PA-PEMA: Allegheny County Municipal EMC Quarterly Training | 12/10/2019 10:00:00 AM | Allegheny County Emergency Services | 12/10/2019 |
| PA-PEMA: Allegheny County Municipal EMC Quarterly Training | 12/10/2019 7:00:00 PM | Allegheny County Emergency Services | 12/10/2019 |

Be sure to visit <https://pa.train.org> for other courses that may be of interest to you in both on-line and classroom formats. Many of the courses provide continuing education credits for emergency medical services certifications. See course descriptions for further details.

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.



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.

**Happy Holidays from the
Pennsylvania Emergency
Management Agency,
the Office of the State
Fire Commissioner, and
the ReadyPA Team.**

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