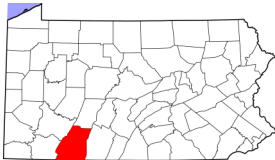




# EMergent News

Engaging You, Engaging the Community

January - February 2019

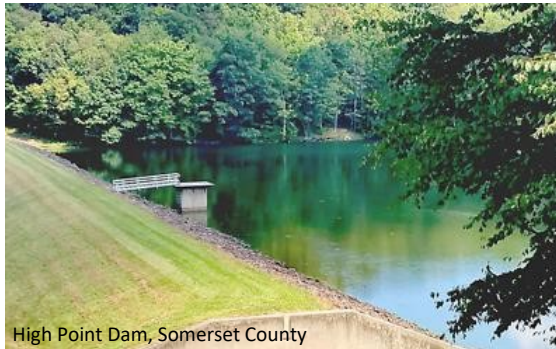


## BOOTS ON THE GROUND: ACTIVATE THE PLAN

By Joel D. Landis, Director  
Somerset County Department of Emergency Services

An otherwise dry and calm Labor Day weekend brings despair to High Point Dam, Addison Township, Somerset County. A 9-1-1 caller reported an explosion like sound that was heard from the dam on Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The conditions that day, and the week prior, were dry and hotter than normal. The heat earlier that week even prompted some schools to cancel due to the excessively hot temperatures. That would change in the weeks to come as most of us know the weeks to follow would bring historic rain amounts across much of the commonwealth.

On Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> the 9-1-1 center dispatched Conservation Officers from the PA Fish and Boat Commission to investigate a report of a loud noise that originated from the breast of the dam. Upon the arrival of these officers, an excessive amount of water was observed from the dam outflow pipe, but nothing suspicious was indicated about why the release was occurring. The PA Fish and Boat Commission began 24-hour surveillance was on the dam, and an engineer was called in to inspect what might have occurred resulting in the unintentional release of the dam's water.



High Point Dam, Somerset County

At 11:00 a.m. on Labor Day, Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the 9-1-1 center received a call from a PA Fish and Boat Commission Dam engineer requesting to activate the emergency action plan (EAP) for the dam. The request was promptly referred to the county Emergency Management Agency (EMA) director, but not without an up-front issue. The dam is in a location that cell phone service is near non-existent. The engineer had to travel to the high ground to even make the call, then return back to the dam. After the call was received by 9-1-1, the engineer was unable to be called back as he had to go back to the dam. Before the EMA director left for the dam he logged into CEM Planner, the state's depository for emergency plans, to see if an electronic version of the EAP existed for this dam. *(continued on next page)*



PEMA Headquarters, Harrisburg, PA

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## BOOTS: SOMERSET COUNTY

*(continued from page 1)*

There was not an electronic EAP, so a Knowledge Center (KC) incident was opened and a copy of the dam plan was requested from the Commonwealth Watch and Warning Center (CWWC). The plan was acquired by the CWWC and emailed to the EMA Director and the 9-1-1 center. This saved the EMA Director a trip to the EMA office before the nearly 25-minute drive to the dam.

The EMA director arrived at the dam to find the dam engineer standing on the access road to the breast of the dam. During the initial conversation with the engineer, it was suggested that the EMA Director to consider turning his vehicle around so it was facing in the right direction in case they would need to leave evacuate if the dam was to fail while they were there. This initial impression of the engineer showed to the director the urgency of the events that were about to unfold. The engineer provided his educated diagnosis of what could occur, but he did offer that there have been no known occurrences of this happening ever at any of the dams. What was visible from the access road was a geyser of water being discharged from the ground in front of the breast of the dam. The engineer feels that an immediate failure occurred in the control tower at the breast of the dam prompting the call to 9-1-1 from the public. With no control at the tower currently, all the water of the dam was flowing through a single 30 inch pipe. The dam is 300 acres large, 37 feet deep, with a 45-foot-high breast. The dam is classified as a high hazard dam. The integrity of the pipe is what is now in question and not knowing what exactly

occurred in the tower is the uncertainty. The engineer requested the EAP be activated to warn downstream residents in the inundation area of the unintentional and unregulated discharge of water. Somerset County does not have a reverse 9-1-1 system and could only send a county wide alert through the emergency broadcast system. It was agreed to use the CWWC to send a geo-fenced alert through their Code Red system to only citizens living in the inundation area. There was a unified command post set up between the PA Fish and Boat Commission engineer, three local fire chiefs from the inundation area, the County EMA Director, and the PEMA Western Area Director.

There was discussion about the alert going out ahead of a press release as there was a character restriction to the Code Red message, and without an official press release, the public was going to generate many questions. It was decided to have the fire departments do route alerting to homes in the inundation area at the same time the Code Red Alert was being sent. The 9-1-1 center made all the required phone notifications as specified in the EAP, prior to the Code Red alert being sent. The CWWC sent the Code Red alert that evening. The Code Red Alert is limited to less characters than the full early notification message in the EAP. The full early warning message was shared via the county social media page and the county news release website.

*(continued on page 3)*



Pumps provided through the Region 13 Task Force



## BOOTS: SOMERSET COUNTY

(continued from page 2)

Since there was no cell service in the area where the 24-hour observation was occurring by the PA Fish and Boat Commission, a portable radio on the county radio system was provided to the commission's observation team so there was a direct means of communications in case an evacuation order was needed. An official press release from the PA Fish & Boat Commission was requested to follow up the Code Red notification. Since it was a holiday, an official release wouldn't be available till noon the next day. Until that time, the 9-1-1 center and the social media page received an increased amount of questions from the community. Even after the official press release was posted, there was still a degree of uncertainty of the condition of the dam until more engineers and a diver were able to inspect the dam. Inundation maps were made available to the public at the EMA office, the PA Fish and Boat Commission regional office, and local municipal offices in the affected area.

The next day the PA Fish and Boat Commission engineers came up with a plan to plug the pipe with a bulkhead using an underwater diver. To be able to utilize a underwater diver safely the dam water level would need to be lowered by several feet. The PA Fish and Boat Commission brought in one trailer mounted pump and the Somerset County EMA reached out to neighboring Cambria and Fayette County EMAs for two additional large trailer mounted pumps purchased through PA Region 13. Those were acquired along with the Somerset County Command Post Trailer to give the PFBC observation crew a better method to adequately observe the dam and the ability to have a fixed mobile radio for communications to the 911 center in case an evacuation was needed.

Due to the heightened level of press that this incident created a formal media briefing was coordinated. News outlets from State College to Pittsburgh had picked up on the news. The county EMA moderated a press briefing with a PFBC engineer and the local fire chiefs for a formal press briefing held at the dam. A local group of concerned anglers converged during the briefing to make for an interesting twist that wasn't expected.

In the days to follow, the remanence of Hurricane Florence would overcome the region adding to the complexity of effectively draining the dam. A siphon system was brought in to expediate the draining process. Routine press releases from the PA Fish and Boat Commission were made during the multiple-day rain event that occurred to ensure to the public that the dam was stable throughout the excessive rain totals that ensued. The National Weather Service in State College kept a watchful eye on the rain fall predictions and made appropriate calls to the 9-1-1 center during the weather events to give the surveillance team an idea of how much rain would be expected at the dam.

**HEAT WAVE**  
High temps are impacting school schedules  
**READ MORE ABOUT THE WEATHER ON PAGES A3 AND A10**

**BEZOS HAS REASON TO SMILE**  
Amazon 2nd to reach \$1T  
**PAGE A7**

**TROUBLE AT HIGH POINT**

Something is wrong at High Point Lake in Addison Township. Officials are investigating the matter to determine what the dam's fate will be.

**Dam in danger of failure**

BY CODY McDEVITT  
CODY@SOMERSETCOUNTYPA.GOV

Around 7 p.m. on Saturday a resident near the High Point Lake Dam reported to the Somerset County Emergency Management Agency that they heard a loud crash from within the dam. A short time later, heavy items were seen discharging from the dam's main spillway outlet pipe. Workers with the agency alerted the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission about the issue. The commission dispatched local law enforcement, maintenance and engineering staff to the dam for evaluation and determined that a part of the dam's principal spillway intake structure had suddenly failed. The failure will result in a drawdown of the reservoir, a process that is expected to continue gradually over the next few weeks, according to a press release.

The dam is a 45-foot high structure that was constructed in 1948. The dam inundated the waters of Glade Run to create a 20-acre, 50-foot deep lake. It is located near Mount Davis in Addison Township.

Paul Urbanik, acting director of engineering for the Fish and Boat Commission, said he couldn't answer whether High Point Lake will have a direct link to the damage. If it's a gate valve that needs to be replaced, it will cost \$40,000 to \$50,000. If it's the wooden planks inside, it could cost a few thousand dollars. There is no timeline on when it will be fixed. They will know the extent of the damage later this week.

(See DANGER, A9)

Staff photo by Cody McDevitt

© The Daily American, September 5, 2018

Twenty-two days after the initial report of a problem at the dam, the water level fell to a level where the divers could dive down to install a bulkhead device to stop the release of water. The EAP was promptly deactivated and the downstream residents were notified that the dam was again back to normal conditions.

(continued on page 4)

## BOOTS: SOMERSET COUNTY

(continued from page 3)

### Lessons Learned

1. Though the Code Red system is a better choice than the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) which alerts the entire county, the restriction in the Code Red message character count can be a challenge to effectively get a message out with enough substance to satisfy public curiosity. However, Code Red is a better option than a countywide message, especially when you only want to alert a specific inundation area. Having this capability from within your county would be another best practice as the system could be tailored to your county needs and implemented when you require it so you're not relying on another entity to send the message for you.
2. Consider environmental groups when dealing with recreational dams. Press releases that consider the status of the ecology can prevent unneeded concern from these groups. We prioritize protecting the public, but these groups also have a seat at the table.

### Accomplishments

1. Know your resources. From the CWWC having the capability for the Code Red Alert, to the ability for the CWWC to pull up the EAP, was a great capability to have on a holiday when you're detached from your office.
2. Knowing your neighbors' resources and your taskforce region's resources ahead of time was instrumental in obtaining the trailer mounted pumps from Cambria and Fayette Counties in an expedient manner.

### For more information, contact :

Joel D. Landis, Director  
Somerset County  
Department of Emergency Services  
Phone: (814) 445-1515  
Email: [landisj@co.somerset.pa.us](mailto:landisj@co.somerset.pa.us)

## CERT UPDATE



New FEMA Citizen Responder Registration Site  
Thanks to an updated registration site, it is now easier than ever for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs and Citizen Corps Councils to register and manage their programs!

Log on now to the new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Citizen Responder Registration site (<https://Community.fema.gov/Register>) to explore the updates. If you were registered on the old site, you can use the same login email to create a new password.

While the design and layout are different, the new site maintains many of the key features of the old site. This new design, however, will make it easier and more intuitive to register and update programs. For example, the button to register a new program is now located front and center on the page.

Moving forward, FEMA plans to continuously add new features to the site. These include enabling you to download reports about your program and posting an annual report on the progress of your CERT.

Visit <https://community.fema.gov/Register> today to view the updated registration site! For questions on the site, contact [FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov).





## PENNSYLVANIA LIONS DISASTER RELIEF TEAM

### **Pennsylvania Lions Disaster Relief Team puts tornado victims in new home for Christmas.**

On August 13, 2018, while a mother and her 3 children were in the living room of their mobile home in the Uniontown area, a tornado touched down lifting their home up in the air, slamming it back down, and completely destroying it, all with the family still inside. Though they were not physically injured, they were affected emotionally. After weeks of staying with family and friends and looking for a home to live in, and not having any success, the husband and father wrote a letter to the Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, pleading for help.

The Governor's office referred the letter to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) where it was passed on to Steve Michelone, the PEMA Volunteer Agency Liaison (VAL). Mr. Michelone reached out to the Pennsylvania State Lions Disaster Relief Coordinator, Lion Jim Groff and asked if the Lions Club could assist this family.



Lion Jim Groff immediately met with the family and found that had a major crisis. He began the process of searching for mobile homes in the Lancaster area while the affected family was looking in the Uniontown area and as far away as Virginia. After months of disappointments, a mobile home was located close to Uniontown; however, it was in dire need of repair.

Lion Jim Groff started putting together a team of skilled and qualified Lions to assist with the repairs that needed to be done to make the trailer inhabitable before the family could move in. The goal was to have this home ready for the family by Christmas.

A list of materials was drawn up and taken to the Lowes home improvement store in Uniontown. Lowes partnered with the Lions Disaster Unit and supplied thousands of dollars worth of materials for little or no cost to the Lions Club. Lions came together from the three Pennsylvania Lions districts of 14E, 14P, and 14D, some of which took four and a half hours of travel time, one way, to get to the job site. Arrangements were made by Lions Club Past District Governor (PDG) Bob Mesher from District 14E, for the Lions Club laborers to stay at the Holiday Inn Express at a reduced rate.

After several trips and dedicated work by the Lions Club, the job was completed, and the affected family was able to be in their new home for Christmas. The family has expressed repeatedly how they are extremely thankful for what the Lions have done for them.

Although there were tears of sadness and heartbreak shed at the beginning of this disaster, they turned into tears of joy, happiness, and friendship as the work was completed, the family was able to move into their new home and, as the Lions team left to return to their homes.





## PENNSYLVANIA TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT E-LEARNING COURSE

By, Todd Leiss

Traffic Incident Management Coordinator | Traffic Operations & Engineering, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission



I am proud to announce that the Pennsylvania Traffic Incident Management E-Learning course has been fully integrated into the TRAIN PA platform and is now ready for your use. You are receiving this e-mail as part of a select group to take part in a "soft rollout" of the program. The training was developed using the existing curriculum provided by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner and PennDOT, and has been subjected to multiple review and testing cycles from participants representing FHWA, PennDOT, the PA Turnpike Commission, SPC, DVRPC, Law Enforcement, Fire, and numerous private sector agencies.

To access the training, simply go to the TRAIN PA website at <https://www.train.org/pa/welcome>. If you have an existing user account, you can simply log in and use the word "TIM" in the search bar to find the blended learning course. If you don't have an account, please create one to access the course.

The PA TIM Training has been fully vetted by the FHWA and has been granted full equivalency status. Multiple credit types have been approved including:

- Professional Development Hours (PDH): 4 Hours
- Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) MPOETC: 4 Hours
- Continuing Education Units (CEU): PA DOH Bureau of EMS: 4 Hours

If you've never taken this training, now is an excellent time to get it done and get certified. If you've taken it before, we encourage you to take it again as a refresher, and take a look at the new videos and other interactive content that has been developed for the course. We look forward to your participation in the course and receiving any feedback you may have.

We anticipate a full public rollout of the course during the week of January 21, 2019, which will include announcement videos posted to the PennTIME Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1672252469656429/>) and other outlets.



I would like to publicly thank Dave Wolfe for his hard work, dedication and effort in getting the E-Learning course developed and integrated into Train PA, this is another great step forward in our PennTIME partnership

### GROUNDHOG DAY



Will Punxsutawney Phil not see his shadow this year and predict an early spring or will Phil see his shadow and predict six more weeks of winter? We'll have to wait until February 2<sup>nd</sup> to find out.

Until then, here is some Punxsutawney Phil trivia.

- The groundhog's full name is Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinary
- Punxsutawney Phil weighs about 20 pounds and is 22 inches long, while the average groundhog weighs 12-15 pounds and is 20 inches long
- Phil has a wife. Her name is Phyllis (of course)

## 2018 A Year in Review – Relentless Rain and Notable Natural Hazards

By Jeff Jumper

State Meteorologist, PEMA

If you ask just about anyone in Pennsylvania to describe 2018, the conversation would likely entail one word - wet. What seemed like an endless onslaught of rain truly added up to a record breaking year for much of the state, except the far northwest corner (our typical snow lovers). Relentless rounds of rainfall kicked the Pennsylvania statewide rainfall to #1 wettest January through November period in over 124 years of record keeping (data for December unavailable due to federal government shutdown, but I'd place my bet on the over). This includes the wettest February, July, and summer season ever recorded in the state – chew on that for a moment. Oh, and we did all this without a drop of rain from an official tropical system through August 2018. The rain kept on coming through the remainder of the year. Each official measurement site across Pennsylvania below shows a "wetness ranking" for each period of record in years (POR). Most were in the top three wettest!

Name	POR	2018 Rainfall	2018 Surplus	Rank
Lancaster	40	62.93"	20.36"	1st wettest
Lebanon	47	79.54"	36.30"	1st wettest
Dubois	51	58.61"	15.42"	1st wettest
Neshaminy Falls	61	70.94"	21.79"	1st wettest
Capital City Airport (Harrisburg)	70	62.03"	21.11"	1st wettest
Avoca Area (Scranton/W-B)	118	61.09"	22.82"	1st wettest
Pittsburgh Area	144	57.84"	19.64"	1st wettest
Altoona	66	56.11"	20.47"	2nd wettest
Shippensburg	86	62.53"	22.10"	2nd wettest
Williamsport Area	122	70.03"	28.75"	2nd wettest
Middletown-Harrisburg Area	130	67.03"	26.29"	2nd wettest
Philadelphia Area	145	61.53"	20.00"	2nd wettest
Allentown Area	91	66.97"	21.61"	3rd wettest
Bradford Airport	55	48.69"	4.23"	15th wettest
Erie Area	145	46.16"	4.00"	20th wettest

Figure 1. List of Pennsylvania observation sites describing period of record in years (POR), 2018 annual rainfall, 2018 rainfall surplus, and wetness ranking. Data from the Southeast Regional Climate Center from January 1 through December 31, 2018.

The result of so much rain? Devastating and repetitive flooding to much of central and eastern Pennsylvania. A federal disaster declaration was granted for public assistance for a limited amount of the recovery efforts still ongoing across the Commonwealth.

While many of the major waterways were pushed to bank full and some flooded, the challenge this year was more akin to flash flooding and flooding generally outside the traditional 100-year floodplain. We expanded our reach and compared reports of flooding to the National Weather Service since 1993 with the FEMA 100-year flood plain. Only six percent of these flood reports were tagged in the 100-year floodplain. Only six percent of these flood reports were tagged in the 100-year floodplain. So roughly 95% of all flood reports to NWS in the past 25 years have been outside the floodplain. As an emergency management community, we should consider working more closely with insurance partners to educate our citizens on the benefits and availability of flood insurance for all residents, not just those owning homes in the FEMA designated floodplain. *(continued on next page)*

## 2018 A Year in Review – (continued from page 7)

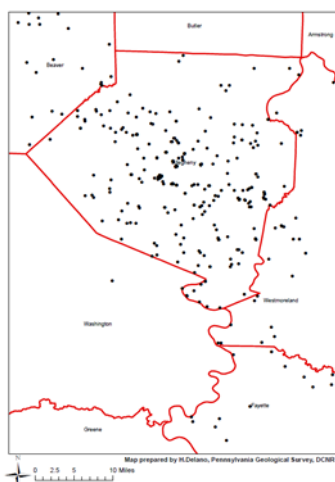
### But wait, there's more!

Beyond the flooding, a few headlines were washed out in the rainfall stats. Pennsylvania faced numerous natural hazards during 2018, which greatly impacted many citizens and businesses. Serious ice jams, landslides, a few significant snowstorms, and numerous tornadoes, including an outbreak that occurred during 2018.

**Ice Jams:** Ice jams impacted many of the waterways in January 2018. Waters rose quickly, and jams caused damages to roadways, bridges and personal property. Reporting ice jams to PEMA and the NWS for tracking and modeling is important.

**Landslides:** An unprecedented 173 landslides impacted the greater Pittsburgh area from February through April 2018. A combination of susceptible soils, record rain, high soil moisture, and steep slopes resulted in damages to homes, roadways, and businesses across western Pennsylvania. A record wet February attributed to high soil moisture content, another contributing factor in the slides.

Landslide locations February - April 2018



Year	Comparison Period	Slides During Period	Precipitation for Period	Notes
1972	6/1 to 7/31	76	8.06"	Hurricane Agnes
2004	9/1 to 10/31	36	13.41"	Hurricane Ivan
2005	1/1 to 2/28	21	9.14"	
2011	4/1 to 5/30	13	9.71"	
2016	5/1 to 6/30	9	6.71"	
2018	2/15 to 4/24	173	12.55"	*Through August 2018

**Figures 2 & 3.** Landslides compiled by Helen Delano from the PA Geological Survey, DCNR, show the unprecedented number reports of landslides in Allegheny County. The number of landslides in the Pittsburgh region during this period far outnumbered other previous major event periods of record. A federal disaster declaration was requested but denied due to time between rainfall events.



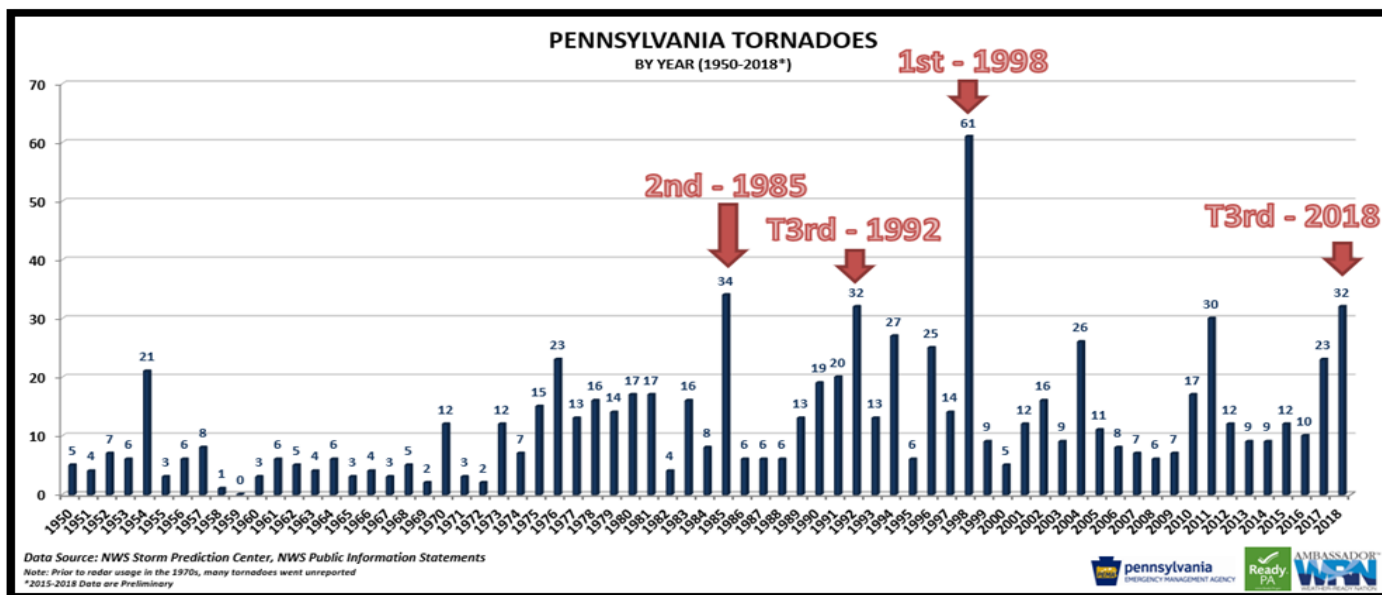
Route 30 in Allegheny County. © KDKA News 6, CBS, Pittsburgh

Continued on Page 9



## 2018 A Year in Review – (continued from page 8)

**Tornado Outbreak:** The fourth largest tornado outbreak in state history occurred on October 2, 2018. Sixteen tornadoes quickly ripped through Pennsylvania from west to east, with the most significant impacting a senior care facility in northwestern PA. Two more notable tornadoes occurred earlier on June 13, impacting a shopping center in Northeastern PA. A tally of 32 tornadoes occurred in Pennsylvania for 2018, which is the most in 20 years (1998) and is tied for third most reports in a year since the 1950s!



**Figure 4.** The fourth largest tornado outbreak by number in Pennsylvania happened on October 2, 2018. Sixteen tornadoes formed, accounting for half of the 32 tornadoes for the year. This tally puts 2018 as the tie for third most annual tornadoes in Pennsylvania since the 1950s.



© ABC Action News 6, Philadelphia



© NBC Channel 10, Philadelphia

## PENNSYLVANIA DISASTER IN HISTORY

Royalton, PA Army Plane Crashes, January, 1929

Giant Army monoplane mass of wreckage at Middletown Air Depot. Pilot wanted to die. Hacksaws used to take dead and injured from debris. Mishap at Royalton.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan 12 - In sharp contrast to the great endurance achievement of its sister ship, the "Question Mark," a great Army tri-motor plane was piled up today as a mass of junk in the Army storehouse at the Middletown air depot near here, after having plunged to earth after a short flight, carrying to their deaths eight Army airmen. The eighth soldier, Sergeant Patrick Conroy, died in a hospital here at 1:50 A.M. this morning.



Tri-Motor Fokker, Similar to Plane that Crashed in Royalton,

The plane, which had just taken off from the Army field at Middletown, crashed yesterday several miles away, in the garden of a home at Royalton.

Townspeople found the pilot, Lieutenant Robert Angell, wedged in the wreckage of the plane. Hacksaws were used to cut him loose. Then, in the lowermost part of the wreckage were found piled the seven other men. Five were dead. Lieutenant Angell wanted to die. "Shoot me men, for God's sake," rescuers said he cried in his pain. He died a short while later in a hospital. Sergeant Mike Kelley, too, died soon after his removal to a hospital.

The men who had been killed instantly in the plane's crash were Sergeant Henry Croman, Sergeant James McCarthy, Sergeant Rudolph Lahutta, and Privates Samuel P. Jones and Clarence Buch. The bodies now are in a Middletown morgue, awaiting disposition of Army authorities. Why the plane crashed is not known.

Royalton residents, accustomed to hearing the drone of airplane motors over their heads as planes fly past to the air depot, noticed that the ill-fated ship's motors "were making a terrible racket." The big tri-motored Fokker was flying low. The pilot appeared to be trying to force it higher to increase the chances of gliding to a safe landing if its motors should fail. Then it slid over on its side and dashed to the ground, one wing hitting a tree. An official investigation already has been started.



Wreckage of Plane in Royalton, PA

Two men can be thankful today that they "ferried" another plane back to Washington, instead of returning in the plane in which they had flown to Middletown earlier in the day. Captain Harry Dinger, who had piloted the big ship to Middletown from Bolling Field, Washington, flew back with Sergeant Charles Nailes, a passenger on the trip to Middletown, in an Army Amphibian Plane, leaving Lieutenant Angell to fly the Fokker home.

The trip to Middletown had been made for the purpose of taking supplies to Bolling Field.

*Mount Carmel Item Pennsylvania 1929-01-12*



## PA SILVER JACKETS TEAM RECEIVED ICE JAM TRAINING

The Pennsylvania Silver Jackets (SJ) team, a program sponsored by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which is a chartered team made up of federal, state, local organizations and associations, held two ice jam training sessions: first one was in Bloomsburg on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Bloomsburg Fire Department, Town of Bloomsburg, Columbia County and a second offering at the Venango County Vocational Technical Center, Oil City, Venango County on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Venango County offering afforded the Pennsylvania SJ Team a site visit opportunity to view the working/deployed Allegheny River Ice Boom that received FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding from DR-1898 for an enhancement/upgrade. It should be noted that the ice boom is one of only 3 in the country. Classroom presentations were made by Joe Rocks, USACE Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL), Charles Ross and Craig Evanego, National Weather Service (NWS), State College, Jim Brewster NWS, Binghamton, New York, Alicia Miller, NWS - Pittsburgh, and Ben Pratt, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). Items covered included the general science of ice jams, ice observer training/ice jam monitoring and the use of social media to report ice jams. More information regarding the PA SJ Team and Flood Risk Management may be found at: <https://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Pennsylvania>.



PA Silver Jacket Team observing ice booms on the Allegheny River



## PEMA GRANTS UPDATE

The Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP) is a federal program administered by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). The purpose of this program is to provide funding to eligible non-profit organizations, generally limited to target hardening and physical security enhancements. The focus is on organizations that are at high risk of a potential terrorist attack. The program further seeks the integration of preparedness activities of the non-profit sector with the local and state preparedness efforts, while promoting emergency preparedness collaboration and coordination. Applicant workshops will be announced beginning January and will be held January – March 2019.

For further information, email [NSGPgrant@pa.gov](mailto:NSGPgrant@pa.gov).





## TRAINING AVAILABLE

### THE TOWNSHIP ROLE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**FOR:** Elected and appointed municipal officials; administrators; emergency management coordinators; fire, ambulance, and police chiefs; road masters and public works personnel; building and zoning code officers; and public safety personnel.

**PURPOSE:** To explain how to structure an emergency management team and develop an emergency operations plan to respond to potential natural and manmade threats facing municipalities.

#### DATES/LOCATIONS:

FEB 20	Burgettstown	Washington Co.	Hanover Twp.
FEB 21	Butler	Butler Co.	Penn Twp.
MAR 12	Spring Mills	Centre Co.	Potter Twp.
MAR 13	Millville	Columbia Co.	Greenwood Twp.

**TIME:** 9 a.m.-noon

**CREDITS:** Eligible for two PMGA primary public safety credits or two secondary credits if enrolled in a different track.

**COST:** \$35 for PSATS members\* and \$45 for non-members.

### NIMS AND THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

**FOR:** Elected and appointed municipal officials; administrators; emergency management coordinators; fire, ambulance, and police chiefs; public works personnel; zoning code officers; and public safety personnel.

**PURPOSE:** To explain the National Incident Management and Incident Command systems and how they improve emergency response coordination and help local emergency management personnel make effective, consistent, and timely decisions.


#### DATES/LOCATIONS:

FEB 20	Burgettstown	Washington Co.	Hanover Twp.
FEB 21	Butler	Butler Co.	Penn Twp.
MAR 12	Spring Mills	Centre Co.	Potter Twp.
MAR 13	Millville	Columbia Co.	Greenwood Twp.

**TIME:** 1-3:30 p.m.

**CREDITS:** Eligible for two PMGA primary public safety credits or two secondary credits if enrolled in a different track.

**COST:** \$35 for PSATS members\* and \$45 for non-members.





## Get Hands on with TEMA

HEAR THE LATEST news and information on township emergency management planning at the **TEMA Emergency Management Spring Educational Forum**

**April 14, 2019**  
**Hershey Lodge**  
**Hershey, PA**

**TIME:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**COST:** \$95 for members of the Township Emergency Management Association and \$115 for non-members. The fee includes course materials, lunch, and refreshments.  
**REGISTRATION:** To register for this seminar, go to [tema.psats.org](http://tema.psats.org).

**Eligible for six PMGA elective credits for attending.**



## UPCOMING TRAINING

Session Name	Start Date	Location
Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)	02-02-19	Columbia County EMA
MGT343 Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities	04-02-19	Allegheny County Emergency Services
Nonprofit Security Grant Workshop (NSGW)	07-02-19	David L Lawrence Convention Center
PEMA Central Area Orientation for Emergency Management Coordinators	08-02-19	PEMA Central Area Office
G290 Basic Public Information Officer	12-02-19	Montgomery County EOC
G205 Recovery from Disaster - The Local Government Role	14-02-19	Pampered Palate Catering/Conference
Nonprofit Security Grant Workshop (NSGW)	15-02-19	PennDOT District Office
G205 Recovery from Disaster - The Local Government Role	16-02-19	Clarion County DPS
Health & Safety Workshop (SCTF)	19-02-19	Lancaster County PS Training Center
Duties and Responsibilities of the Emergency Management Coordinator	19-02-19	Allegheny County Emergency Services
PEMA Headquarters Orientation for Emergency Management Coordinators	22-02-19	PEMA Headquarters Rm 112 (Elmerton Ave)
Nonprofit Security Grant Workshop (NSGW)	01-03-19	WebEx
MGT317 Disaster Management for Public Services	06-03-19	Montgomery County EOC
MGT348 Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents	09-03-19	UPMC Susquehanna
Knowledge Center Incident Management Orientation	19-03-19	Allegheny County ES
L146 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program	21-03-19	Chester County PS Training Campus
L146 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program	21-03-19	Allegheny Intermediate Unit
AWR362 Flood Hazards: Science and Preparedness	26-03-19	Centre LifeLink EMS
AWR362 Flood Hazards: Science and Preparedness	28-03-19	Chester County PS Training Campus
G364 Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools	03-04-19	Allegheny Intermediate Unit
L548 Continuity of Operations Managers Training Course (COOP)	15-04-19	PEMA (PA Dept of Health)
MGT341 Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations	16-04-19	Montgomery County EOC
L550 Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)	17-04-19	PEMA (PA Dept of Health)
G235 Emergency Planning	23-04-19	Pampered Palate Catering/Conference
AWR362 Flood Hazards: Science and Preparedness	29-04-19	Montgomery County EOC
AWR362 Flood Hazards: Science and Preparedness	30-04-19	Northampton County EOC
G205 Recovery from Disaster - The Local Government Role	02-05-19	Northampton County EOC
G290 Basic Public Information Officer	07-05-19	Allegheny County ES
Duties and Responsibilities of the Emergency Management Coordinator	16-05-19	Allegheny County ES
G205 Recovery from Disaster - The Local Government Role	18-05-19	Cumberland County DPS
MGT310 Jurisdictional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	22-05-19	Allegheny County ES
AWR326 Tornado Awareness (NDPTC Course)	29-05-19	Chester County PS Training Campus
G289 Public Information Officer Awareness Training	29-05-19	Allegheny Intermediate Unit
Knowledge Center Incident Management Orientation	30-05-19	Allegheny County ES
ICS300 Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS) for Expanding	11-06-19	Montgomery County PS Training
G364 Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools	25-06-19	Allegheny Intermediate Unit
ICS400 Advanced Incident Command and General Staff-Complex Incidents	22-07-19	Montgomery County EOC
MGT318: Public Information in an All-Hazards Incident	23-07-19	Allegheny County ES
AWR347 Climate Adaptation Planning for Emergency Managers	08-08-19	Montgomery County EOC
G393 Hazard Mitigation for Emergency Managers	20-08-19	Montgomery County EOC
MGT345 Disaster Management for Electric Power Systems	10-09-19	Montgomery County EOC
G557 Rapid Needs Assessment	14-09-19	Northampton County EOC

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.



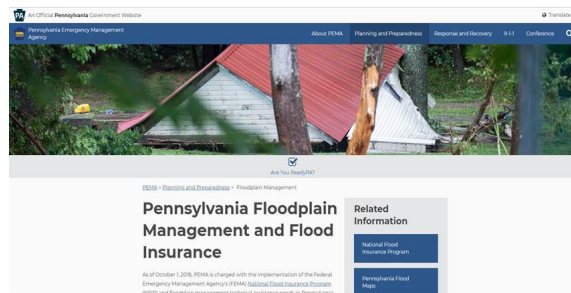
**Talking Points and Social Media Toolkit** - Graphics, tweet suggestions, and talking points for you to use on social media, websites, and when speaking to groups.

## FEATURED EMERGENCY MANAGER TOOL

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) has published important floodplain and flood insurance information to its website. As of October 2018, PEMA has been charged with the implementation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and floodplain management technical assistance needs in Pennsylvania. On this site, you can:

- Learn about NFIP
- Learn how to determine your flood risk
- View the Pennsylvania Flood Zone Map
- Learn how to request map changes
- Find local government, business, and resident flood resources
- Check out our frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Find who to contact if you have questions

Visit PEMA's [PA Floodplain Management web pages](https://www.pema.pa.gov/planningandpreparedness/floodplainmanagement/Pages/default.aspx)  
(<https://www.pema.pa.gov/planningandpreparedness/floodplainmanagement/Pages/default.aspx>)



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