

# Emergency Management for Municipal Officials

PA



## Handbook 2023



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pennsylvania  
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Updated in coordination with the Keystone Emergency Management Association

This manual contains data and links that are accurate, as of April 2023. If you have questions, please contact your local our county emergency management coordinator.

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### Introduction

Pennsylvania's Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa. C.S. §§ 7101 *et seq.*) directs and authorizes every political subdivision (i.e., county, city, borough, incorporated town, and township) to have an emergency management program that includes a trained Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and a functioning Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with a trained staff. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) has designed this handbook to provide elected officials with a basic understanding of the fundamental legal requirements to ensure an effective emergency management program in each county and/or municipal government in the Commonwealth.

Municipal officials, elected or appointed, does not know when a disaster will strike, but when it does, any number of grim scenarios may impact the community. There may be power outages, contaminated water distribution systems, extensive debris piles, raw sewage in the streets, overloaded communications systems, or municipal property damage; all having a significant impact on the county or municipal budget. Angry, confused, frightened, and possibly displaced community members might be present with never-ending lists of problems. The greatest impact will be the loss of life and property.



The community, however, can survive, recover, and eventually thrive during and after a disaster. The “how” in the community’s survival and recovery is emergency management. Management of a disaster includes keeping residents and responders warned and informed, quickly restoring public facilities and services, restoring community lifelines, and meeting the needs of the residents. During the time that a community is involved in the response, preparation for short- and long-term recovery must

be made to return the community to minimum operating standards and eventually to pre-disaster conditions and functionality. It is important that elected officials work with their emergency management, public safety, planning, and zoning personnel to develop a recovery strategy that will outline short- and long-term recovery goals and objectives.

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Elected or appointed officials are ultimately responsible for protecting residents and those visiting their jurisdiction. Residents and visitors expect a reasonable level of protection, to which they have a right. It is essential that elected officials also support and participate in learning opportunities with first responders and key staff. The public holds elected officials accountable for the decisions and actions of response personnel. In addition to legal responsibilities, there are potential liability issues involved in the way a community manages the response to an emergency.

A good emergency management program can make the difference in the community's ability to reduce injury, save lives, keep property loss to a minimum, and help people in time of disaster. Emergency management planning builds support from constituents by demonstrating the elected officials' responsiveness to their needs. It provides the elected official with an opportunity to work with community organizations and identify local resources. This planning effort leads to better coordination among municipal departments and improves cooperation between public and private sectors. The elected official gains credibility when providing effective leadership before, during, and after a disaster.

An effective emergency management program at all levels of government is critical to planning for, responding to, and recovering from any emergency or disaster no matter the size. All incidents begin and end locally. Additionally, all municipalities have the potential to be affected by any one of a number of natural, human-caused, or technological hazards. Municipal officials should be familiar with the threats and hazards most prevalent in their community, as investments in emergency management by local officials will pay dividends to make the community more resilient, respond more efficiently, and recover faster should a disaster occur.

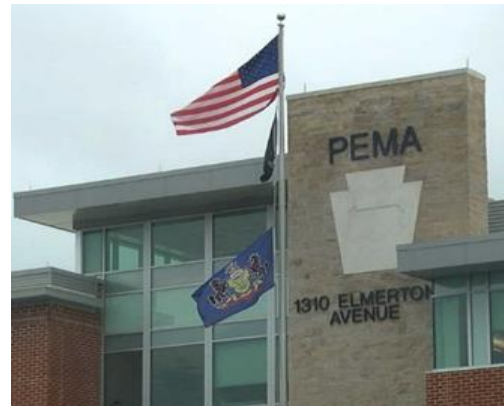
Please contact your county or local emergency management coordinator with any questions concerning the content of this handbook.

### Chapter 1

#### **The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code** *(35 Pa. C.S. §§ 7101 et seq., as amended)*

The concept of emergency management as an integral part of government's public safety services evolved in the 1970s. Forward-thinking public administrators discovered common emergency response functions found in all human-caused and natural disasters. Until that time, federal grants had been providing capabilities for emergency communication, direction and control, warning, evacuation, and mass sheltering through civil defense programs that were designed for use during a nuclear attack. It became apparent that utilizing these resources during natural disasters, such as Hurricane Agnes in 1972 and the Johnstown flood of 1977, or technological disasters, such as the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant incident in 1979, made sense.

In 1978, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code created the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) from the State Council of Civil Defense and expanded the mandate of the Agency to include comprehensive emergency management for all hazards. In PEMA, it created a single agency to coordinate all emergency programs provided by state government. In 1979, a presidential directive from President Jimmy Carter established the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The federal government amended the Federal Civil Defense Act in 1981 to formally acknowledge that state and local governments may use Civil Defense-funded resources for non-attack emergencies.



*Pennsylvania Emergency Management  
Headquarters in Harrisburg, PA*

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The following table lists the ten chapters within the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code.

10 Chapters within the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Service Code	
Chapter 71	General Provisions
Chapter 73	Commonwealth Services
Chapter 74	Volunteer Firefighters
Chapter 75	Local Organizations and Services.
Chapter 75A	Emergency Responder Mental Wellness and Stress Management
Chapter 76	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
Chapter 77	Miscellaneous Provisions
Chapter 78	Grants to Volunteer Fire Companies and Emergency Medical Services Companies
Chapter 79	Disaster Emergency Assistance
Chapter 79A	Incentives for Municipal Volunteers of Fire Companies and Nonprofit Emergency Medical Services

**Chapter 71** identifies titles, definitions, and purpose of the Code. This chapter defines emergency management as *“the judicious planning, assignment, and coordination of all available resources in an integrated program of prevention, protection, mitigation, and recovery for emergencies of any kind, whether from attack, man-made or natural causes.”*

**Chapter 73** outlines emergency powers granted to the Governor, such as activation of the Pennsylvania National Guard (PANG) and the ability to commandeer private or public property. The use of the PANG may be authorized by the Governor after all local resources have been utilized, and the county or municipality is overwhelmed.

Chapter 73 also created PEMA and outlines its powers and duties. In addition to providing training and other capability-building resources to municipalities, PEMA maintains the Commonwealth Watch and Warning Center and the Commonwealth



Response Coordination Center and updates the Commonwealth Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP). The law appoints the PEMA Director, or the Director's designee, as the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and authorizes PEMA to draft the Governor's disaster declarations.

Act 93 of 2008, Intrastate Mutual Aid, amended Chapter 73 and created a system of intrastate mutual aid between participating political subdivisions within this Commonwealth, whereby each participating political subdivision recognizes that emergencies transcend the boundaries of a political subdivision, and that intergovernmental coordination is essential for the protection of lives and property and for the best use of available public and private assets. The system provides for mutual assistance among the participating political subdivisions in the prevention of, response to, and recovery from threats to public health and safety that are beyond the capability of an affected community to respond. The system provides for cooperation among the participating subdivisions in conducting exercises, testing, or other training activities. Under the provisions of this act, all political subdivisions are participants unless they opt out by resolution.

**Chapter 74** sets forth laws concerning volunteer firefighters. Sections 7411-7419.1 establish Fire Relief Associations that provide funding to help recruit and retain volunteer firefighters, as well as providing funding for equipment that is necessary to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of volunteer firefighters. Sections 7421-7427 establish employment protections for volunteer firefighters, particularly prohibiting the termination and discipline of volunteer firefighters for missing time, in certain circumstances, due to their work as volunteer firefighters. Those sections also establish sanctions for employers who violate those protections. Sections 7431-7437 establish and regulate Special Fire Police within the Commonwealth.

**Chapter 75, Section 7501**, directs and authorizes each political subdivision to establish a local (the term "local" includes both municipal and county government) emergency management organization. It also explains the legal and moral obligations of elected officials. Each local organization shall have responsibility for emergency management, response, and recovery within its territorial limits. It authorizes the governing body of a political subdivision to declare a local disaster emergency when it finds that a local disaster has occurred or is imminent; the declaration must be signed by a majority of the elected officials. During an emergency, the governing body may delegate to the mayor, or other chief executive officer, authority to declare

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a local disaster emergency. In counties or municipalities governed under a Home Rule Charter, the mayor or county executive may declare the disaster unilaterally.

- A. A “disaster declaration” enables the county or municipality to issue and enforce orders and procedures necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. A disaster declaration is required when the enormity of an emergency depletes the community’s resources to respond and recover.
  1. The municipal EMC must forward a copy of the signed declaration to the county emergency management office. The county EMC must file the municipal and county declaration with PEMA. When a disaster affects two or more political subdivisions within a county, the county Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will exercise authority for coordination and support of emergency services within the area of operations.
  2. A Presidential declaration of a disaster emergency or a Presidential declaration of a major disaster applies to municipalities within specific counties and makes municipal governments and authorities, school districts, and certain private non- profits eligible for federal disaster assistance. Such a declaration can only occur after the Governor has requested such a declaration from the President, based on input from local and county sources.
- B. Damage assessment plays a critical role in supporting requests for a Presidential Disaster Declaration. It is important that each county or municipality have individuals or teams trained in damage assessment to support timely requests for federal assistance.
  1. The damage reporting process begins at the municipal level and is a mechanism to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needsof individuals, businesses, the public sector, and the community. The information collected is forwarded to the county EMA where damage assessment reports are reviewed, the damages consolidated, and forwarded to PEMA. PEMA will analyze the damage reports to determine if there are sufficient damages to seek a more formal assessment, which will determine eligibility to request federal assistance.

2. The information collected is used by the state as a basis for the Governor's request to the President for a Declaration of Emergency or Major Disaster, and by FEMA in response to the Governor's request. If sufficient damage does not exist to support a request for a Presidential Declaration of Emergency or Major Disaster, the information collected during the damage assessment could be used to support a Governor's request to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in support of an SBA disaster declaration. This type of request, if approved, provides low interest loans to homeowners, renters, and businesses. Municipalities must be prepared to collect accurate initial damage reports that will identify areas with preliminary damage.
- C. Additional information collected should include the number of fatalities and missing and evacuated persons, the number of sheltered individuals, the number of injuries, housing conditions, and infrastructure damage to roads, utilities, and schools. Elected officials and EMCs must provide prompt, credible, and accurate damage information to support a request for disaster recovery assistance.
- D. PEMA and FEMA will look to the county and municipal EMCs to organize tours of affected areas. This process is known as a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). It is conducted jointly by federal, state, county, and municipal officials. The purpose is to verify reported damages that are necessary to obtain a Federal Disaster Declaration. Before the PDA begins, local officials are expected to provide a briefing of the damage locations, along with maps and photos of the damages reported. A PDA must not be construed to mean that disaster assistance is forthcoming. The PDA is a mandated process to determine the potential Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, or SBA program eligibility. FEMA will also look to the municipal and county officials for assistance in beginning the damage claim process if a declaration is received.

**Chapter 75, Section 7502** mandates the appointment of a local EMC, and identifies the certification process and required training. Section 7503 lists the powers and duties of political subdivisions. These include preparing an EOP, establishing and staffing an EOC, adopting precautionary measures, and participating in drills and exercises. It also discusses agreements among political subdivisions, handling gifts,

appropriations, and grants.

**Chapter 75A** provides for certain programs and protections to enhance emergency responder mental wellness and stress management. It creates a Statewide Critical Incident Stress Management Program and provides protections to emergency responders seeking aid; it also provides funding for those programs.

**Chapter 76**, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) provides for mutual assistance between the states entering into the compact in managing any emergency or disaster that is duly declared by the governor of the affected states. This compact also provides for cooperation in emergency-related exercises, testing, or other training activities.

**Chapter 77** identifies duties concerning disaster prevention, acceptance of services, interstate arrangements, immunity from civil liability, special powers of local agencies, compensation for accidental injury, and penalties.

**Chapter 78** establishes grant programs that provide funding for both fire companies and emergency medical services.

**Chapter 79** establishes a grant program that provides state funding to political subdivisions that are directly affected by disasters. These grants are limited to projects that occur in a disaster emergency area when a Presidential disaster declaration is not covering the area. This grant program is contingent upon funding from the General Assembly.

**Chapter 79A** authorizes municipalities to establish real property tax credit incentives for volunteer firefighters and providers of nonprofit emergency medical services. The State Fire Commissioner establishes guidelines for such programs, and municipalities that establish such programs are required to report their programs to the State Fire Commissioner.

### Chapter 2 The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

The foundational plan for all emergency management programs is the EOP. Experience has proven that having a plan in place and having the principal players familiar with duties and responsibilities saves time, resources, and lives.



Pre-designation of evacuation routes and staging areas for equipment and personnel will assist in conflict resolution and the identification of unmet needs. Unmet needs result when required resources are beyond the county or local municipality's capability to provide them during an incident.

As outlined in Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101 (CPG 101):

"Planning is fundamental to national preparedness. It shapes how a community envisions and shares a desired outcome, selects effective ways to achieve it and communicates the results. Planning is a foundational element of the National Preparedness System and anchors nearly every activity that emergency management partners undertake to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from all threats and hazards."

According to federal comprehensive preparedness guidance, when developing plans for your community, keep the following in mind:

- Planning should be community-based and represent the whole population and its needs.
- Planning should emphasize caring for individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs, including infants, children, and older adults, as well as pets.
- Planning should include all stakeholders in the community – a concept known as "whole community."
- Planning should address equity in all phases of the process.
- Planning should engage the private sector partners in your community.

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- Planning should include elected and appointed officials throughout the process.
- Planning is a fundamental process to manage risk.
- Planning should use analytical approaches in order to address uncertainty.
- Planning should consider all of your community's threats & hazards.
- Time, uncertainty, risk, and experience all have impacts on planning.
- Plans should clearly identify the mission, supporting goals, and desired results of a community.
- Plans should depict the anticipated environment they will be used through the use of planning assumptions.
- Planning doesn't need to start from scratch – see what others have done and don't reinvent the wheel!
- Planning involves identifying tasks, identifying and allocating resources to accomplish those tasks, and establishing accountability.
- Plans tell those with responsibilities within it what to do, why they should do it, and how supporting entities (i.e., mutual aid) can provide support and what to expect.
- Plans need to constantly be tested, exercised, revised, and updated.

You can learn more about the federal comprehensive planning guides on the FEMA website at: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/plan>

**Hazards in Pennsylvania**

The Commonwealth’s Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019) identifies the following threats and hazards for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

<b>Threats and Hazards for Pennsylvania</b> <i>(Based on the 2019 Commonwealth Hazard Mitigation Plan)</i>	
<b>NATURAL HAZARDS</b>	<b>HUMAN-CAUSED HAZARDS</b>
Coastal Erosion	Building & Structure Collapse
Drought	Civil Disturbance
Earthquake	Cyber-Terrorism
Extreme Temperature	Dam/Levee Failure
Flood, Flash Flood, Ice Jam	Environmental Hazard – Coal Mining
Hailstorm	Environmental Hazard – Conventional Gas/Oil Wells
Hurricane, Tropical Storm	Environmental Hazard – Gas & Liquid Pipelines
Invasive Species	Environmental Hazard – HazMat Release
Landslide	Environmental Hazard – Unconventional Wells
Lightning Strike	Mass Food and Animal Feed Contamination
Pandemic & Infectious Disease	Nuclear Incident
Radon Exposure	Opioid Addiction
Subsidence, Sinkhole	Terrorism
Tornado, Windstorm	Transportation Accident
Wildfire	Urban Fire & Explosion
Winter Storm	

Your own community may have all or some of these threats and hazards or may include different ones. Your planning team should evaluate the specific threats and hazards that your community faces so that you know what you should be planning

and preparing for. As part of that process, review your county's hazard mitigation plans, as they may have more specific information for your locale.



### Chapter 3 The Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

During a disaster, it is important that governments speak with a single, unified voice. This is essential both from the viewpoint of orchestrating an effective response and for the psychological well-being and morale of the population. Effective communication between all entities of local government, as well as government at other levels, will enhance the confidence of the citizens in addition to better protecting lives and property.



*Commonwealth Response Coordination Center located at PEMA Headquarters in Harrisburg, PA*

Elected officials play a vital role in the EOC by:

- Establishing, equipping, and staffing the organization.
- Ensuring the continuity of operations.
- Initiating the disaster declaration when necessary.

To ensure that the various departments and organizations in the local community (e.g., road crews/public works, firefighting, police, volunteer services, and local government executives) will effectively communicate, it is necessary to designate a place for this to happen. For this reason, the Emergency Management Services Code requires each municipality and county to establish, equip, and staff an EOC, which is consolidated with warning and communication systems to support government operations during emergencies. The EOC must also provide other essential facilities and equipment for agencies and activities assigned emergency responsibilities. This EOC is at a physical location where representatives of the major decision-making and response organizations in the community can come together to effectively communicate and coordinate. EOC personnel look at the strategic picture versus managing specific incident events and do not act as Incident Commander. The EOC provides coordination and prioritizes the allocation of scarce resources.

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The EOC does not exercise direct control over response agencies. On-scene procedures for dealing with fire, rescue, emergency medical services, and law enforcement are directed by the on-scene Incident Commander. EOC staff members have two primary responsibilities: coordinating efforts and obtaining and allocating resources to first responders and other field personnel.

An important part of the planning process is determining which agencies should have representation in the EOC. Some types of emergencies may not require every staff member or agency to be present. It may become necessary to call in outside experts to assist in the EOC



*Allegheny County Emergency Operations Center*

for the duration of a specific incident. To effectively use the expertise and decision-making capabilities in the EOC, field personnel should gather accurate and complete information about the disaster and identify resource shortfalls at the disaster scene. Within the EOC, a means of obtaining and disseminating this information must be implemented to allow the EOC staff to keep abreast of an often rapidly changing situation.

The complexity of the EOC will vary with the needs of the community and its assets. The following should be considered:

- A cadre of trained EOC management specialists
- The proximity or accessibility to the seat of government
- Adequate space and ventilation for all persons expected to be present
- Communication with the disaster scene and with EOCs in other municipalities (especially county or state)
- Emergency lighting and backup power
- Visual displays, maps, and status boards
- Sanitary facilities and food and water supplies for an extended activation
- Protection from possible hazards (e.g., not located in flood plain)

- Multiple telephone lines
- Fax machine /photocopier
- Copies of the EOP, manuals, and forms
- General office supplies
- Amateur radio equipment
- Internet access

An EOC should have Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) to govern the set-up, operation, and close-out of activities. Items such as activation, call-down rosters, the placement of maps, charts and boards, and other equipment are part of the guidelines. The SOGs should cover all aspects of the EOC activities.

Careful consideration must be given to the requirements of an EOC and to the resources available. Examples of EOC locations used by counties and municipal governments across the Commonwealth include conference rooms in the government center, training or bingo rooms in the fire hall, college or university facilities, or recreation rooms in the community center. Most counties have a dedicated EOC location in the county courthouse or other county building. The EOC is normally co-located with the county 9-1-1 Center/Public Safety Answering Point. Each location has advantages and disadvantages. The elected officials, in conjunction with the Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), should select the location that is best for their community.

Equipping the EOC need not be a major task. It should have room for wall charts and maps. The most important resource is the communications equipment. Broadband/internet access should be standard; telephones are a necessity, as are radios to talk with incident critical individuals. The more communications systems that are available in the EOC the better the EOC staff will be served when the disaster strikes. Emergency lighting and power should also be available.

EOC staff members must be continually recruited and trained. Trained and competent EOC staff members are the bridge to success. At the county or municipal level, the size of the EOC staff is dependent on the size of the county or municipality, vulnerability to hazards, the disaster situation, and as outlined in the county or municipal EOP. There are practical limits based not only on availability of space but also on the effectiveness of communications. For the average county, the EOC staff should include 25 to 30 trained individuals per shift to assist in coordination and

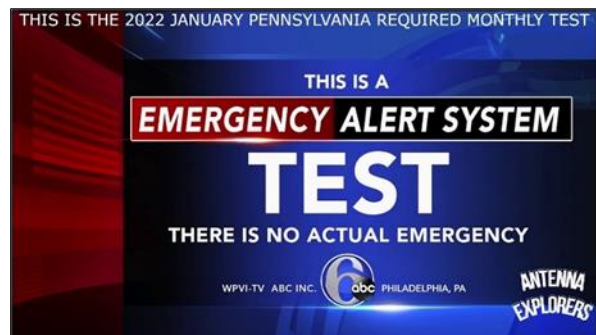
resource allocation. The number will vary based on the size of the county, so the number of personnel in the EOC may vary. Elected officials should coordinate with their EMC when developing staffing levels for their EOC.

During the recruitment of staff members, consideration must be given to the possibility that 24-hour operations may be required. Each member must be trained to perform in more than one area or function. Independent study courses and classroom training opportunities provided by PEMA and FEMA will assist in the training of staff members. The county EMC can assist with the municipal training effort. PEMA Area Offices can assist with the training of county EOC staff members. Training and exercises help familiarize members with their responsibilities and EOC protocols and procedures.

Large, elaborate, expensive EOCs do not necessarily mean effective operations centers. The more complex an EOC, the more work and training are required to maintain it. The proper mixture depends on the needs of the community and the ability to maintain it during non-disaster periods. The planning and training efforts that are completed by the EOC staff during non-emergency periods will provide for efficiency and effectiveness during activation.

### Alert and Warning in your Community

To warn residents of potential threats to life or property, PEMA and counties utilize the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Activation of the EAS for any disaster can be accomplished in a matter of minutes anywhere in the Commonwealth. PEMA operates the Commonwealth Watch and Warning Center, which has the capability to generate the EAS signal for delivery statewide or in any area within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Similarly, county emergency management agencies have the capability to activate the EAS within their counties.



*An example of a monthly EAS test message.*

The statewide EAS is also used by the Pennsylvania State Police, in coordination with

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PEMA, to activate the Amber Alert system to assist in recovering abducted or kidnapped children in the Commonwealth. This alert can also be generated statewide or to any area within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### Chapter 4 Emergency Response Organizations

In most communities, the first responders (fire, police, Emergency Medical Services [EMS], and rescue units) handle daily emergencies, as well as additional emergencies that can occur in disaster situations.

All disasters start at the local level, and communities have varying local response capabilities to mitigate these emergencies. Elected officials are responsible for everyone in the community whether they are residents or visitors. All responses to disasters and emergencies should be performed at the lowest level capable of handling the emergency using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) (See Chapter 5).



*Emergency responders on-scene after an accident.*

Paid, career responders have a clearly established relationship with their county or local government employer. State law also provides that volunteers are considered to be employees of the county or municipality for certain purposes, such as providing workers' compensation insurance. In most Pennsylvania communities, full- or part-time officers staff police departments, and many municipalities rely on the Pennsylvania State Police for law enforcement services.

Government has the responsibility to provide for the public's safety. Effective emergency preparedness that provides for response to both everyday emergencies and disaster operations relies on a strong relationship between local government and the local emergency response providers. Fire departments, ambulance services, rescue squads, search and rescue teams, regional task forces, and hazardous materials teams have assumed the responsibility of providing for certain aspects of that safety.

A thorough planning process should allow an information exchange regarding the expectations and responsibilities of all groups involved. This exchange can provide

the foundation for mutual-aid agreements that are formal contractual agreements. Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) and/or Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are internal guidance documents that clearly define how local governments and their emergency response organizations intend to provide for the public safety. Legal mutual aid agreements—as well as internal SOPs and SOGs—can be as basic or as all-inclusive as the parties’ desire, but they are all an essential part of a comprehensive emergency management program in that they delineate duties and responsibilities.

Whether paid or volunteer, everyone involved in emergency response groups must train for a broad range of emergency conditions. The training necessary for emergency response units continues to increase, in part due to federal regulations, industry safety requirements, court decisions, and the need to keep up with an increasingly complex environment.

The Pennsylvania State Fire Academy’s (SFA) *Local Level Fire Training Program*, in cooperation with community colleges and county and regional fire training schools, provides basic and advanced firefighting, hazardous materials and rescue training. The State Fire Academy offers training opportunities in command and control, hazardous materials response teams, and a broad range of fire and rescue specialties. A standardized curriculum forms the basis of both the resident and local-level programs and lays a foundation for information and operational procedures throughout the state’s emergency response community. Training is available at little or no expense to local government or individual emergency responders.

Through the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program, low interest loans are available to volunteer fire companies, ambulance services, and rescue squads to assist with the purchase of apparatus and accessory equipment and to establish facilities to house apparatus and equipment. From time to time, the state asks local government to assist a volunteer organization by guaranteeing the loan.

Emergency response units are integral to a well-planned emergency disaster preparedness program. Establishing and developing relationships and SOPs with them on a day-to-day basis will provide better emergency services in general and a more coordinated response during disasters.

**Chapter 5**  
**National Incident Management System (NIMS)**

**What is NIMS?**

*Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5: Management of Domestic Incidents* came about in 2003 as a direct result of the challenges faced in responding to 9/11. It mandated the creation of a system that would “provide a systematic approach to allow all levels of government to work together to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents regardless of size, cause, or complexity.” The *National Incident Management System (NIMS)* document was initially published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (US DHS) in 2008 and has been updated several times, most recently in 2017.

NIMS Is	NIMS Is Not
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive, nationwide, systematic approach to incident management, including the command and coordination of incidents, resource management, and information management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only the ICS</li> <li>• Only applicable to certain emergency/incident response personnel</li> <li>• A static system</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A set of concepts and principles for all threats, hazards, and events across all mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, Recovery)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A response plan</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scalable, flexible, and adaptable; used for all incidents, from day-to-day to large-scale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used only during large-scale incidents</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard resource management procedures that enable coordination among different jurisdictions or organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A resource-ordering system</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential principles for communications and information management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A communications plan</li> </ul>

The NIMS document provides a comprehensive and consistent national approach to all-hazards incident management at all jurisdictional levels and across all functional emergency management disciplines and includes objectives that need to be met, such as training, mutual aid, resource management, and qualification of personnel and teams.

NIMS works together with the National Response Framework (NRF) and provides the



template for management of incidents. It's designed to ensure that local jurisdictions retain command, control, and authority over response activities for their jurisdictions, but allows for the expansion of an incident and the introduction of additional resources and personnel. Because these resources and personnel need to be able to integrate seamlessly with one another, NIMS provides the framework for interoperability and use of common training, terminology, and command and control structures.

### Who Does NIMS Apply To?

NIMS applies to any stakeholder with incident management and support responsibilities. Those stakeholders include emergency responders, emergency management personnel, NGOs (faith-based & community-based groups), the private sector, and elected/appointed officials responsible for making decisions during incidents.

### How Does NIMS Impact Me as an Elected or Appointed Official?

NIMS defines elected and appointed officials as including administrative & political personnel, department or agency administrators who have leadership roles in a jurisdiction, elected officials within a jurisdiction (mayors, governors, sheriffs, county executives, etc.) and appointed officials within a jurisdiction (county and city administrators, township, or borough managers).

These individuals need to have a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities during an emergency or disaster and are **NOT** the Incident Commander. Elected and appointed officials need to clearly state jurisdictional policy, evaluate the effectiveness of those policies, and correct any deficiencies, support a multi-agency or multi-jurisdictional response, and work **with** the Incident Commander or Unified Command.

Elected and appointed officials should:

- Understand, commit to, and receive training on NIMS and participate in exercises.
- Lead and encourage preparedness efforts within their communities.
- Provide guidance to their staff, including clearly stated policies for NIMS implementation.

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- Officially adopt NIMS via resolution or ordinance, if not already done.
- Understand laws, regulations, and processes that pertain to emergency management and incident response.

Elected or appointed officials should refrain from going to the scene of an incident in the early stages of a response, as it can create confusion and detract from or slow incident operations. Any visits to the scene of an incident should be coordinated with Incident Command/Unified Command and occur during a time period that does not adversely impact ongoing operations. Depending on the nature of the incident or level of the overall emergency, elected and appointed officials should function from the one of the following locations:

- Agency or jurisdictional offices
- An EOC
- A multi-agency coordination center

What elected and appointed officials should do is clearly communicate the following views or considerations to the Incident Commander or Emergency Management Coordinator to assist them in decision-making during and after an incident:

- Safety considerations
- Environmental issues
- Legal and policy limitations
- Issues relating to critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR) services or restoration
- Economic, political, and social concerns
- Cost considerations

### **Why Should I Care?**

Has your jurisdiction ever had a disaster or emergency? Has it ever had to rely on mutual aid? Have you ever applied for federal preparedness grants? Have you ever had to participate in damage assessments for federal reimbursement post-disaster? If the answer to any of these questions is, "Yes," then NIMS will play a role.

An incident may have a mix of political, economic, social, environmental, public safety, public health, and financial implications with potentially serious long-term

effects. Frequently, incidents require a coordinated response across agencies and jurisdictions, including non-governmental organizations (NGO) and the private sector, during which elected and appointed officials must make difficult decisions under crisis conditions. Elected and appointed officials should be aware of how NIMS and emergency management can work to ensure cooperative response efforts, thereby minimizing the potential implications of an incident.

Jurisdictions are required to meet NIMS implementation requirements as a condition of receiving federal preparedness funding assistance; however, it is important to recognize that NIMS is a dynamic system, and the doctrine as well as the implementation requirements will continue to evolve as our emergency management capabilities nationwide change based on the hazards and threats facing the nation. *The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania NIMS Implementation Strategy* and a *NIMS Implementation Objectives Checklist for Local Jurisdictions* can be found on PEMA's website at [www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov).

### **What Does My Municipality or County Need to Do?**

When implementing NIMS, all emergency plans, SOGs, and SOPs must incorporate NIMS components, principles, and policies, including emergency planning, training, response, exercises, equipment, evaluation, and corrective action plans. CPG-101 can help assist with this process. Elected and appointed officials of a community must be directly involved in these NIMS preparedness elements, especially when the community exercises its emergency management policies, plans, procedures, and resources.

Current requirements for training of personnel within a jurisdiction can be found in the PA Implementation Strategy on the PEMA website or in the FEMA NIMS Training Plan.

### **Where Can I Find Additional Resources?**

- <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims>
- <https://www.pema.pa.gov/Preparedness/NIMS/Pages/default.aspx>

### Chapter 6

#### Federal Laws and Presidential Directives Affecting Emergency Management

Federal laws and Presidential Directives affecting local government include:

- The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 100-707, 42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.*)
- Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-295)
- Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Emergency Management and Assistance
- The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA)
- The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-254)
- The National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (launched the National Flood Insurance Program)
- The Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004
- The Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013
- Homeland Security Act of 2002
- The National Incident Management System
- The National Response Framework

These presuppose an active emergency management function at all levels of government. They emphasize the need for emergency planning in advance of the disaster.

#### **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act**

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act provides for federal assistance to state and local governments after a disaster. It provides for declaration of a disaster by the President, appointment of coordinating officers, and utilization of various federal resources in the disaster area. The law directs the President to assist states in developing plans and preparing programs for disaster response and mitigation.

The Stafford Act has public and private provisions that cover certain costs following a declared disaster. The public assistance sections provide for federal contributions to remove debris and to repair or replace facilities and infrastructure that belong to

state or local government or to private, non-profit organizations. The federal reimbursement may include costs for equipment, materials, contracts, and labor costs for base pay or overtime for regular and temporary or "special hire" employees.

The *Individuals and Households* sections of the law provide federal assistance for private individuals affected by the disaster. Housing and other needs assistance may be provided to homeowners, renters, or individuals. Housing assistance may take the form of a grant for temporary housing (hotels, apartments, and travel-trailers), a repair assistance grant, or limited money to help replace a destroyed home. Other needs assistance includes grants to replace personal property, to repair or replace automobiles, or to reimburse victims for other serious and necessary disaster losses such as medical, dental, or funerals. Other provisions may include disaster unemployment assistance, food stamps assistance, direct distribution of food, legal services, emergency public transportation, or crisis counseling.

The assistance is dependent upon a Presidential disaster declaration and appropriate demonstration of need. When a disaster does strike, a victim's primary method of applying for assistance is by registering with FEMA. Additionally, federal and state disaster workers may establish a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) where citizens can receive help in applying for the above-mentioned assistance or in coping with other aspects of their disaster loss.

The federal government amended the Stafford Act to include the provisions of the *Civil Defense Act of 1951*. This law provided money to state and local governments to build emergency management capabilities. Although the law originally provided for preparedness against enemy attack, its inclusion into the Stafford Act expands it to include preparedness for all hazards that may affect a community.

As defined in the law, the purpose of the emergency management program is to:

- Minimize the effects of disaster.
- Respond to emergency conditions.
- Repair and restore vital infrastructure and facilities.

Identifying hazards, analyzing our capabilities, and planning a comprehensive response meets these goals. The law places responsibility for this preparedness

jointly on federal, state, and local (municipal or county) governments.

### **Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA)**

The *Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA)* amended the Stafford Act to modernize FEMA and to improve the nation's ability to respond to catastrophic events. The DRRA contains fifty-six different provisions, all aimed at improving disaster response and recovery. One of the more important provisions established the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, which provides funding to state, local, and tribal governments to undertake hazard mitigation projects. A detailed overview of the DRRA, and the text of the act, is available at: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/disaster-recovery-reform-act-2018>.

### **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA)**

The *Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA)* combats only one specific type of disaster-related hazardous materials. The law has several provisions, including requirements for reporting releases of chemicals and requirements for the protection of responders. However, SARA Title III, relating to emergency planning and community right-to-know, has the greatest impact on county government.

SARA Title III requires every facility, public or private, that routinely has on hand more than a threshold quantity of certain extremely hazardous chemicals to report the name, amount, and location of the chemical to the county, state, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This includes many municipal swimming pools, waste treatment plants, and most industrial facilities in the state. It requires facilities to develop an on-site emergency response plan.

SARA Title III directs the states to appoint Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) to receive the information from facilities and develop an off-site emergency plan for every facility which reported having threshold quantities of extremely hazardous substances. The Governor of Pennsylvania designated each county as a local emergency planning district with its own LEPC.

### **National Homeland Security and Combating Terrorism Act of 2002**

The *National Homeland Security and Combating Terrorism Act of 2002 (S. 2452)*, *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53)*, and the *Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009 (Public Law 110-329)*, restructures and strengthens the executive branch of the federal government to better meet the threat to our homeland posed by terrorism. US DHS has the primary mission to help prevent, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism on our soil. Title VIII, Coordination with Non-Federal entities, and others, establishes the Office for State and Local Government Coordination to oversee and coordinate departmental programs for and relationships with state and local governments. This section allows for assessment and advocacy for the resources needed by state and local governments to implement the national strategy for combating terrorism.

The Grants Program Directorate (GPD) is charged with coordinating preparedness efforts at the federal level, and working with all state, local, tribal, parish, and private sector emergency response providers on all matters pertaining to combating terrorism, including training, exercises, and equipment support. The GPD supervises the preparedness grant programs of the federal government. Local governments receive the benefits of the grant funding through the activities of the Commonwealth's nine regional task forces. PEMA is the State Administrative Agency (SAA) for the federal preparedness grant programs and provides management and administration of the grant programs.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was initially published by US DHS in 2004, updated in 2008 and most recently updated in 2017. It provides a comprehensive and consistent national approach to all-hazards incident management at all jurisdictional levels and across all functional emergency management disciplines.

Elected and appointed officials should have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities for successful emergency management and incident response. These officials include administrative and political personnel, as well as department/agency administrators who have leadership roles in a jurisdiction, including legislators and chief executives, whether elected (e.g., governors, mayors, sheriffs, tribal leaders, and county executives) or appointed (e.g., county administrators and city managers).

Although their roles may require providing direction and guidance to constituents during an incident, their day-to-day activities do not necessarily focus on emergency management and incident response.

To better serve their constituents, elected and appointed officials should:

- Understand, commit to, adopt, and receive NIMS training.
- Provide guidance to their jurisdictions, departments, and/or agencies, with clearly stated policies for NIMS implementation.
- Participate in exercises.
- Maintain an understanding of basic emergency management, Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government (CoG) plans, jurisdictional response capabilities, and initiation of disaster declarations.
- Lead and encourage preparedness efforts within the community, agencies of the jurisdiction, NGOs, and the private sector, as appropriate.
- Help to establish relationships (including mutual aid agreements and assistance agreements) with other jurisdictions and, as appropriate, NGOs and the private sector.
- Support and encourage participation in mitigation efforts within the jurisdiction and, as appropriate, with NGOs and the private sector.
- Understand laws and regulations in their jurisdictions that pertain to emergency management and incident response; and
- Maintain awareness of designated Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (collectively CI/KR) within their jurisdictions, potential incident impacts, and restoration priorities.

Elected and appointed officials may also be called upon to help shape and revise laws, policies, and budgets to aid in preparedness efforts and to improve emergency management and incident response activities.

An incident may have a mix of political, economic, social, environmental, public safety, public health, and financial implications with potentially serious long-term effects. Frequently, incidents require a coordinated response across agencies and jurisdictions, including NGOs and the private sector, during which elected and appointed officials must make difficult decisions under crisis conditions. Elected and appointed officials should be aware of how NIMS can work to ensure cooperative response efforts, thereby minimizing the potential implications of an incident.



### Chapter 7 State Laws Affecting Emergency Management

In addition to the *Emergency Management Services Code*, there are several other Pennsylvania laws that impact directly on the emergency management agency.

#### **Proclamation of Disaster Emergency**

Article IV, Section 20 of the Pennsylvania Constitution grants the Governor the authority to declare a disaster emergency by executive order or proclamation upon finding that a disaster has occurred or that the occurrence or threat of a disaster is imminent that threatens the health, safety, or welfare of this Commonwealth. Pa. Const. Article IV, § 20(a). [A Proclamation is historically the instrument used to declare a disaster emergency.] Each disaster emergency declaration issued by the Governor shall indicate the nature, each area threatened and the conditions of the disaster, including whether the disaster is a natural disaster, military emergency, public health emergency, technological disaster, or other general emergency, as defined by statute. Pa. Const. Article IV, § 20(b).

Importantly, a disaster declaration is time limited and shall be in effect for no more than twenty-one (21) days, unless otherwise extended in whole or part by concurrent resolution of the General Assembly. Pa. Const. Article IV, § 20(c). Additionally, the General Assembly has the authority to terminate or extend a disaster emergency declaration, or any portion of a disaster emergency declaration by concurrent resolution without presentment to the Governor. Pa. Const. Article III, § 9. Upon expiration of a disaster emergency declaration the Governor may not issue a new disaster emergency declaration based upon the same or substantially similar facts and circumstances without the passage of a concurrent resolution of the General Assembly expressly approving the new disaster emergency declaration. Pa. Const. Article IV, § 20(d).

#### **The Pennsylvania Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Act**

*The Pennsylvania Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Act 1990-165 (Act 165)* implements the *Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act* authorized by *SARA Title III*. It creates a strong working relationship between business and industry entities and the commonwealth, counties, and

municipalities to protect its citizens from the dangers of hazardous materials.

The law requires a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) in each county to develop emergency response plans for facilities which contain certain hazardous chemicals in amounts over specific thresholds. The LEPCs are made up of elected officials, members of emergency response groups, industry representatives, and other concerned citizens who are responsible for both planning and for providing information on chemical hazards to the residents of each county. Members are recommended by the county commissioners and appointed by the PEMA Director on behalf of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council.

The history of the program indicates that the interest of elected officials motivates an effective LEPC. If not already involved in the county LEPC, elected officials are encouraged to become involved.

Per *Act 165*, facilities that store or release extremely hazardous substances pay fees to the state. The state then distributes these monies to the county emergency management agencies based on grant applications which specify uses for the money. This provides a funding source for the development and maintenance of county capabilities to respond to the risks of hazardous materials.

### **Pennsylvania Radiation Protection Act**

Similar to Act 165 is the *Pennsylvania Radiation Protection Act, 1984-147 (Act 147)*. Act 147 deals specifically with radiation, control of radioactive sources and accidental releases of radiation from any of the nuclear-powered electric generating facilities in Pennsylvania. PEMA has developed a radiological emergency response program with plans for each fixed nuclear power generating facility.

In implementing the radiological emergency response program, plans have been developed for evacuation or protection of persons within a 10-mile radius of the plant. Each of the affected municipalities has a plan that addresses accidental releases of radiation at the plant. The law requires periodic exercise of these plans, and every two years, a full-scale exercise involving several hundred people is conducted for each of the five facilities.

Act 147 created a Radiation Emergency Response Fund and a Radiation Transportation Emergency Response Fund, which receives money from the reactor

operators, spent fuel storage facilities, and spent nuclear fuel shippers. PEMA then distributes this money to the affected counties, and the counties distribute it to municipalities. The monies are distributed based on grant applications submitted by counties to reimburse expenses involved in preparing plans, providing equipment and expenses involved in training and exercising the Radiological Emergency Response Program.

### **The Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act**

*The Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act, Act 78 of 1990 (Act 78)*, as amended by Act 17 of 1998, Act 56 of 2003, Act 72 of 2008, and Act 118 of 2010 implemented a statewide emergency telephone number “911” system. Act 78 comprehensively rewritten by Act 12 of 2015 (Act 12) and as amended by Act 17 of 2019, provides a framework of requirements related to planning, standards, funding, and oversight to guide Pennsylvania’s transition to NG911 in a coordinated and sustainable manner. Act 12 makes it possible to enhance emergency communications throughout Pennsylvania, which will result in the implementation of advanced technology to support emergency services statewide and to enable public safety professionals to perform their critical roles more effectively and efficiently.

Since Act 12 of 2015 was passed into law the Agency has been working to implement a Next Generation 911 (NG 911) system, which will strengthen the Commonwealth’s aging 911 ecosystem. Among other improvements, NG 911 provides Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) the ability to provide Text-to-911 service, improve call speed, and accurately pinpoint caller location. Section 5306.1 of the Act also established a 911 Fund to provide monies to “enhance, operate or maintain a 911 system in this Commonwealth in accordance with the Statewide 911 plan.”

### **Counterterrorism Planning, Preparedness and Response Act**

*The Counterterrorism Planning, Preparedness and Response Act, Act of December 16, 2002, P.L. 1967, No. 227 35 (Act 227)* provides for counterterrorism planning, preparedness, and response; imposing powers and duties on PEMA, the Department of Health, counties, and municipalities; and providing for the organization of various response teams. Act 227 established Regional Task Forces (RTF) across the state, each comprised of multiple counties, for the purposes of preparing for and responding to acts of terrorism and other emergencies and disasters. Each RTF has

a mutual aid agreement among all its representative counties to share resources, equipment, and specialized teams for larger incidents. Act 227 also provided the authority to develop regional specialized response teams, statewide specialized response teams, and the in-state Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Forces.

### Chapter 8 Selecting an Emergency Management Coordinator

Title 35 requires all political subdivisions to appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) to oversee planning, training, and preparation during non-disaster times, and to act as the coordinator in the EOC during times of disasters. The responsibilities placed on this individual are significant. The EMC is the primary agent for the elected officials and is invaluable when disaster strikes.

In the majority of the 67 Pennsylvania counties, the EMC is a full-time county employee. In most municipalities, the EMC may be a volunteer or a full- or part-time employee doing multiple jobs. It is crucial that elected officials select the right person for the job.

An effective EMC is a leader, respected by the emergency response groups in the community, who can rally all community resources, has planning and training abilities, and possesses administrative abilities.

In the development of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), the EMC also provides and coordinates the appropriate training for personnel, thereby enabling the community's EOP to be a living document. The EMC maintains records and reports, providing required documentation of training, exercises, and disaster events. Failure to do so accurately and in a timely manner may result in an ineffective response to an emergency and result in a failure to support the recovery process.

The effective EMC is one who is able to lead a coordinated, concentrated response effort that results in a successful community response to any emergency.

It is not advisable to select the police chief or the fire chief for the position of local EMC. While they may be qualified to fill the position, regular duties may compete with those of the EMC during disaster times, making it difficult to fill two positions at the same time. In smaller communities, elected officials have filled the position of EMC. In some instances, elected officials have entered into regional agreements with other municipalities to obtain an EMC.

The *Emergency Management Services Code* requires elected officials at all levels of government to nominate an EMC who is then appointed by the Governor. The EMC is

responsible to the elected officials or their designees. For example, in some areas, the full-time EMC is nominated by the Council of Governments and appointed by the Governor. The EMC then reports to the Emergency Management Council consisting of the municipal managers.

### **The process for appointing an EMC**

1. The nominating government entity requests a criminal history check on the nominee from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) using the PSP PATCH system.
2. The nominating government entity forwards the name of their nominee to the county emergency management agency along with PEMA form "Request for Appointment of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator", the results of the criminal history check, and a letter requesting appointment from the municipal elected officials.\*
3. The county office reviews the recommended appointment and then forwards the letter of appointment and completed background check from the municipality, along with county documentation to the appropriate PEMA Area Office.
4. The Area Office verifies the information and forwards to the PEMA Director for review.
5. The PEMA Director forwards the nomination to the Governor with an endorsement for the appointment.
6. The Governor approves the appointment and sends the signed letter of appointment to the nominee, with a copy to the PEMA Director.
7. The PEMA Director forwards copies of the signed appointment letter to the appropriate PEMA Area Office Director and the county EMC.

\* *In the case of a county coordinator, the county commissioners (or equivalent in the home rule counties) forward the documentation for their nominee to PEMA through the appropriate PEMA Area Office.*

You can find the form, "Request for Appointment of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator" and the current list of County Emergency Management Coordinators on the PEMA website: [www.pema.pa.gov/County-EMC](http://www.pema.pa.gov/County-EMC).

Appointed coordinators at all levels are required to obtain both levels of certification

in accordance with Title 35. The levels of certification are:

- Associate Certification
- Professional Certification

Additionally, recertification is now required every five years in order to ensure currency in the profession.

### **Certification Requirements**

The most recent PEMA Emergency Management Directive regarding required **certifications and training** for county and local emergency manager is available on the PEMA website at <https://www.pema.pa.gov/Directives>.

More information regarding the **Certification Program and Recertification Requirements**, can be found on the PEMA Website at: <https://www.pema.pa.gov/Preparedness/Training-Exercises/For-Government-Partners>

The EMC must have a solid base of professional skills and values and have a clear perception of his or her professional responsibilities. The EMC places the highest value on:

- Protection of life and property
- Improvement of the quality of life
- Protection of the environment
- Responsiveness to disaster victims and responders' emotional and physical needs
- Responsiveness to the special needs of diverse populations
- Promotion of justice and equality
- Provision of mutual assistance and support
- Creative problem solving

Higher education in the areas of public administration, emergency services, safety, or business administration is preferred. A commitment to a continuing education is crucial to the EMC's effectiveness in managing the emergency management program. Experience enhances, but does not substitute for, the education requirements of the position.

The EMC should possess the ability to:

- Read and understand state and federal laws
- Write plans
- Prepare budgets
- Provide public and instructional presentations
- Operate computers, wireless, and wired communications equipment
- Work effectively with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and other NGOs
- Work effectively with public safety services/organizations

The county or municipality may have standard procedures for recruitment, but some methods to consider are:

- Advertising in the local newspaper
- Listing the position at the state job center
- Providing the vacancy notice to municipal and regional emergency service organizations
- Requesting assistance from the respective PEMA Area Office
- Advertising in professional emergency management publications
- Publicizing the position on job search websites



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<b>Considerations for Selecting Emergency Management Coordinators</b>			
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
High school or GED			
Associates degree			
Bachelor's degree			
Graduate degree			
<small>3</small>			
<b>SKILLS</b>			
Read and understand state and federal laws			
Write plans			
Prepare budgets			
Deliver public presentations			
Deliver instructional presentations			
Operate computers			
Operate wireless and wired communication equipment			
Works effectively with VOADs or GOs			
Work effectively with public safety services/organizations			
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>			
Disaster relief			
Emergency management			
Public safety			
Emergency services			
Communications			
Management			
Supervision			
Public speaking			
Hazardous materials			
Writing – (plans, procedures, checklists, formal correspondence, and grants)			
Administration			
Understanding of county and local government structure			
Media relations			
Training and exercises			

### **Chapter 9 Maintaining a Program**

An emergency management program provides a very effective insurance policy for the community. However, it does require a degree of attention to keep it alive. Elected officials' support of the management program is not only necessary but required to maintain the program. A budget for expenses, a place to operate, and equipment must be available. The investment in equipment and facilities for emergency management is important and not a budget breaker if attended to annually. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and its furnishings may be dual use - facilitating emergency management operations during disasters and providing a location for training and exercises during normal or routine operations.

During non-disaster periods, the local EMC should stay active working with the county EMC as well as:

- EMCs from contiguous municipalities to facilitate the emergency response between jurisdictions.
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) to establish an understanding of each organization's mission and policies.
- Establishing rapport with field responders to work effectively together during emergency events.
- Identifying and establishing rapport with utility representatives.
- Public information events educating residents about emergency preparedness and their role in protecting themselves.
- Providing training, such as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, or First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), to residents to enable them to protect themselves and their communities.
- Attending training workshops, seminars, and quarterly training.
- Participating in exercises.
- Updating the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- Updating the resource manual.
- Applying for emergency management grants and other funding.
- Training emergency management staff and maintaining training records.
- Conducting tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises annually to test the EOP and other plans to determine how each response agency interfaces with others in the community.

- Identifying special needs groups within the community.
- Identifying potential community resources that may be useful during an emergency.
- Assisting groups and facilities within the community in developing their own emergency plans.

Counties, municipalities, and other community organizations are required to conduct an annual weather preparedness exercise. The Commonwealth has provided resources and outlines on the website to assist with planning the exercises. This is an excellent opportunity for local involvement of schools, daycare centers, hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and other special needs facilities in an exercise that reflects a plausible real-world scenario. How will residents be warned of an impending disaster? How will they respond?

To summarize this chapter: Every emergency management program, regardless of the level of government, needs an EOP, an EOC, trained staff, communications equipment, supplies, and a budget, along with a progressive exercise plan, in order to be highly effective.

A progressive and active program reflects an elected official's interest in public safety, and results in better protection for the lives and property of the citizens.

### Chapter 10 Emergency Management Resources

These references will provide information regarding emergency management. The elected official's interest and the time spent learning more will result in substantial improvement in emergency service in the community. County emergency management agencies may have copies of these on hand.

#### Federal Laws

- The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 100-707, 42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.*)
- Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-295)
- Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Emergency Management and Assistance
- The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA)
- The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-254)
- The National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (launched the National Flood Insurance Program)
- The Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004
- Homeland Security Act of 2002
- Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013

#### State Laws

- The Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. § 7101, *et seq.*, as amended
- 911 Emergency Communication Services, Act 12 of 2015, 35 Pa. C.S. § 5301, *et. seq.*, as amended
- The Radiation Protection Act, 35 P.S. §§ 7110.101 - 7110.703 (Act 147 of 1984)
- The Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning and Response Act, 35 P.S. §§ 6022.101 - 6022.307 (Act 165 of 1990)
- The Counterterrorism Planning, Preparedness, and Response Act, 35 P.S. §§ 2140.101-2140.303 (Act 227 of 2002)
- Article IV Section 20 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

### **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

- The National Incident Management System - <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims>
- The National Response Framework - <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/response>

### **PEMA Directives and Circulars**

Current Directives and Circulars are listed on the PEMA website:

<https://www.pema.pa.gov/Directives/>

PEMA Directives are listed by year, starting with the most recent documents. PEMA Directives include important information, updates, and resources for county emergency managers and others.

PEMA Circulars are communications about an event, initiative, grant, etc. with a specific end date. Once that end date passes, circulars will be removed from this page.

## Chapter 11 Additional Training Opportunities

### Emergency Management Institute

- Resident Courses
- Individual Study (IS) Courses
- Other Consortium School Courses (CDP, TEEX, LSU, NDPTC, etc.)

### PEMA Courses

- Classroom Oriented Training
- Online Training

### Municipal, County, Task Force Training

- County Quarterly Training
- PEMA In-Service Training
- Task Force Conferences
- KEMA Annual Conference

### Training Links

- Emergency Management Agency - <http://www.fema.gov/>
- Emergency Management Institute - <http://training.fema.gov/>
- Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency - <https://www.pema.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- PA Learning Management System (TRAIN PA) - <https://www.train.org/pa/home>

### Chapter 12 Damage Assessment Resources

#### Reporting Your Damages

Accurate and timely local damage is crucial to successfully requesting and receiving federal assistance in the form of either low-interest loans or grants to help Pennsylvania's residents, businesses, and infrastructure recover from a disaster.

The damage assessment process helps to determine:

- What happened and how it has affected individuals and communities.
- How residential, business, and infrastructure property has been affected.
- The hardest hit areas.
- Areas requiring response priority.
- The type of assistance needed (e.g., local, state, or federal).

#### Where to Report Damages

The recovery process begins with identifying damages at the local level and reporting the damages as soon as possible through emergency management channels:

- **Individuals and businesses** report property damages to the municipality's EMC.
- **Elected officials** report municipal property and infrastructure damages to the community's emergency management coordinator.
- **Municipal EMCs** report damages to residential, business, and municipal property and infrastructure within their community to the county emergency management coordinator
- **County EMCs** report overall damages to residential, business, and municipal property and infrastructure within their county to PEMA using the Initial Damage Reporter function of the automated Pennsylvania Emergency Information Reporting System (PEIRS).
- **PEMA** analyzes the damage information it receives from the county/counties to determine if the event warrants requesting assistance from either FEMA or the SBA.

### Damage Assessment Forms

EMCs and elected officials can use the following links to forms and information in order to document damages within their community or county:

- [SBA Consolidated Damage Survey Forms \(XLS\)](#) are used to capture individual residential and business damage information.
- [Individual Assistance Municipality-County IDR Worksheet \(PDF\)](#) is used to consolidate residential and business damage information for a municipality or county.
- [DAP-19 Local Damage Assessment Form \(PDF\)](#) is used to capture information identifying damaged infrastructure within a municipality.
- [DAP-17 Preliminary Damage Assessment – Consolidated for County \(PDF\)](#) is used to consolidate infrastructure damages by municipality within a county.
- [Individual Assistance PDA Worksheet \(PDF\)](#) is used to record the results of the joint FEMA/SBA Preliminary Damage Assessment.
- [Applicant Responsibilities in Preliminary Damage Assessment \(PDF\)](#) contains guidance for the municipality pertaining to the conduct of a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment.
- [County Responsibilities in Preliminary Damage Assessment](#) contains guidance for the county pertaining to the conduct of a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment.






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## Federal Disaster Assistance Fact Sheet

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When disasters strike, federal assistance and low interest loans *may* be available depending on the amount of damage sustained. Below is information on the different types of federal assistance that may be available and how assistance is coordinated.

<b>Three possible sources of federal assistance</b>		
<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <p><b>Individual Assistance</b> provides federal <b>grants</b> to residents (homeowners and renters) who meet the criteria for the programs. Grants are funded through FEMA.</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <p><b>U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)</b> provides federal <b>low interest loans</b> to homeowners, renters, and businesses.</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <p><b>Public Assistance</b> provides <i>federal grants</i> to governmental entities and certain critical, private non-profit organizations for repairs to public infrastructure. Grants are funded through FEMA.</p>
<p>The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is the primary disaster recovery agency for the commonwealth. Damage is collected and analyzed in two steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial Damage Reporting</li> <li>2. Joint Damage Assessment</li> </ol> <p><i>Failure to report damages in a timely fashion could result in the loss of a disaster declaration.</i></p>		

### 1. Initial Damage Reporting

**Residents:** survey damages to their property as soon as it is safe to do so and report those damages to their local municipality. Failure to report damages could result in the loss of a disaster declaration.

**Municipalities:** collect damage reports from their residents and assess damages sustained to municipal property and infrastructure. Municipalities submit damages to their county emergency management/public safety office.




**Counties:** collect damage reports from municipalities and county property and infrastructure.

Damages are reported to PEMA in Harrisburg.

**PEMA:** analyzes the damage reports to determine if the impact is severe enough for the Governor to request a Joint Damage Assessment with FEMA and/or the SBA.

## 2. Joint Damage Assessment

A Joint Damage Assessment is not a guarantee that a disaster declaration will be awarded. The purpose of the assessment is to determine disaster eligibility. The PDA Team includes representatives of state and local officials. Federal officials may join the team when warranted.

<b>How federal assistance is coordinated</b>	
 <b>Individual Assistance</b>	 <b>Public Assistance</b>
<p>FEMA Individual Assistance program staff coordinates with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEMA Individual Assistance Officer</li> <li>• Supported by PEMA Area Office staff, local emergency management and elected officials, and the SBA.</li> </ul> <p>Eligibility: FEMA considers structures that are <i>destroyed</i> or have <i>major</i> damage. The target is about 100-200 homes per county. Structures with <i>minor</i> damage are included in the overall impact of the event.</p>	<p>FEMA Public Assistance program staff coordinates with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEMA Public Assistance staff.</li> <li>• PEMA Area Office staff, representatives from relevant state agencies such as PennDOT or DEP, local emergency management and elected officials.</li> </ul> <p>Eligibility: Based on damage per capita for the affected county and statewide. Eligibility is NOT met if the state does not meet the 2023 threshold of \$23 million in damages, even if the county meets their damage threshold.</p>
 <b>Small Business Administration Loans</b>	
<p>Small Business Administration coordinates with: PEMA Individual Assistance Officer, PEMA Area Program.</p> <p>Eligibility: At least 25 households and/or businesses must have a minimum 40% uninsured loss, or at least five businesses must have significant economic loss. The SBA low interest loan program is available to homeowners, renters, and businesses. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements.</p>	

**For additional information, contact PEMA at 717-651-2001.**

### Damage Assessment Reference: Definitions for Damage Categories

#### Affected

- Minimal damage to structure and/or contents
- Structure is habitable without repairs
- A few inches of water in the basement with no damage to the furnace, water heater, etc.

#### Minor

- Encompasses a wide range of damage and is generally the most common type of damage
- Structure is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in a short period of time with repairs
- One foot or more of water/sewer back-up in the basement with damage to the furnace, water heater, etc.
- Blown-in windows or doors

#### Major

- Structure has sustained substantial failure of structural elements of the residence such as walls, roof, floors, foundation, etc.
- Structure is uninhabitable and requires extensive repairs
- One foot or more of water on the first floor of a home with a basement

#### Destroyed

- The structure is a total loss or damaged to such an extent that repairs are not economically feasible
- Structure is permanently uninhabitable
- Complete failure of major structural components, such as the collapse of the foundation, walls, or roof
- Only the foundation remains
- Two or more walls are destroyed, and the roof substantially damaged
- Structure pushed off foundation
- An unaffected structure that will require removal or demolition, such as homes in imminent danger due to impending landslides, mudslides, or sinkhole, as well as beachfront homes that must be removed due to local ordinance violations as a result of beach erosion.

### **Inaccessible**

- Not accessible by normal means due to disaster-related road closures, such as a bridge out or a road flooded or blocked by landslide, mudslide, severe erosion, wash-out, etc.
- A home or group of homes not accessible due to damage to a road or bridge should be included in the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)

### **Damage Assessment Reference: Damage Information for Mobile Homes**

The purpose of distinguishing “Minor Damage” from “Major Damage” is to distinguish between the types of assistance required. Inspectors do not assess damage with the actual cost of the residence in mind, but according to whether repairs are extensive or not.

Based on the age of the unit and the type of construction (e.g., particle board vs. plywood), repair may or may not be feasible. It is more practical to assess damage to mobile homes by looking at the structural components involved instead of comparing overall value to repair cost.

The feasibility of repairs and the condition of the unit determine whether or not repairs can be made under the Home Repair limits. A mobile home worth \$5,000 having \$3,500 worth of damage may well be feasible to repair within the limit and should be considered as “Minor Damage”, while another mobile home of similar value could be considered as having “Major Damage” or as “Destroyed.” The category of damage listed should be based on the type of assistance required.



pennsylvania

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

# Emergency Management Tip Sheet

## 05 Phases of Emergency Management

Prevent



Prepare



Respond



Recover



Mitigate



### PREVENT

Prevent or stop a threatened or actual incident intended to harm people or damage infrastructure.



### PREPARE

Planning, training, and exercising before a disaster. Includes making sure community members are prepared for disasters that may come their way.



### ALL DISASTERS ARE LOCAL

Communities prioritize the threats and decide how best to prepare and mitigate. Resilient communities engage the whole community including the private sector and voluntary organizations when recovering.



### RESPOND

Saving lives, stabilizing the event, protecting property and the environment, and meeting basic human needs after an incident has occurred.



### RECOVER

Returning homes, businesses, and communities to normal or a safer situation following a disaster. Includes estimating damages for reimbursement



### MITIGATE

Reducing loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters before they occur. Includes flood proofing, power line protection, and planning for road and clearing debris from roadways.



Every dollar a community invests in mitigation can save 6 dollars in recovery costs.

## LOCAL STATE FEDERAL Roles During a Disaster

**L**OCAL / COUNTY First provider of emergency response services. If local resources are exhausted, local elected officials can declare a local state of emergency and request assistance from the county. The county can request assistance from the state.

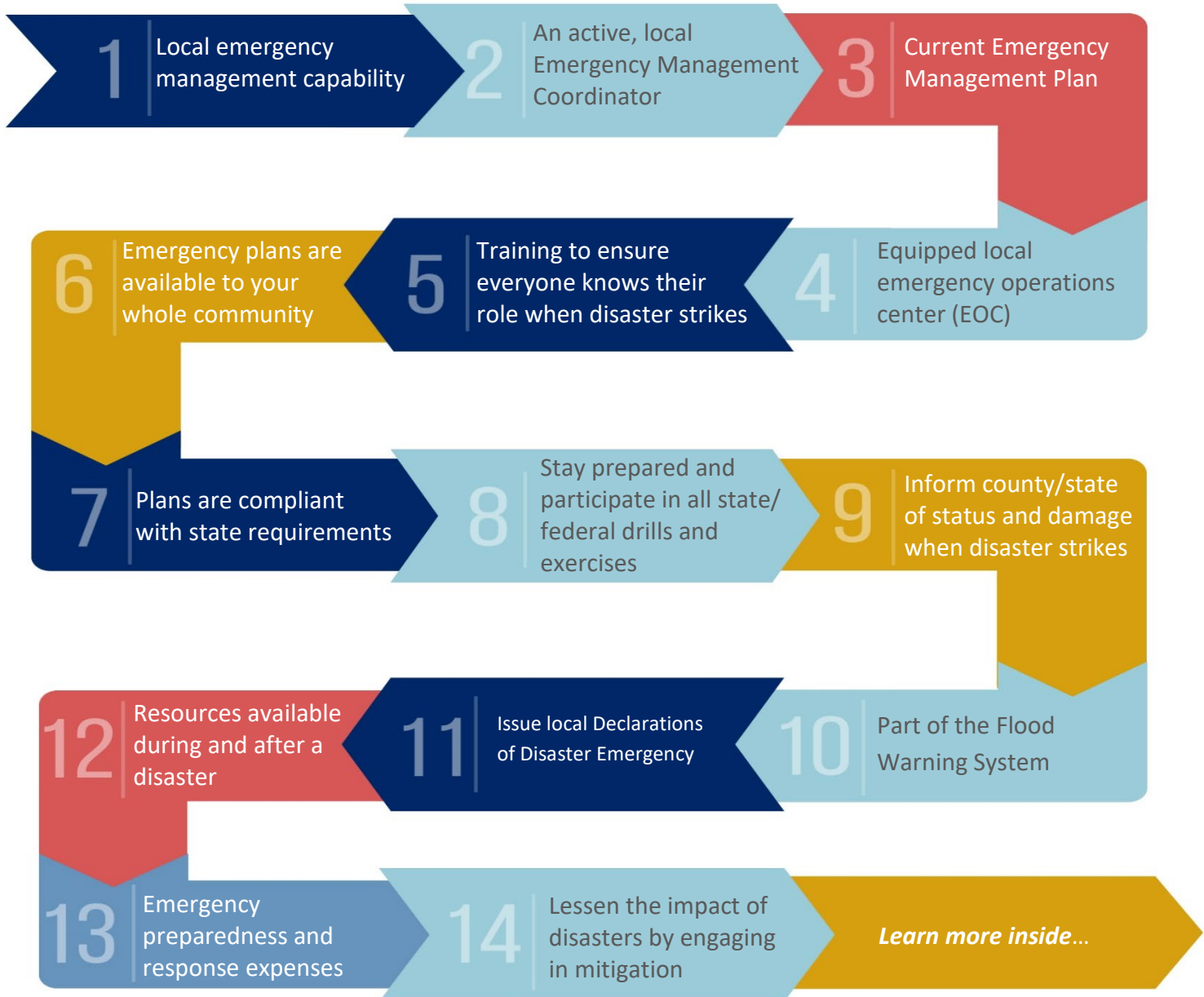
**S**TATE Provides resources and coordination for local/counties. Includes: state agency resources, multi-county coordination, agent for federal assistance. The Governor may sign a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency to make assistance more timely; also required for federal disaster aid. Preliminary Damage Assessments may lead to a possible Presidential Major Disaster or Emergency Declaration.

**F**EDERAL Coordinates federal resources and assets for Pennsylvania. Includes: equipment and financial assistance. The president issues a Major Disaster or Emergency Declaration.



## Emergency Preparedness: Your Community, Your Role

As a local elected official, you have an important role in your community’s path to resilience. You have certain responsibilities related to preparedness and emergency management in your community. Below are 14 steps that are your responsibility for ensuring, as identified in PA Code.



## **14 Municipal Emergency Management Requirements under Pennsylvania Title 35, Chapter 75**

*If you are a county commissioner, borough council member, township supervisor or city mayor, you have certain responsibilities related to preparedness and emergency management in your community. Below is a list of responsibilities as identified in PA Code.*

### **1. Ensure a local emergency management capability by having an established local emergency management organization**

Subsection 7501 requires each political subdivision in Pennsylvania to establish an emergency management organization. The organization consists of those who, for example, staff the emergency operations center, participate in damage assessments and assist with alert and notification.

### **2. Know your Emergency Management Coordinator**

Subsection 7502 requires that each municipality maintain an active emergency management coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for the planning, administration and organization of the local emergency management organization subject to approval of the elected officials or executive officer of the governing body. The municipality recommends the individual and the Governor appoints the emergency management coordinator.

### **3. Maintain and keep current a Disaster Emergency Management Plan**

Under Section 7503, each political subdivision of the commonwealth shall prepare, maintain and keep current an Emergency Operations Plan or EOP which outlines roles, responsibilities, procedures and available resources during an emergency. This EOP is meant to minimize injury or damage caused by a disaster, provide prompt and effective response and recovery when disaster strikes. This plan should be properly promulgated upon approval of the elected officials of the municipality through official resolution at a normally slated meeting.

### **4. Establish, equip and staff an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

Section 7503 requires that each municipality maintain an effective Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and includes warning and communications systems that would support emergency operations. The EOC is to include other essential facilities and equipment required for agencies assigned various emergency functions.



## **5. Provide emergency management training programs**

Training ensures everyone knows their role when disasters strike. Training individuals and organizations to ensure prompt, efficient and effective disaster emergency services is required in each municipality. This responsibility is often delegated to the emergency management coordinator, but it ultimately rests with the elected officials under Section 7503.

## **6. Make emergency plans available to your whole community**

Section 7503, subsection 8, requires each municipality make available for public inspection at its emergency operations center all emergency management plans, rules and orders of the Governor and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), as required by PA Right-to-Know legislation. Sections of plans that contain private contact information of staff members and other resources are excluded.

## **7. Ensure plans are compliant with state requirements**

Execute and Enforce Rules and Orders. As provided by authorities granted by Section 7503, Subsection 6, each municipality is responsible for all such rules and orders as issued by the PEMA and shall adopt and promulgate these.

## **8. Participate in all state and federal tests, drills and exercises**

To remain prepared, municipalities are required to participate in all test drills and exercises, including remedial drills as scheduled by the PEMA or the federal government. This includes nuclear power plant exercises and drills, as well as PEMA announced exercises.

## **9. Inform county and state of status and damage when disaster strikes**

Provide disaster information and instructions to the public and state and county emergency management officials. Section 7503 requires each political subdivision to provide prompt and accurate information regarding local disaster emergencies to appropriate Commonwealth and local officials and agencies and to the public. Examples include warnings and alerts to public and special populations as well as emergency incident and damage assessment reports (municipality to county & county to commonwealth).

## **10. Participate in the Flood Warning System**

Municipalities are required to participate in the Integrated Flood Warning Systems (IFLOWS) program under section 7313 (6). The goals of the IFLOWS Program are to substantially reduce the annual loss of life from flash floods, reduce property damage, and reduce disruption of commerce and human activities.

## **11. Issue Declarations of Disaster Emergencies**

Subsection 7501 further requires municipal officials to make a declaration of disaster emergencies, as warranted. Each municipal official should be familiar with the declaration process. This includes who has the authorities to issue it, how long it will remain in effect (generally 7 days unless extended), and the implications of a disaster declaration on contracting, temporary suspension of formal requirements and employment of personnel processes.

## **12. Organize, Prepare and Coordinate Local Resources**

A municipality must provide for all locally available personnel, materials, supplies, equipment, facilities and services necessary for disaster emergency readiness, response and recovery to be well organized, prepared and coordinated during a disaster event. Again, this responsibility is often delegated to the emergency management coordinator, but it ultimately rests with the elected officials under Section 7503.

## **13. Expenses**

Municipal emergency management coordinators shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties and attendance at scheduled meetings as per Section 7502, subsection G. Payments of other expenses and appropriations by political subdivisions are directed under Sections 7511, 7512, 7513, 7514 and 7515 of Title 35.

## **14. Actively Participate in Mitigation Efforts**

Section 7503, subsection 5 stipulates that municipalities will adopt and implement precautionary measures to mitigate the anticipated effects of disaster. This includes proper planning measures such as the development of a hazard mitigation plan or participation in a county plan, planning that may preclude construction in floodways, maintaining evacuation routes, and designating emergency services to provide relief from disaster.

***For additional guidance, please consult your municipal solicitor or emergency management coordinator who can address any specific questions you may have.***

Updated: July 17, 2019.

**Appendix C**  
**Example - Declaration of Disaster Emergency (Borough/City Initial)**

WHEREAS, on or about \_\_\_\_\_ a (disaster) has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property of the (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_; and

WHEREAS, the (disaster) has endangered the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in the (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_, and threatens to create problems greater in scope than (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_, may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, the undersigned Mayor of (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA CS), as amended, do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_,

FURTHER, I direct the local Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency

STILL FURTHER, I authorize officials of (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_, to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted

This Declaration shall take effect immediately, the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, Title)

**(NOTE: THE AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL(S) ARE BASED ON THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY OPERATES. THE MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR SHOULD BE CONSULTED TO ENSURE THE PROPER PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED.)**

**Appendix D**

**Example - Extension of Declaration of Disaster Emergency (Borough/City)**

WHEREAS, on or about \_\_\_\_\_ the Mayor of (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_ issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency within the (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_ due to the imminent threat to public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_; and

WHEREAS, the (disaster) threatens to create problems greater in scope than (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_, may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_,

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Council of the (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA CS), as amended, do hereby extend the Declaration of Disaster issued by the Mayor of (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_ until the Mayor of (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_ issues a proclamation finding and declaring that the threat to public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of (City / Borough of) \_\_\_\_\_ has abated.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately, the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), Councilperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), Councilperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), Councilperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), Councilperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), Councilperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), Councilperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), Councilperson

Attest

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, Title)

**(NOTE: THE AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL(S) ARE BASED ON THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY OPERATES. THE MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR SHOULD BE CONSULTED TO ENSURE THE PROPER PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED.)**

**Appendix E**  
**Declaration of Disaster Emergency (Township Initial)**

WHEREAS, on or about \_\_\_\_\_ a (disaster) has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_; and

WHEREAS, the (disaster) has endangered the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in the Township of \_\_\_\_\_, and threatens to create problems greater in scope than the Township of \_\_\_\_\_, may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in the Township of \_\_\_\_\_,

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned (Chairperson / President) of the Board of (Supervisors / Commissioners) of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA CS), as amended, do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in the Township of \_\_\_\_\_,

FURTHER, we direct the local Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency

STILL FURTHER, we authorize officials of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_, to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted

This Declaration shall take effect immediately, the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, Chairperson/President)

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, Title)

**(NOTE: THE AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL(S) ARE BASED ON THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY OPERATES. THE MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR SHOULD BE CONSULTED TO ENSURE THE PROPER PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED.)**

**Appendix F**  
**Example - Extension of Declaration of Disaster Emergency (Township)**

WHEREAS, on or about \_\_\_\_\_ the (Chairperson / President) of the (Supervisors / Commissioners) of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_ issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency within the Township of \_\_\_\_\_ due to the imminent threat to public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens Township of \_\_\_\_\_; and

WHEREAS, the (disaster) threatens to create problems greater in scope than the Township of \_\_\_\_\_, may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in the Township of \_\_\_\_\_,

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Board of (Supervisors / Commissioners) of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA CS), as amended, do hereby extend the Declaration of Disaster issued by the (Chairperson / President) of the (Supervisors / Commissioners) of Township of \_\_\_\_\_ until the (Chairperson / President) of the (Supervisors / Commissioners) of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_ issues a proclamation finding and declaring that the threat to public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_ has abated.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately, the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), (President/Chair of  
Commissioners/Supervisors)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), (Commissioner/Supervisor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), (Commissioner/Supervisor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), (Commissioner/Supervisor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), (Commissioner/Supervisor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), (Commissioner/Supervisor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), (Commissioner/Supervisor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), (Commissioner/Supervisor)

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, Title)

**(NOTE: THE AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL(S) ARE BASED ON THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY OPERATES. THE MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR SHOULD BE CONSULTED TO ENSURE THE PROPER PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED.)**