



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
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Chester County Municipal Elected Officials
Chester County Municipal Managers
Chester County Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators
Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry
Regional/Area Chambers in Chester County

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

With the recent flooding in June and the storm and power outage in July, now is a good time to encourage residents and business owners to review disaster preparedness. The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers a number of free on-line courses that can help people prepare for disasters and for the critical 72 hours until state and federal assistance arrives. The courses are available at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>. This link brings up the "Emergency Management Institute" page. On the left side there is a blue box "FEMA Independent Study". Click on the second item "Our Courses". Two courses that are especially appropriate are:

- IS - 22 Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness.
- IS - 394.A Protecting Your Home or Small Business From Disaster.

At http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0_239_00.html the American Red Cross has preparedness information for home, school, work and the community.

Residents can get hands on training and experience in immediate disaster response by participating in the 16-hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes that are conducted by the Department of Emergency Services and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross. The basic CERT concept is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors". Topics include: Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety, First Aid, Light Search and Rescue, and Disaster Psychology. To enroll, call the Department of Emergency Services at (610) 344-5000.

Please help us help our citizens by assisting in promoting these training opportunities. If you need further information, please call the Department of Emergency Services at (610) 344-5000.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Atkins, Colonel, USAF (Retired)
Director

cc: Chester County Board of Commissioners
Chester County Legislative Delegation
PECO Chester County Affairs Manager
Red Cross SEPA Chapter
PEMA - East