

Ready PA *monthly*

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A Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) digital newsletter

Ready PA Monthly - November 2023



There Is No Safe Place On A Highway During A Snow Squall!

By: Jonathan Guseman, National Weather Service, Warning Coordination Meteorologist

When you think of winter weather hazards, what comes to mind? Do you think of big snow storms that drop a significant amount of snow? Do you think of ice storms that cover trees, powerlines, and roadways in a glaze of ice? Or maybe you think of flooding that can occur when a storm drops heavy rain on top of melting snow, overwhelming creeks, streams, and rivers with water.

Pennsylvania sees many forms of hazardous winter weather, including snow squalls. A snow squall is a brief but intense period of heavy snow (up to 2 inches in 30 minutes), strong winds (30+ mph), and whiteout conditions (visibility less than ¼ mile). Snow squalls often occur on days with otherwise partly cloudy skies. Coming on so suddenly, snow squalls can catch drivers off guard and lead to major transportation impacts, including deadly multi-vehicle accidents.

Click the link below to read more...

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Sign Up for Alerts!

AlertPA

Join the [AlertPA](#) notification system by CodeRED for emergency and weather related alerts, health notifications, building alerts and other updates from commonwealth and federal agencies.

A CodeRED Weather Warning will automatically alert you through the AlertPA notification system if your address falls in the path of severe weather, as determined by the National Weather Service.

511PA

Winter weather will soon be here. Did you know you can receive your own [Personal Travel Alerts](#)? It's easy to sign up and customize your alerts: Where you want them... When you want them... What roadways you want!

Don't want alerts on the weekend? No problem! Just set your alerts on weekdays only or before your daily commute. [511PA](#) provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 860 traffic cameras.

Motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles, including color-coded winter conditions on 2,900 miles, by visiting www.511PA.com. 511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information, and access to more than 1,000 traffic cameras.

511PA is also available through a free smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by [following local alerts on X](#).

Sign up for both [AlertPA](#) and [511PA](#) today!



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The 2023-2024 LIHEAP Season is now open! The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families living on low incomes pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat can also qualify for crisis grants. The cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on your bill. These grants range from \$300 to \$1,000 based on household size, income, and fuel type. Remember: This is a grant and does not have to be repaid.

How to apply

There are two ways to apply for LIHEAP

- Online: Apply for benefits online using [COMPASS](#), the online tool for Pennsylvanians to apply for health and human service programs and manage benefit information.
- On paper: You can download a paper application, print it, fill it out, and return it to your [local county assistance office](#).

[2023-2024 LIHEAP Application — English](#)

[2023-2024 LIHEAP Application — Spanish](#)

After your application is reviewed, you will receive written notice explaining your eligibility and the amount of assistance you will receive. Please allow 30 days for a response.

Eligibility

- You must meet income guidelines
- You don't have to be on public assistance
- You don't need to have an unpaid heating bill
- You can rent or own your home

Learn more about LIHEAP and how to apply [here](#).



[NOVEMBER TIP SHEET: SNOW SQUALLS](#)

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