Pennsylvania
Emergency Management Agency

Executive Order 2026-04
Modernizing Emergency Management in Pennsylvania

Purpose: Governor Shapiro issued Executive Order 2026-04 on August 4, 2026, to strengthen coordination and planning across Pennsylvania's state agencies. The goal is to ensure state resources are used effectively for emergency management and to prepare Pennsylvania for emerging challenges. The order establishes requirements across key functions including administration, operations, technology, data sharing, planning, communications, and more.

Key Requirements:

1. **Legislation & Policy Amendments**:
    - Draft recommended amendments to our EM law under Senate Resolution 177 of 2025
    - Provide the Governor recommended language to amend the EM law, related state laws, and key policies
2. **Operational & Budget Impacts:**
    - Assess FEMA policy changes, FEMA Review Council recommendations, and proposed law amendments
    - Outline plans and budget needs to implement needed changes.
3. T**echnology Modernization Roadmap:**
    - Upgrade PEMA's audio-visual system
    - Create a technology lifecycle management plan
    - Develop a prioritized roadmap for new technology and system enhancements
4. **Education & Outreach**: Provide state, county, and local elected officials with recurring training to ensure they understand roles and responsibilities of the emergency management system and how related programs work.
5. **Modernize the State All-Hazards IMT**:
    - Update administrative and operational procedures for the IMT
    - Grow the IMT through improved recruitment, retention, equipment, training, exercises, etc.
6. **Formalize and Operationalize Surge Capacity** *(Phase 1 of Formalizing Resource Management):*
    - Build a catalog of state resources and personnel that can support a state surge workforce, the IMT, or mutual aid requests from other states.
    - Update state policies and procedures to activate and manage a state surge workforce
7. **Advance contracts** – Implement pre-established contracts with defined service-level agreements (e.g. deliver 20 pallets of water within two hours.) before an emergency occurs
8. **Volunteer/Non-Profit Coordination**:
    - Publish an updated Volunteer and Donations Management Framework.
    - Create an inventory of volunteer, faith-based, and non-profit partners
    - Establish data sharing policies and processes to capture activity and cost data; coordinate programs.
9. **Streamline Disaster Assistance & Hazard Mitigation Programs**:
    - Office of State Inspector General review of state agency programs and policies
    - Simplify and streamline program policies and procedures
    - Enhance data sharing and supporting technology to coordinate funding and resources.
10. **NFIP:** PA Insurance Department to review proposed NFIP changes and identify opportunities for expanding parametric insurance options, lowering premiums through risk-reduction efforts, and other options.
11. **EOP Modernization**: Publish a modern, concise, and functional EOP to reflect changing roles and responsibilities

12. **Training Modernization:**
    - Recommend improvements to statewide training (coordination of opportunities, new facilities, etc.)
    - Modernize our Integrated Preparedness Planning process
13. **Resource Management** *(Phase 2 of Formalizing Resource Management):*
    - Establish state resource typing policies and processes
    - Enhance and expand the Pennsylvania Qualifications System
    - Evaluate and improve logistics processes to match evolving responsibilities
14. **Common Operating picture Modernization**
    - Improve data sharing among state agencies to support GIS and common operating picture capabilities
    - Update technology, data sharing, and workflows to improve our common operating picture capabilities
    - Enhance frontline intelligence analysis processes including GIS
    - Coordinate use of existing remote sensing contracts; coordinate our collective spend.
15. **Mass Care/Housing/Sheltering** - Review current plans and identify necessary improvements
16. **UAS** - Synchronize UAS acquisition, use, and supporting services across agencies.

Emergency Readiness Advisory Group:

The Executive Order created the Emergency Readiness Advisory Group, made up of state agency Secretaries. Its purpose is to bring key decision-makers together to improve coordination and support faster, more effective decisions needed to carry out the Executive Order.

- The Advisory Group must meet every quarter.
- PEMA must provide the Governor with quarterly updates on progress toward meeting the Order's requirements.

Progress & Next Steps:

- Draft updates to legislation are complete.
- Work has begun on the Technology Modernization Roadmap.
- Action plans for all remaining Executive Order requirements are underway.
- The next Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for December.