



Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

FEBRUARY 15,
2013

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**In an Emergency
Dial 9-1-1**



**Department of
Public Safety**
610-631-6500



**Public Safety
Training Campus**
610-278-3500



**EMS Training
Institute**
610-278-2666



Website: www.dp.s.montcopa.org



CAD Helpline:
610-631-3001



**Montgomery County
Commissioners**

Josh Shapiro, Chair
Leslie S. Richards
Bruce L. Castor, Jr.

Emergency Radio Rebanding Implementation

Montgomery County is under a federal mandate to change the frequencies that it uses for emergency dispatch communications to eliminate interference that may be caused by the cellular phone industry. This process is commonly referred to as "rebanding."

The rebanding effort is separate and unrelated to the contract with Motorola Solutions, Inc. to replace the county's emergency radio system.

The rebanding process will begin on March 25, 2013 and will involve having technicians reprogram the radios used by various agencies with the new frequencies.

Prior to that reconfiguration, all field users of the radios must receive mandatory training. For the fire and EMS services, classroom training at the Public Safety Training Campus is scheduled for Feb. 26th and March 14th.

There is also the option for an agency to schedule a Train-the-Trainer session so that members of the organization can be taught to provide the training to the remaining members. There are certain risks and responsibilities associated with this option.

Please see the first four pages of the attached PSN February 2013 Notices for detailed information on the training, registration requirements and rebanding process.

The hand-outs that will be used in the training and supplemental web-based training can be accessed online at <http://www.bluewing.com/montcotraining.html>. The user ID for this website is: mctraining and the password is: rb2013.

Beginning March 25th, following the mandatory training, technicians will come out to the user agencies and reprogram their radios with the new frequencies.

The technicians will then need to retune the tower and infrastructure equipment before everything can be switched over to the new frequencies. The radios will then have to be handled a second time by technicians to remove the old frequencies.

There are about 1,500 older radios that do not have sufficient capacity to hold both the old and the new set of frequencies at the same time. Those will be temporarily replaced by loaner radios from Sprint/Nextel. Batteries, chargers and other accessories will be compatible with the loaner radios.

The first four pages of the attached PSN February 2013 Notices provide more details about the process of replacing some radios with loaners from Sprint/Nextel.

Montco Ambulance Administrators Meeting

The Montco Ambulance Administrators next regular meeting will be Thursday March 7th at 11 a.m. at Rays Diner, 14 E. Germantown Pike, Norristown, PA. All Montgomery County 911 Squad administrators or operational officers are welcome to attend.

Purchasing New Radios Compatible With System Upgrade

The Montgomery County Commissioners voted unanimously in December to enter into a contract with Motorola Solutions, Inc. to replace the county's emergency dispatch radio system.

It will take at least a year to implement this upgrade to the system. In the meantime, some agencies have inquired about what they should do if it becomes necessary to replace a radio before the system upgrade is implemented.

Any agency that needs to replace an existing radio before the upgrade is implemented should contact Motorola's sales representative for Montgomery County, Joe Papania by phone: (856) 228-3137 or by email: joe.papania@motorolasolutions.com and indicate that they are from Montgomery County.

The approved portable radio at this time is a Motorola APX 6000 Model 2, which will cost approximately \$3,400 and include a 400 mAh IMPRES FM Li-Ion Battery, leather swivel carry case, noise cancelling Speaker Microphone and Single Unit IMPRES Charger.

The approved mobile radio at this time is a Motorola APX 6500 w/05 Control Head, which will cost approximately \$3,500 and will include a power cable, ¼ wave antenna and mounting trunion.

The Department of Public Safety will approve additional makes and models of radios for use on the system at a later time.

Requests For Equipment Service

Police, Fire and EMS agencies that require service for their radios, pagers or mobile data terminals should contact the Department of Public Safety technical services shop directly either by calling (610) 631-6511 or by email at eoctech@montcopa.org.

Representatives of numerous agencies have been making service requests by contacting technicians individually. Those requests cannot be tracked and when the technician is on vacation or otherwise off duty or out of touch, service can be delayed or the request missed.

Norristown Firefighters Receive Medal of Valor

Norristown Firefighter Robert Myers and Firefighter Andrew Pyles received the Medal of Valor Award from Norristown Council for their actions to rescue a resident from a house fire in West Norriton Township on January 19, 2013.



After receiving a report of a woman still trapped in the burning home, Firefighters Myers and Pyles entered the burning building without the assistance of a hose line and rescued the woman.

The heat inside the home was so intense that the firefighters helmets and face pieces were damaged and had to be replaced.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Vera Cavello died of her injuries the next day. Rick Cavello, her son, was on hand when Vice-President of Council William Caldwell and Deputy Fire Chief Wayne Kinsey presented the commendations.



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10th Annual Montgomery County Chief Officers Seminar

Despite the snowfall on Saturday January 26th, over 100 Montgomery County volunteer firefighters attend the 10th Annual Chief Officers Seminar at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus. Tom Sullivan welcomed the chiefs to the seminar and during the first hour, representatives from the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety provided the chiefs with an update on County initiatives that included reports on communications, the Fire Academy and the HazMat Team.



Battalion Chief Vincent Mulray and
Battalion Chief James Foley, (Ret.)

The topic of the 10th Annual Chief Officers Seminar was emergency scene management and the first speaker was Battalion Chief James Foley (Ret.) of the Atlantic City, NJ Fire Department.

Chief Foley's topic was the Tropicana Garage Collapse and Rescue. Chief Foley provided the Montgomery County Chiefs with valuable lessons learned regarding a response to structural collapse that included how to control and utilize converging skilled construction workers.

After lunch Battalion Chief Vincent Mulray of the Philadelphia Fire Department presented his analysis of the Prince of Peace Multiple-Alarm Church Fire.

This was a four-story public school constructed in the first decade of the 20th century that was converted to a church. The fire grew very rapidly forcing firefighters to abandon their interior fire attack and move to a defensive attack -all of which was carried live on the local Fox news program.

The rapid fire development and subtle changes in the weather caused the fire to quickly become an incident complex. Chief Mulray shared valuable lessons about the time needed to develop a sustained defensive fire attack and the importance pre-planning target hazards, especially in areas with limited water supply.

Blue Light Regulations

The Pennsylvania State Police would like to remind all fire chiefs that, under state law, in order to run blue lights the company is required to send an updated list of members, accompanied by vehicle information, to the State Police.

Anyone with questions, or who would like to schedule a Blue Light class, should contact Cpl. David Egleston at degleston@pa.gov or by phone at 610-410-7850.

Lower Providence Police Seek Police Impersonator

Lower Providence Police are seeking a man who impersonated a police officer and used a blue light mounted on the dash of his vehicle to stop a woman driving on Evansburg Road at about 9 p.m. on Monday, February 11th.

The suspect is described as a white male in his fifties, with short brown hair, approximately 5'11", 190 pounds, wearing a dark Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) style uniform with a circular patch on the left sleeve. The suspect's vehicle is described as a small four door tan vehicle with tinted windows and dashboard mounted blue light.

See pages 5 and 6 of the attached PSN February 2013 Notices for a press release with additional details and a composite sketch of the suspect.



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New Class of Firefighter Begins Training

Punxsutawney Phil may have received most of the attention on Saturday, February 2, 2013 but at the Montgomery County Fire Academy all eyes were focused on the class of 42 students who began their training as volunteer firefighters. After completing all the necessary paperwork and receiving their Essentials of Firefighting training manual, the class was given a tour of the Fire Academy by instructors John Kelly and Butch Coleman.

When the morning training ended, the students had lunch in the cafeteria served by the Goodwill Fire Company Auxiliary. After lunch it was back to the class room for the "Hero to Zero" program, presented by Detective John Fallon. This class has already made a positive impression on the instructors and staff of the Fire Academy. Five members volunteered to raise and lower the Fire Academy flags and the Firefighter Memorial flag on all Saturdays when they are in training. Several other members stepped up to help with cafeteria cleanup. The first fire class of the year appears to be starting their training with a very positive attitude.



Career Opportunity

Limerick Township is seeking an individual for the position of Chief of Fire Safety.

This is a highly professional and responsible position requiring multiple disciplines in fire and life safety, code enforcement, and a working knowledge of volunteer fire departments. This position will report directly to the Township Manager and be responsible for the establishment, organization, and direction of a Township wide Fire and Life Safety Inspection Program with an objective of reducing the growing rate of fire and emergency service call responses.

This position will also assist with the administration and operational duties associated with sustaining, and the continued development, of the existing volunteer fire companies that provide fire suppression, fire prevention, and life safety services to the Township.

Preferred certifications include but are not limited to Certified Emergency Manager (CEM), Certified Chief Fire Officer (CFO), Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS), Certified ICC Building Plans Examiner and Inspector, Certified ICC Fire Inspector, and/or certification as NFPA Fire Officer.

This is a fulltime position with benefits and salary commensurate with experience. Employment Applications and full job description may be obtained on the Township's website at www.limerickpa.org or at the Township Building. Application and resume should be sent by March 1, 2013 to Limerick Township, Attention: Daniel K. Kerr, Township Manager. 646 W. Ridge Pike, Limerick, PA 19468. E.O.E.



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Counterterrorism and Understanding the Islamic Community

Abdul Hye is a Detective Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police Service, United Kingdom, with over 27 years of operational police experience including Counterterrorism. He has instructed on diverse Counterterrorism courses and presented to Police Services and Counterterrorism Partners in the UK and internationally on radicalization, particularly on Islamic and Muslim Community perspectives. He was a member of European Network of Experts on Radicalization (2009-2011) and is currently in the US as a Fulbright Police Scholar Recipient.

Detective Sergeant Hye will be visiting several venues on a tour sponsored by the FBI. On March 7th, from 9 to 11 a.m., he will be at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus, 1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken Pa 19428

He will be speaking on his experience in working counter-terrorism in the UK, his efforts in developing their outreach to the Islamic community post 9/11, as well as understanding the Islamic community.

To register for this program please E-Mail, Karen Zero at kzero@montcopa.org

Emergency Management Certificates Achieved



Public Safety Director Tom Sullivan, Matt Markland, Brad Reinert and Scott Mickalonis, Deputy Directory, Emergency Management

Brad Reinert, platoon supervisor, and Matt Markland assistant supervisor, in the Department of Public Safety's Communications Division, have achieved PEMA Basic County certification for Emergency Management Staff.

Matt and Brad completed independent study and classroom instruction on areas surrounding the duties and responsibilities of Emergency Managers, the Incident Command System (ICS), Hazardous Materials, and Emergency Operations Center training.

Arcola Road Bridge Weight Restrictions

The weight limit for Arcola Road bridge connecting Lower Providence to Upper Providence has been reduced to only 3 tons with a posting on trucks allowed.



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