



Montgomery County
AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

2010 Officers

Patrick A. Doyle Sr, President
Kevin Bennett, Vice-President
Kenneth J. Schauder, Secretary
James Smale, Treasurer

Mailing: Post Office Box #5 - Bryn Athyn, PA 19009

**Montgomery County Ambulance Association
Souderton Ambulance
June 10th, 2010 – 1900 Hours**

President (Patrick Doyle, Sr.): Welcomed everyone and thanked Souderton for hosting.

Meeting called to order at 1910 hours by President Patrick Doyle, Sr. The April minutes were approved as circulated.

Vice President (Kevin Bennet): Absent

Secretary (Keith Cooper): No report

Treasurer (James Smale):

The following statements were opened by Chief Fred Trasatti and the balances were read:

- February, 2010 - Statement. Balance: \$5,231.35
- March, 2010 - Statement. Balance: \$5,231.35
- April 2010 - Statement. Balance: \$3519.35 –

Committee Reports:

Medical Command Committee (Kevin Thomas / Chris Reif):

- The last MAC Meeting was cancelled.
- There are many Town Meetings coming up with the State meeting with providers to go over the new regulations. These regulations will have an impact on MAC.

EMS Council (James Smale):

Council voted to reopen the helicopter issue. Jeff Stat has requested the County and the Committee to revisit the referendum that there would be no changes to the helicopter response zones. There has been no date set for the Committee Meeting yet but they will meet before the September Council Meeting and be prepared to give a report to Council at that time. Fred Trasatti (Chief 380) is concerned about setting a precedent. The committee will look at the situation. If a organization can station a helicopter at a new location and request new first response zones what will prevent ambulance companies from doing the same. The Helicopter Committee will review the facts around the situation and will recommend to the Council at their next open September Council Meeting.

EMS Office (David Paul Brown):

Dave Brown's Report to the Association:

H1N1 After Action Reviews:

H1N1 after action reviews are being scheduled for June 30th, 2010. MCEMS staff will travel to Reading District Health office on June 11th for a review, any commentary on pros or cons to the administration of shots should be directed to Ed Martin at emartin@montcopa.org prior to June 9th.

MCEMS is planning an H1N1 after action review and appreciation luncheon in June 2010. The exact date will be announced shortly, EMS squads that supplied vaccinators are invited to attend the meeting with all the vaccinators, afterwards a luncheon and uniform ribbon ceremony will be held to thank all the vaccinators. Squads stepped up and provided 42 paramedics and RNs that were able to assist in giving H1N1 vaccinations.

EMSOF 2009-2010 Complete:

The 2009-2010 EMSOF is complete with a total of \$110,341.00 being awarded to services for approved purchases. There is a detailed listing as to amounts and items of awards that will be distributed.

2009 Response Report-Revised:

The 2009 County summary report contained a minor error in one chart for reporting response. The error was in format, not the actual data numbers. It has been revised and e-mailed to all.

Chempak Updates:

Planning meetings continue to be held with the two Chempak sites in Montgomery County. MCEMS continues to work with local police and EMS units in the two hospital areas where these antidotes are secured. MCEMS has also been working closely with Philadelphia EMS and OEM to coordinate planning efforts across County lines. Next steps include coordination with regional Public Health Planner, and a series of exercises.

Replacement MARK-1 Kits-DuoDotes:

The high volume, high density, EMS squads that were issued bundle pack kits of antidotes are being updated with DuoDote antidote kits. A request has been made to the SEPA Task Force EMS committee for 400 units from the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) funding. Once these units arrive, they will be bundled and secured at the forward EMS squads for rapid deployment during a WMD incident.

Mobile Data Computers-Update:

The MDC project continues to move forward. Seventeen of the EMS squads have signed the MDC agreements. EDS has announced a users group meeting to have a dialogue about the best screen layouts and functions of the EMS MDCs. EDS has met with the vendor and determined that there will be three install sites to get your installs done, ever closer to your own stations. Install dates and times will be announced, they will be conducted at Station 380, Station 329 and the Public Safety Training Campus.

MDC Software Overview Sessions

In preparation for the deployment of the EMS MDCs, we are scheduling four overview sessions to gather input and ideas for the final image that will be deployed on all of the units. The purpose of these sessions will be to provide a high-level overview of the MDC software, and to gather ideas from current users and future users about options/additions/changes that the EMS community would like to see implemented. These sessions are not intended to replace specific training that will be scheduled as units are deployed, but rather they are intended to encourage discussion and suggestions about features which might be able to be added before the units are deployed. Since all of the units will be imaged identically, any software, links, documents that the EMS community feels would be useful on all of the MDCs will also be developed.

We would strongly encourage those that are current users of the software to attend to provide feedback on actual use of the software, and to assist those that are new to the software in the discussion. Two sessions will be held at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus (Fire Academy) on **Monday, June 7th, at 1000 and 1900**. In addition, we will hold 2 online webinar sessions in which participants can connect to the presentation via the web, and call in to a toll free conference call for the discussion. **The webinars will be held Wednesday, June 9th at 1400, and Saturday, June 12th at 1000.** Please RSVP via e-mail with the session you will be attending to Dennis Orangers, doranger@montcopa.org. Webinar details will be e-mailed to those that choose to attend those sessions.

Automated Dispatch Testing

In the next several weeks we will begin limited testing of the Locution (Low-Cue-Shun) automated voice dispatching system on EMS 800. Testing will be limited to two or three hours at a time, and for 4 or 5 different squads each time. The system will be turned on and off at various times as the testing continues. There will be no impact to field users. All tone/voice pages will still be sent on 46.04 as normal, alpha pages will still be sent as normal, and station prints will continue as normal. Field users will notice a new alert tone when the automated system is dispatching, and they will notice that the voice dispatch on EMS Dispatch 800 will typically occur before the 46.04 voice.

CO Meters:

The CO meters have been ordered and we are awaiting delivery of the meters at any time. Hazardous Materials and EMS is working closely to establish the bump testing and SOP parameters for use of these meters. Through task force monies Montgomery County is providing the 2 year meters made by BW gas, the CO test gas canister, and a test gas bulb/balloon to bump test the meters. The meters will be distributed during training sessions that will be held at the Training Campus and EOC. Each ambulance service will be required to send at least one or two designees to the training to ensure proper use and care. The dates of training will be announced soon.

Photo ID Upgrades:

MCEMS staff continue to upgrade certification cards and have conducted additional photo ID sessions since the last report. We now believe we have processed over 500 cards. As EMTs are recertified, MCEMS Training will process a new card with photo ID and signature. Please contact the EMS Training office with any questions 610-278-2666.

Strike Teams:

The seven services that continue to be the hub of our EMS disaster response are planning for the 2010 summer season. Strike team leaders and responders have met to discuss deployment procedures, compare base camp equipment needs and plan for transporting all their gear to a remote incident. Strike Teams are also receiving their 2009-2010 allotment of funding through MCEMS from the State Department of Health. The following seven squads are supplying ten response units:

- ST 311 One Unit
- ST 325 One Unit
- ST 331 One Unit
- ST 313 One Unit
- ST 380 Two Units
- ST 324 Two Units
- ST 329 Two Units

New 422 Traffic Incident Management Group Formed:

The Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVFTMA), Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and Montgomery County Public Safety worked together to assist in forming an Incident Management Task Force for the US 422 corridor.

A recent meeting held at the Montgomery County Public Safety Operations Center over 35 people from fire, EMS, 9-1-1, PennDOT and police attended to listen to speakers discuss the formation of this incident management task force. Building on successes from other corridors such as 476-76 and 309, the overarching objectives include planning, safety, response, quick clearance, coordination, and recovery. Guests were welcomed by Dr. Bill Jenaway, Shayne Trimbell-GVFTMA explained the overall purpose of the task force. Laurie Matkowski and Chris King of DVRPC presented on the methods used to form the task force and overall goals. Many Anastasiadis-PennDOT gave an update on intelligent transportation system projects along the 422 corridor, and David Paul Brown presented some overall projects for the task force including information on 800 MHz radio talk groups, vehicle towing charts, traffic safety vests and the regional evacuation plan.

2010 Emergency Response Assets:

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety has updated the response asset booklet for all responders. Copies should be distributed to all soon. The EMS section includes, Medical POD trucks, MCI trailers, MARK-1 antidotes, Smart Triage Tags, Rapid Aid Treatment packs, CO Monitors, Training Ambulance, and other items that would be of use during an emergency incident.

EMS Summit-October 15th, 2010:

Mark your calendars and invite your squad leaders! The Montgomery County EMS office and the Montgomery County Ambulance Administrator's are co-sponsoring an all day summit to discuss the future of EMS. Key speakers will include Skip Kirkwood, Wake County, NC and AJ Heightman, JEMS magazine, California. Joseph Schmider and Dr. Doug Kupas along with County leaders will also be attending. Presentations, break out sessions and discussion-feedback will be conducted in the morning and afternoon. Note takers will assist in capturing all the great ideas of where we are as an EMS system and where we need to go. Please plan on joining us for this important day.

EMS Memorial Bicycle Ride 2010:

The memorial bicycle ride once again traveled through Montgomery County. The event took place on May 19th and traveled from the Bucks County line, through Montgomery County to Conshohocken. Along the way, the group stopped at Second Alarmer's Rescue Squad for lunch and remembrance of Michael "Boz" Garvin. The MCEMS office staff worked diligently to plan and support this event. Special thanks to all those EMS units who helped with this special day and the following agencies who provided motorcycle and escort assistance, Cheltenham EMS, Plymouth Township Police, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department.

EMS Week Ride Alongs:

EMS staff scheduled ride along programs to meet and discuss issues first hand with day to day responders and chiefs. MCEMS will continue to schedule ride along programs with 9-1-1 squads across the County. If your service would like to welcome our staff for a day of discussion, please contact Ed Martin at emartin@montcopa.org.

Rural EMS Sustainability Study:

Center for Rural Pennsylvania has funded a research study, *Measuring the Financial Viability and Sustainability of Emergency Medical Service Providers in Rural Pennsylvania*. The study will collect data from EMS organizations throughout Pennsylvania to model the current and future staffing and financial health of EMS providers throughout the Commonwealth. The survey will be mailed out in May. Sixteen ambulance services in Montgomery County have been selected to participate in this important research effort.

Your response to the survey is critical. As you are aware, all ambulance services throughout the Commonwealth are impacted by shrinking reimbursements and increased costs of operation. The goal of this study is to use the information gathered to make policy recommendations to key stakeholders, including the project sponsor, the Center for Rural PA, legislators, and EMS advocates. I am hopeful that this leads to the betterment of all EMS organizations throughout the Commonwealth.

Penn State was awarded the project and the principal researcher has worked on other related EMS projects in the Commonwealth. She is supported by the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) and the Institute for State and Regional Affairs (ISRA) at Penn State –Harrisburg.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact her at 717-948-6649 or 814-883-5740, or via email at jsr178@psu.edu. You will be able to track the progress of the grant at www.twitter.com/pehsc. You should have received your survey packet by now. Thank you in advance for your support and work on completing the survey. Jill Schumann Rumberger, Assistant Professor, Penn State University - Harrisburg

End of Dave Brown Report.

E911 (Kenneth Schauder): No meeting since last January. Stephen Keeley reported that the County is looking into the possible dissolving of that committee.

Communications (Kenneth Schauder / Rick Lohwasser):

- Alpha Paging / Simulcasting – DPS found things in the testing phase that they did not like. The testing phase has been shut down for the time being. The manufacturer found a bug in the system and is looking into a fix.
- Tone/Voice Simulcast – EDS has put this project on hold until the above has been resolved. Tone/Voice will be on 154.13. The County is looking into getting licensed on a second frequency.
- Alpha Pager Survey – The Survey is closed. Results will be compiled next week (the week of June 17th) and then the pagers will be distributed. The County has 1200 pagers ready to be given out and may be willing to purchase an additional 500-700 Pagers.
- Rebanding - Sprint/Nextel update: Sprint/Nextel will be supplying software updates to increase analog radis up to 15 channels. All MT Portables should be reprogrammed.
- 12/31/2012 – Narrow banding – Any frequency under 512 MHZ must be narrowbanded. Not only must equipment be rebanded but your license must also be updated.
- Locution – The synthesized dispatch system is being tested over the next couple of weeks – please listen for any errors in your area.
- Several more police departments are thinking of going to County Dispatch. This will mean new police zones may be made. Currently the zones have 5 departments per zone but may go up to 7 to 9 departments per zone.
- Radio Upgrade - 10 more towers – They are changing police radios to open up more radio space for EMS, Fire, etc. Police would turn in their current radios which would be reissued to EMS.

Old business:

- Lift Assist Policy – Non-emergency response to non-injured lift assists can take a long time especially at certain times of the day. A motion was made and passed that the policy should continue as it is currently stated.

New business:

- The County has a new tower available for usage.
- The next meeting will be September 30th at 1230 hours at SARS in Willow Grove

The Meeting was adjourned at 2257 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A. Cooper

Acting Secretary