



# Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

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## Radio Distribution Update



Norristown Police Offs. Brian Saxon and Edward Rambo pick up their department's radio order

Technicians have begun programming and shipping the portable radios that Motorola Solutions agreed to replace after certain models were found to have a faulty component that caused some of them to shut off arbitrarily.

The time it took to get those radios replaced and then start over programming all of them has delayed deliver of them to users in the field. The new target for having all of the radios delivered is late spring or early summer, 2017.

Fire companies will need to schedule a time for technicians to come out and reprogram the older radios that they plan to keep in service. Mobile radios that have to be reprogrammed will have to be removed from the vehicles and reinstalled, which will be the fire company's responsibility.

The Department of Public Safety halted distribution of new radios that were bought as part of a bulk purchase agreement in September when it was discovered that some of the new radios were shutting off arbitrarily without any notification or alert to the user.

It was found that the problem was caused by a faulty component that went into some APX 6000 and APX 6000 XE portable radios manufactured during a certain time frame and that it was affecting about 10 percent of the radios. Motorola agreed to replace all 2,562 of those radios.

As a result of the delay, Motorola agreed to start the warranty on all of the radios that were bought as part of the county's bulk purchasing agreement on January 1, 2017.

As previously stated, the County will pay for covered repairs during the lag-time between January 1<sup>st</sup>, when the warranty begins, and when an agency receives delivery of its radios at the end of the warranty period.

## New MPS Software Webinars

The Department of Public Safety is holding webinars for fire companies to train on the new MPS (Mobile for Public Safety) software that should now be running on all Mobile Data Computers in fire apparatus in Montgomery County.

The training will last approximately one hour, followed by a 30 minute Q&A session if necessary. The webinars are scheduled for Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 p.m., Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. & 7 p.m., Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. and March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m.

To register for one of these webinars, please follow this link:

<https://mcp911events.webex.com/mcp911events/onstage/g.php?PRID=1f5cc1bff969593aec4a29918780b6ba>

## SWAT Negotiators and Call Takers Train Together

Negotiators with the Montgomery County SWAT/Central Region spent a day earlier this month going through scenario-based training with call takers from the Department of Public Safety's Emergency Communications Division.



The scenarios involved a suicidal person and a bank robbery that turned into a hostage situation, said Upper Merion Police Sgt. Jeff Maurer.

The training was beneficial to both the call takers and the negotiators because it gave them a feel for the pressures that each other face and it's helpful to become familiar with one another before coming together during a high-stress situation, he said.

"We look forward to doing it again in the future," Maurer said.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Command Officer Seminar

About 150 officers from fire companies across Montgomery County came together last week for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Montgomery County Command Officer Seminar at the Department of Public Safety Training Campus.



Participants receive instruction on tying a tourniquet using a prop in the emergency first aid break-out session.

Dan Madrzykowski MS, of UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute, was the featured speaker. He presented the results of his organizations latest research in modern fire behavior.

The remainder of the day featured two breakout sessions that covered a variety of topics, including how fire companies can assist police in certain tactical situations, planning for and responding to high profile events, improving firefighter cardiac health, high tech alarm systems, emergency first aid and the capabilities of the county's HAZMAT and Urban Search & Rescue teams.

## Al Novak Honored For Decades of Service

Al Novak was presented with the Ivan Meeker Leadership Award by the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Service Institute recently for over 40 years of service as a volunteer firefighter with the North Penn Fire Co.

Al was also an active member of the North Penn Fire Co. Board of Directors for many years and served on numerous committees. He was also president of the 5<sup>th</sup> Fire District for 16 years, which is the most active fire district in Montgomery County.

Al recently retired from KYW 1060, where he was the breaking new reporter for the a.m. drive time for over 25 years.



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## Roy Nuss Receives Fire Instructor Of The Year Award

Roy Nuss was presented with the 2017 Instructor of the Year Award by the Keystone Chapter Fire Service Instructors for his years of service.



Roy Nuss is presented Instructor of the Year Award for 2017 by Steve Dragon, Eastern Regional Director of the Keystone Fire Service Instructors.

Roy led the way in introducing the latest fire dynamic research into entry-level fire training. He is an innovative instructor who designed an evolution during live-fire training to demonstrate who you can “reset” a fire with an exterior fire attack.

Roy is a Pennsylvania State Fire Academy Suppression instructor and an appointed member of the Montgomery County Fire Academy Advisory Committee. In addition to entry-level, Roy teaches advanced fire training courses such as Structural Burn, Pump I and Pump II. At each level, he receives excellent evaluations from his students.

## Response Staffing Standard Recommendation

Montgomery County’s Fire Chiefs Association and Municipal Fire Officers Association are jointly recommending a standard policy for announcing staffing levels on apparatus that are responding in Montgomery County.

The policy recommends that when fire service units report that they are responding, they also indicate the number of interior qualified firefighters onboard, including the driver.

Interior qualified is defined as firefighters who have trained to the IFSAC/ProBoard Firefighter 1 standard or equivalent training.

The policy does not recommend staffing levels for an apparatus during an emergency response. The intent of the policy recommendation is to provide the incident commander with the number of available interior qualified firefighters that are responding to the incident.

For more detailed information, see a copy of “Montgomery County Response Staffing Number Standard: A Recommended Practice By the Montgomery County Fire Service” in the attached January 2017 Notices.

## PECO Spring Training Schedule

PECO is offering weekend, daytime and evening training sessions open to all fire companies in its service area at the PECO Energy Fire Academy, 300 Front St., West Conshohocken, PA.

A maximum of 3 members from each fire company can register to attend each of the programs. Unregistered personnel will not be accepted.

Additional information is available in the attached January 2017 Notices. There is also a helpful list of quick tips on the Do’s and Don’ts at utility emergencies.



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## Law Enforcement Winter 2017 Training Schedule

A series of law enforcement training courses being offered by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, in conjunction with the Chiefs of Police and the District Attorney, has been posted to the department's web site.

All training will be at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus (PSTC) unless stated otherwise.

Courses available January through June 2017 and registration information can be found at the following link: <http://montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/15950>

## Emergency Management Certificates Achieved



Dan Little, Towamencin Township Emergency Management Coordinator, was presented with his PEMA Local Advanced and Professional certifications recently by Heather Morgan, Training and Exercise Coordinator for Montgomery County Department of Public Safety.



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