



Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

FEBRUARY 27, 2017

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 2

Department of Public Safety
610-631-6500

Thomas Sullivan
Director

John Corcoran
Deputy Director,
External Affairs

Public Safety Training Campus
610-278-3500

EMS Training Institute
610-278-2666

Website:
www.dps.montcopa.org

CAD Helpline:
610-631-3001



Montgomery County
Commissioners

Valerie Arkoosh, Chair
Joseph Gale
Kenneth Lawrence, Jr.

Radio Distribution Update

Radios ordered under bulk purchase agreement have been distributed to over 30 police departments so far, with the remaining departments scheduled to receive them over the next few weeks.

Fire and EMS radios will start to go out immediately after that and the goal is to have all of those radios distributed by late spring or early summer of this year.



East Norriton Township Police Chief Karyl Kates and Lt. Brandon Pasquale collect their department's radios from the warehouse last week.

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 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.

Given the delay, Motorola agreed to start the warranty on all 3,800 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 1st, when the warranty begins, and when an agency receives delivery of its radios at the end of the warranty period.

Have Older Radio Programming Wiped

Any agency that plans to sell or give away its older XTS or XTL model Motorola radios to another agency outside of Montgomery County needs to have the programming wiped from those units before they are transferred.

Notify the Department of Public Safety's technical shop if your agency needs to have the memory wiped from older radios: eoctech@montcopa.org or call (610) 631-6511.

Rapid Intervention Team Exercises

The Montgomery County Fire Academy is running a Rapid Intervention Team course on March 11th and 12th, 2017.



This course is designed to provide students with the skills and confidence needed to work effectively as a member of a Rapid Intervention Team under challenging conditions. Students will participate in 12 hours of intense, hands-on activities and should be in good physical condition.

All students must be at least 18 years of age and Interior Fire Fighter qualified. See the attached February 2017 Notices for additional information. A registration form can be found on the fire academy web site: <http://montcopa.org/136/Fire-Academy>

Structural Burn Session

A 16-hour course that will combine classroom review of fire behavior, company operations and fire attack methods with extensive hands-on live-fire training is being offered at the Montgomery County Fire Academy on March 18th and 25th, 2017

The 3-hour classroom portion will incorporate the latest UL studies and the hands-on activities will cover hose advancement, ladder review, live smoke search, as well as residential, commercial and high rise fire attack.

Emphasis is placed on safety for both interior and exterior operations. All students must be at least 18 years of age and Interior Fire Fighter qualified. See the attached February 2017 Notices for additional information. A registration form can be found on the fire academy web site: <http://montcopa.org/136/Fire-Academy>

National Valor Award For Former Willow Grove Fire Ofc.

FDNY Firefighter James Lee, Jr., a Willow Grove native and former Assistant Chief at the Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company, is being honored with a national award for valor for a daring rope-rescue that saved the life of an 81-year-old man from a fully involved Manhattan apartment building.

Lee's fellow firefighters lowered him from the roof through high heat and blinding black smoke to the fifth-floor window where the man was. By that time, flames were lapping out over the windowsill and the man was unable to stand up and come to the window.

Lee was able to reach in, grab the man and wrench him out of the window. The force of doing so spun them around so that his back was to the building and he had to kick off with his feet while cradling the man in his arms to keep them from getting hung up on the building while firefighters on the roof lowered them to the ground.

Shortly after the two reached safety, the rope that firefighters on the roof had used to lower them burned through and fell to ground.

For his efforts, Lee will be recognized with the 2017 Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award during the opening ceremony at the FDIC International Conference in Indianapolis on April 26th. A more detailed account of the rescue can be found in this Fire Engineering article: http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2017/02/courage-and-valor-award-recipient.html?cmpid=enl_fe_fireengineeringdaily_2017-02-22



Montgomery County
Commissioners

Valerie Arkoosh, Chair
Joseph Gale
Kenneth Lawrence, Jr.

Jim Lee joined the Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company at the age of 17 and rose through the ranks to become Assistant Fire Chief. His first job as a career firefighter was with Whippain Township. He also worked for Ambler Ambulance. Prior to joining the Fire Department of New York in 2003, Jim spent 2-1/2 years in the District of Columbia Fire Department.

Emergency Management Certifications Achieved



Congratulations to Department of Public Safety staff members who successfully completed PEMA and FEMA certifications. Pictured left to right: Tom Sullivan, Director of Public Safety, Lee Perlmutter (PEMA County Basic Certification), Michael Rubin (PEMA County Basic Certification), Matt Markland (FEMA Advanced Professional Series Certification), Heather Morgan (PEMA County Professional Certification), Jessica Pickett (PEMA County Basic Certification).



Congratulations to Michael Matusheski, emergency management staff member for Upper Merion Township, for receiving his PEMA Local Advanced Certification.



Montgomery County
Commissioners

Valerie Arkoosh, Chair
Joseph Gale
Kenneth Lawrence, Jr.

Specialized Resources Available

Large-scale incidents have become inevitable as our region has grown in density and complexity over the years. When they do occur, Incident Commanders should be aware of the specialized resources that are available to them, particularly the Montgomery County Urban Search and Rescue (MCUS&R) Team and the Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Response Team (MCHMRT).

Toward the bottom of the attached February 2016 Notices are documents that detail each team's capabilities, training levels, personnel, equipment and other response information. Anyone with additional questions about either team can contact William Messerschmidt at WMessers@montcopa.org.

Career Opportunities

The Berwyn Fire Company is accepting applications for part-time firefighter/EMT and firefighter/paramedic positions.

Hatfield Township is accepting applications for a part-time Fire and Life Safety Inspector in the Safety and Codes Enforcement Department.

Detailed job descriptions and information on how to apply can be found in the attached February 2017 Notices.

5th Fire District Annual Awards Banquet

The 5th Fire District held its annual Awards Banquet earlier this month at the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company Social Club.



John Leadbeater (center) received the Earl Mayers Award for his 38 years of service to the Wissahickon Volunteer Fire Company of Ambler.

Firefighter of Year was shared by two volunteers from the Fairmount Fire Company of Lansdale. Firefighters Ryan Lischke and Gavin Butler rescued an unconscious resident from a burning apartment.

The Earl Mayers Award for service to the community and the fire service was presented to John Leadbeater of the Wissahickon Volunteer Fire Company of Ambler for his 38 years of service.

Special Merit Awards were given to Barbara Spilove of Harmonville Fire Company and Ronald Lutz of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Co.

This year's 5th Fire District Presidents' award was presented to former District President Al Novack of North Penn Volunteer Fire Company. Novack had been President for 16-years and a district member for 41-years. Al was recently presented a State achievement & leadership award in Harrisburg.



Montgomery County
Commissioners

Valerie Arkoosh, Chair
Joseph Gale
Kenneth Lawrence, Jr.