



# Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

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## Radio System Update

The distribution of new radios purchased by police departments under the bulk purchasing agreement with Motorola has been completed and programming has begun on the radios purchased by fire and EMS agencies.

Fire and EMS agencies will start to receive notifications to come pick up their new radios within the next few weeks and distribution is scheduled to be complete by early July.

Fire companies will also be contacted to schedule a time to have the old radios they are keeping in service aeroflexed and flash upgraded. Aeroflexing involves fine-tuning a radio to make sure it is within manufacturer specifications to work on the new system when it is turned on. Any of the older radios that cannot be aeroflexed will have to be taken out of service.

Fire companies that purchased new radios were sent an inventory of the new and existing radios they have according to the County's database and were asked to assign an ID (also known as an alias) to each new radio and each existing radio it wants to keep in service. Any company that did not respond to that request will receive another copy. It must be completed before an appointment can be scheduled for technicians to come out and aeroflex/flash upgrade those radios.

Fire companies that did not purchase any new radios and plan to keep the same ID's on existing radios do not need to submit that inventory. They will be contacted to schedule an appointment. Reminder: The flash upgrade will work on the XTS-2500 and XTS-5000 portable radios and the XTL-2500 and XTL-5000 mobile radios. The older MTS-2000 portable and MCS-2000 mobile radios cannot be flash upgraded and will not operate on the new system.

For existing radios that receive the flash upgrade programming to work on the new system, agencies will be required to sign a commitment to not sell those radios prior December 31, 2019 unless they reimburse Montgomery County for the \$810 cost associated with upgrading the radio.

A significant delay in delivering the radios to users in the field occurred last year as a result of a problem that occurred when they were being assembled by the manufacturer.

As a result of the delay, Motorola agreed to start the warranty on January 1, 2017 for all of the radios that were bought as part of the county's bulk purchasing agreement. As previously stated, the County will pay for covered repairs during the lag-time between January 1st, when the warranty began, and when an agency receives delivery of its radios.

Anyone with questions about radios should contact (610) 631-6511 or [eoctech@montcopa.org](mailto:eoctech@montcopa.org)

## Motorola Price Increase

Motorola has increased its pricing per radio by approximately \$60 effective April 1, 2017. The price increase is for APX Mobile models (APX 4500, APX 6500 and APX 7500) and APX Portable models (APX 7000, APX 6000, APX 4000 and XE Series).

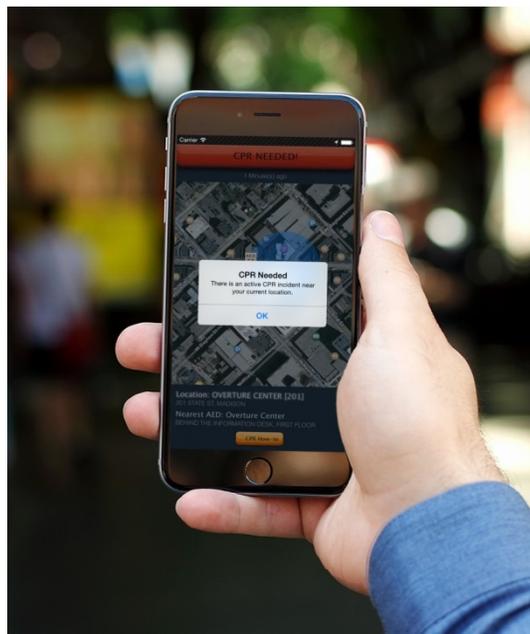
The increase will apply to radios purchased going forward. It does not apply to any radio that has already been ordered.

New pricing, which still includes Montgomery County's 32 percent discount, for radios and accessories can be found on the Department of Public Safety's website by following this link: <http://www.montcopa.org/1732/Radio-and-Accessory-Pricing>

## Coming Soon: Pulse Point App

The Department of Public Safety will soon launch a new mobile app aimed at improving the survivability of people who suffer a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) by alerting people who are CPR-trained and happen to be nearby so that they can render assistance immediately.

Whenever first responders are dispatched to a SCA in Montgomery County, people who have downloaded the PulsePoint Respond App to their phone and are in close proximity will receive an alert. A distinctive tone will sound and a map will pop up showing the reported location of the victim and the app user.



The app will also show the location of the nearest Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) that is registered in the county's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

Early application of bystander CPR and defibrillation from an AED dramatically improve a person's chance of surviving a Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

PulsePoint AED is a related application that people can use to report the locations of publically accessible AEDs in the community. Users enter a description of the AED's location and snap a picture of it. The information is stored for local authorities to verify. Once verified, the information will be made available in the CAD and to PulsePoint Respond users.

PulsePoint should be fully implemented in the CAD within the next week or two. When it is, first responders and health care professionals will be notified with a Montco Safer message and encouraged to sign up.

PulsePoint isn't just for first responders and health care professionals. A public launch will be held during EMS Week (May 21st through May 27<sup>th</sup>) to encourage members of the public who are CPR trained to sign up and help save a life.

The free PulsePoint app is available for iPhone and Android and can be downloaded from the iTunes Store and Google Play.



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## Opioid Symposium

Arcadia University will host "Opioids in Your Backyard, Montgomery County: A Search for Solutions Symposium," on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a one-day event to address the ever-present and growing problem of opioid abuse in the Philadelphia area.

Held in conjunction with Montgomery County Department of Public Safety and Montgomery County Community College, the symposium will offer an opportunity to interact with public safety and health professionals, as well as local and county officials, to discuss concerns and learn about resources available within the region to combat this widespread problem.

Key presenters for the day include:

- Dr. Ben R. Usatch, medical director for Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, who will present on what to do if you witness an overdose.
- Dr. Natasha Patterson, assistant professor of Public Health at Montgomery County Community College, who will discuss how opioid addiction happens.
- Amir Hosseini, clinical outreach representative for SeaBrook House, Inc. recovery center, who will present on intervention and treatment resources.
- Steve Beck, regional school safety officer for Montgomery County, who will discuss how schools can be prepared to handle addiction and overdoses.

This event is free and open to the public, although pre-registration is required. Please see the attached March 2017 Notices for additional information.

## Community Paramedicine Symposium

A one-day informational symposium has been scheduled for EMS agencies and healthcare providers who are interested in learning more about Community Paramedicine programs.

Community Paramedicine is an emerging model that partners EMS agencies, hospitals and insurance companies to provide health care services more broadly in the communities they serve.

The symposium will be held Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Frobese Auditorium at Abington Hospital-Jefferson Health.

Attendees will learn how community paramedicine can:

- Provide more effective, efficient and timely healthcare to those in need
- Fill gaps in population health services not otherwise covered by home care nursing or other traditional home delivery models
- Avoid unnecessary transports to emergency rooms - preventing "superuse"
- Relieve emergency room overcrowding and reduce the burden of uncompensated care
- Reduce preventable hospital readmissions
- Lower healthcare costs

Please see the attached March 2017 Notices for additional information and a link to register for this event.



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## Countywide Fire Study

At the request of several fire chiefs and municipal managers, the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety sought and obtained Homeland Security grant funding to conduct a countywide fire study.

Following a competitive process, VFIS was selected to conduct the study.

Fire chiefs and fire company administrators from across Montgomery County will be invited to participate in facilitated workshops to provide their vision for the fire service over the next five to 10 years and what it will need in terms of funding, staffing and resources to achieve those goals.

## Tanker Water Supply Course

The Montgomery County Fire Academy is running a Tanker Water Supply course at the Skippack Fire Company on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

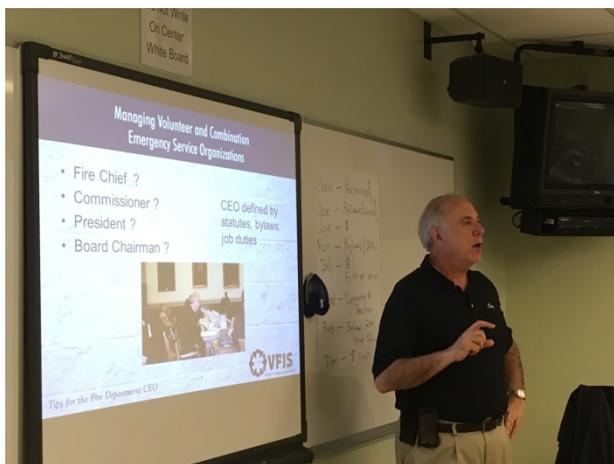


This course deals with supplying the fireground with water from tank trucks. There are four hours of classroom lecture on topics such as tank truck construction and water flow requirements. This class is designed for non-drivers as well as the tanker driver. Over the course of two days, students will work through evolutions that involve water supply set up and the drop tank shuttle system.

See the attached March 2017 Notices for additional information. A registration form can be found on the fire academy web site: <http://montcopa.org/136/Fire-Academy>

## New Management Course Meeting A Need

The Montgomery County Fire Academy filled the roster for its first offering of "Managing Volunteer and Combination Emergency Service Organizations," a new course for fire company administrators that began last week.



Today, emergency service organizations must be managed as quasi-businesses, with full awareness of all applicable laws and regulations. This course addresses a number of management practices needed by volunteer organizations particularly in the areas of finance, personnel and planning.

The course is taught by Chief Bill Jenaway, who has over forty years of experience in the fire service and teaches graduate courses at St. Joseph's University.



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## New Company Officer Course Well Received

The Montgomery County Fire Academy packed the room for its first offering of New Company Officer on March 18<sup>th</sup>, a seminar-style class during which four experienced instructors went over the operational and administrative responsibilities important for every company officer to know. The topics included:

- Administrative Responsibilities,
- Single-Company Response,
- Multi-Company Response,
- Decision Making and
- Fireground Safety

The fire academy will offer this course at the Public Safety Training Campus each spring so that Montgomery County fire companies can offer this important training to their newly promoted officers and firefighters they are grooming for leadership.



## Emergency Management Certificates Achieved



Congratulations to Upper Dublin Fire Marshal Timothy Schuck on receiving his PEMA Local Professional Certification as a municipal emergency management staff member.



Congratulations to Cheltenham Township Police Sgt. Joseph O'Neill for receiving his PEMA Local Advanced Certification as a municipal emergency management staff member.



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## April Is Autism Awareness Month

April is Autism Awareness Month. One out of 68 children are diagnosed with Autism, a developmental disability characterized by repetitive behaviors and deficits in social and communication skills.

Autism Awareness for first responders is available through the Willow Grove Fire Company. See the attached March 2017 Notices for additional information.