



# Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

MAY 31, 2017

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 5

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## New Technology That Can Save Lives

Montgomery County has become the first in Southeastern Pennsylvania to begin using PulsePoint to improve the chances of survival for people who suffer a Sudden Cardiac Arrest and we need your help.



We have just deployed the PulsePoint Respond app that will alert people who are CPR-trained, and have the app, whenever a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is dispatched for someone who is nearby so that they can begin rendering life-saving assistance immediately.

We are asking all police, fire, EMS and health care professionals in Montgomery County to download the PulsePoint Respond app to their phones and begin using it immediately.

If a SCA is dispatched anywhere within a quarter-mile of your location, the app will sound a distinctive tone and a map will pop up showing the reported location of the victim and the app user.

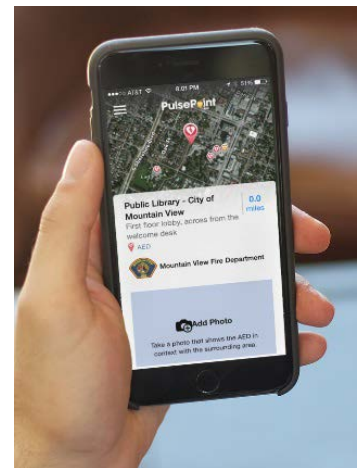
The app will also show the location of the nearest Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) if it is registered.

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

We are also encouraging the widespread use of a second, related, application: PulsePoint AED. People can use PulsePoint AED to report the locations of publically accessible AEDs in the community.

Users drop a pin on a map and enter a description of the AED's location, and then 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.

The Department of Public Safety encourages anyone in Montgomery County who is CPR trained, especially first responders, to download and begin using the free PulsePoint apps. They are available for iPhone and Android and can be downloaded from the iTunes Store and Google Play or by following this link: <http://www.pulsepoint.org/download/>



## Radio System Update

The distribution of radios purchased under the bulk purchasing agreement is nearly complete and should be finished by the end June.

Motorola is setting up regional locations across the county where fire companies can have the old radios they are keeping in service aeroflexed and flash upgraded. That process is scheduled to start in July and fire companies will be contacted to schedule appointments to bring their radios to those regional locations.

Aeroflexing the older radios involves fine-tuning them to make sure they are within manufacturer specifications and will work on the new system. Under FCC regulations, any radio that cannot be aeroflexed will have to be taken out of service.

There was an issue with some of the new radios that were distributed. There was a glitch in the software being used to program the radios. As a result, the emergency button was not programmed to work on the fireground channel in 719 of the APX 6000 and APX 6000 XE radios.

The problem was identified on the evening of Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and fire companies that had received those radios were notified of the problem by phone on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The problem has been fixed in 530 of those radios and the remainder should be completed by the end of this week.

User guides with how-to instructions for the APX radios on programming the favorites bank and using the display light feature and audio loud feature are available in the attached May 2017 Notices.

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

## Line Of Duty Death

Metro Aviation and The PennSTAR Flight Team regret to announce the line of duty death of EMS Pilot Michael R. Murphy. Mike was a 5 year member of The PennSTAR Flight Team and held the positions of Line Pilot and Lead Pilot.

Mike was a well-known and well-respected pilot in the aviation world, contributing twelve years of expertise and experience in the field. Calling hours will be from 0900 to 1200 hours on Friday, June 2, 2017 at Christ the Redeemer Parish/Assumption Church, located at 318 Carl Hasselhan Drive, Atco, NJ with a mass to follow at 1200 hours. Interment will be private at a later date.

Apparatus and personnel are permitted and welcomed to attend. Anyone wishing to participate is asked to contact Communications Specialist Greg Amato by email [gamato@medic317.org](mailto:gamato@medic317.org) or by cell phone (914) 804-8204.



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## Montgomery County Hiring Telecommunicators

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety is recruiting for a new class of telecommunicators to begin training in September.

An Open House that will include tours and walk-in testing will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center, 50 Eagleville Rd., Eagleville, Pa., 19403.

An informational flyer about the Open House dates can be found in the attached May 2017 Notices. Anyone who is interested can also view a full job description, download an application or apply online by going to [www.montcopa.org/jobs](http://www.montcopa.org/jobs) and clicking on telecommunicator.

Based in a state-of-the-art Communications Center in Eagleville, telecommunicators have workstations with individual climate controls, fully paid training, and work just 182 days per year. The Department of Public Safety provides 9-1-1 service and communications support to nearly 150 public safety agencies throughout the County.

Montgomery County is an equal opportunity employer and offers a very generous medical, dental, and vision benefit package.

## Daytime Technical Rescue School

The Montgomery County Fire Academy is running a daytime Technical Rescue School that will be offered from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. over 10 days in July.

The course will cover Basic Ropes & Rigging, High Angle Rescue, Confined Space Rescue and other technical rescue skills. Students who complete the course will receive six rescue course certificates and will have the opportunity to take the written and skills testing required for a Technical Rescue certification.

Students must be 18 years old, have current HAZMAT Operations refresher, First Aid and CPR/AED training, and provide their own Personal Protective Equipment. See the attached May 2017 Notices for additional information.

## Hot Weather/Excessive Heat Rehab Resources

All response agencies are reminded that cooling resources are available for deployment during extended operations when hot weather/excessive heat is putting responders at risk.

A resource list of EMS agencies that have cooling vests, misting fans and ice, ice coolers, cooling chairs and shade tents is included in the attached May 2017 Notices. In addition, the 313 Rehab Bus is available to respond to major incidents.

Once an agency's own resources are in use and it is anticipated that additional resources will be needed, a request for additional rehab assets should be made by Incident Command through the Emergency Communications Division.



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## Busy Month Of May For Montco US&R Team

The Montgomery County Urban Search & Rescue team wrapped up a busy month of May with a flurry of activity.



Members of the team traveled to Camp Delmont in Marlborough Township on Saturday, May 20th, and provided the Boy Scouts there with demonstrations of their technical rescue capabilities. The Scouts also received some hands-on training with the team's SearchCam 3000s, which, among other things, can be used to locate victims trapped in a collapse environment.

Don Lynch, US&R's Medical/Safety Officer, completed the FEMA medical specialist course in Broward County, Fla. where he learned specialized medical care for technical rescue incidents. The intense week-long course covers IED and blast injury care, field amputations and modern interventions, along with basic canine veterinary care.

Montgomery County US&R now has two FEMA certified medical specialists who are able to work in tandem at an incident, or pair with other EMS providers to act as force multipliers for an incident involving multiple patients.

The team finished off the month by hosting a lecture on crush and suspension trauma in the rescue environment by Dr. Ryan Overberger of Einstein Medical Center that was attended by over 45 rescue responders from Montgomery County and across the Southeast Region.

Dr. Overberger is an attending physician in the Emergency Department at Einstein Medical Center, and currently serves as a Medical Team Manager for PA Task Force One. He is also involved with Bucks County Technical Rescue Task Force and has 17 years of emergency services experience.

MCUS&R will be recruiting new members over the summer months. Stay tuned for the application announcement in June



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## Priority Radio Traffic Procedures

The onset of summer and the sweltering heat that comes with increases the likelihood that severe storms will affect our region.

When severe weather and other major incidents happen, it is not unusual for the Emergency Communications Center to receive quadruple the normal call volume. The volume of radio traffic that results can reach the point where it nearly overwhelms the communications network and available personnel.

When that happens the Emergency Communications Center will declare a "Priority Traffic Condition," and we need the help of first responders in the field to ensure that vital information and calls are transmitted without delay or interruption.

When a "Priority Traffic Condition" is declared, an alert tone will sound three times and the following message will be broadcast: "Attention all units, Montgomery County Emergency Communications is now operating under the Priority Traffic Condition." An alpha page announcement will also be sent over the Countywide All Call.

When a "Priority Traffic Condition" exists, all unit-to-unit transmissions on system channels should be discontinued with the exception of emergency traffic. Whenever possible, the Officer In Charge (OIC) should advise of station or apparatus status changes rather than each individual unit doing so. It is not intended to cease transmissions by the OIC to ECOM relative to the conditions of the call or orders to be relayed to responding apparatus.

All on-scene unit-to-unit traffic that can safely move to a non-system talk group, such as Fire Ground or Police On Scene, should do so as soon as possible.

Under a "Priority Traffic Condition," dispatches for certain low-priority calls such as an automatic alarm or tree/wires down will be downgraded to a single company. Structural and rescue calls will continue to get a full response.

All downgraded calls will be forwarded to fire companies that are in service. Companies that are not in service will be dispatched using normal procedures.

Fire companies should attempt to staff their station and advise ECOM that downgraded/non-emergency calls can be relayed by telephone or alpha pager.

Times will not be given by phone or radio during "Priority Traffic Condition" or under busy conditions. The words "Operate Under Priority Traffic Condition" will be announced every half hour until the condition is lifted.

Under certain conditions, radio and telephone traffic conditions may become heavy enough to prevent immediate answers to radio calls. When this occurs, ECOM may advise "all units stand-by". That means ECOM is temporarily unable to answer your message either because of heavy radio/telephone traffic or the need to dispatch another unit. Do not call again until answered unless you have a "priority emergency". If you have an emergency, state your unit designation and "priority traffic". Wait until acknowledged and then proceed with message.



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Restrict "priority traffic" communications to situations where life or personal injury is at stake or situations that require immediate additional assistance.

When a "Priority Traffic Condition" is no longer needed, the following message will be broadcast: "All units resume normal traffic." An alpha page will also be sent cancelling the condition.

## Accreditation Assessment Team Invites Public Comment

A team of assessors from the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®) will arrive July 24, 2017 to examine all aspects of Montgomery County Department of Public Safety's Communications Division, including policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services.



Verification by the team that the Communications Division meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation---a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments through a telephone call-in session on Wednesday, July 26, 2017 between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. The public may call (610) 631-5098 during these times.

Telephone comments should be limited to 10 minutes per caller and must address the Communications Division's ability to comply with CALEA® communications standards. Copies of the communications standards are available from the Accreditation Manager, Annamaria Mastrocola, who can be reached at (610) 631-6532.

Those wishing to offer written comments about the Communications Division's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia 20155.

The Communications Division must comply with the Commission's 213 standards in order to gain the CALEA® accreditation. Accreditation is an acknowledgement that symbolizes professionalism, excellence and competence in the field of Emergency Communications.

The Accreditation Program Manager from CALEA® for the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety's Communications Division is Paul MacMillan. The assessment team is composed of public safety practitioners from similar, out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed.



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## Entry Level Fire Fighter Graduation

The Montgomery County Fire Academy graduated 18 new firefighters of Class 1605 from the Pennsylvania Entry Level Fire Fighter program on May 17, 2017.

Montgomery County Commissioner Kenneth Lawrence, Jr., was the commencement speaker. Firefighters Justin Fusaro of Gladwyne Fire Company and Derek Smith of Barren Hill Fire Company received the Interior Firefighter Award.



Congratulations to all. Below is a list of graduates:

Firefighter Kyra Berry, Phoenixville  
Firefighter Rose Bradley, Ringing Hill  
Firefighter Jessica Brunner, Centre Square  
Firefighter Jonathan De Leon, Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills  
Firefighter Sean Dusza, Skippack  
Firefighter Justin Fusaro, Gladwyne  
Firefighter Jeffrey Gold, Centre Square  
Firefighter Brian Lorenz, Gladwyne  
Firefighter Wesley Madeira Jr., Seisholtzville  
Firefighter Zachary Magid, Oreland  
Firefighter John Papalitskas, Plymouth  
Firefighter Michael Pinto Jr., Oakmont  
Firefighter Devin Scott, Skippack  
Firefighter Benjamin Senss, Manoa  
Firefighter Derek Smith, Barren Hill  
Firefighter Corey Snow, Merion of Ardmore  
Firefighter Stephen Teller, Spring Mill  
Firefighter Travis Van Zile, East Greenville



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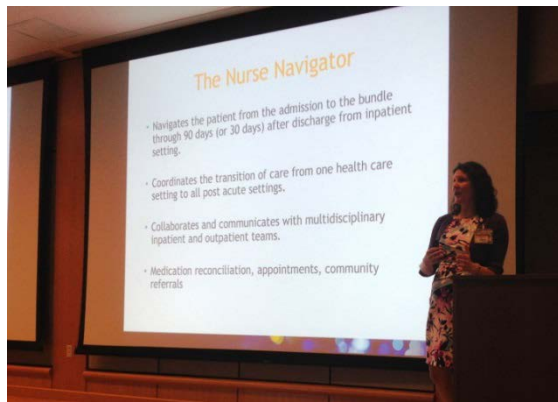
## New Deadline for I/Mobile Software

Agencies that have Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) in their vehicles that are still running I/Mobile software need to install new software before June 30<sup>th</sup> or the unit will shut down.

To have the new software installed, a fire company representative should follow this link, complete the checklist and survey and return it to the email in the document:

<http://montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/13840>

## Community Paramedicine Symposium



Heather Peiritsch, Abington-Jefferson Health, gave a presentation on Preventing Readmissions in the Post Acute Setting

About 50 representatives of EMS agencies and healthcare providers attended an informational Community Paramedicine symposium on May 18<sup>th</sup> that was sponsored by Abington Jefferson Health and the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, EMS division.

Participants discussed how EMS agencies, healthcare providers and insurance companies can work together to provide timely and more efficient healthcare in the community to reduce hospital readmissions, unnecessary ER transports, reduce uncompensated care and lower the cost of healthcare overall.

## Emergency Management Certificate Achieved



Congratulations to Robert Thomas, Emergency Management Coordinator for Pottstown Borough, on receiving his PEMA Local Basic Certification as a municipal emergency management staff member.



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