



Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

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Montgomery County
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Joseph Gale

Radio System Update

The Department of Public Safety has aeroflexed, flash upgraded and programmed over 1,100 of the older radios that fire companies are keeping in service and should complete the process over the next few weeks.

The process of upgrading the radios is being performed at regional depots to make it more convenient for fire company representatives to drop them off and pick them up. There have been eight of those depots held so far. An additional two will be held in Lansdale and Lower Merion in the next couple of weeks. Any radios that still need to be processed after that can be brought to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Eagleville.

Older radios that fire companies would like to convert for Fireground-only communications, or sell to customers outside of Montgomery County, will also have to be brought to the EOC. (If an older radio is sold and it is not brought to the EOC to have its programming wiped, the customer will be unable to reprogram it with their own channels.)

Fire companies should be aware that the flash programming will only enable their radios to work on the system until Dec. 31, 2019 when new FCC regulations will compel to make the radio system "TDA compliant," technology the older radios do not support.

Progress is being made on the three remaining towers that need to be completed before the new radio system is turned on.

- The department has permits for the Hughes Road tower in Upper Merion and the foundation for the tower and equipment shelter will be poured with the next few weeks. The tower manufacturer is scheduled to deliver it in early January.
- The permit applications for the Roxborough tower have been submitted and are under review by officials in Philadelphia.
- The state is on target to have the new Willow Grove tower completed in February and the county's equipment should be installed in March.

The system will undergo testing and adjustments in the spring and units should be operating on the system for full-foliage testing in the summer.

Fire Academy Spring-Summer 2018 Training Schedule

The Montgomery County Fire Academy has posted the Spring-Summer 2018 Training Schedule to the Department of Public Safety's web site.

Both the training schedule and the course catalogue can be accessed from the Fire Academy's web page: <http://www.montcopa.org/1006/Fire-Academy-Training-Schedule>

A copy of the Spring-Summer 2018 Training Schedule can also be found in the attached November 2017 Notices.

15th Annual Montgomery County Command Officer Seminar

The 15th Annual Montgomery County Command Officer Seminar will be held Saturday, January 27, 2018 at the Montgomery County Public Safety Campus, 1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428.

This year's featured speaker will be Chief Derek Alkonis, who will discuss how the Los Angeles County Fire Department has incorporated the Underwriters Laboratory and National Institute of Standards and Technology research into structural firefighting operations in Los Angeles County.



Chief Alkonis will also provide a brief update, with lessons learned and reinforced, from the wildland firefighting operations in northern California.

Breakout sessions following the main presentation will address the following topics:

- Coordinating Local Response with Federal Resources During Natural Disasters
- Fentanyl Exposure Prevention for First Responders
- Weather and Emergency Response
- Hybrid, Electric and Alternative Fuel Vehicle Technologies

The seminar will include morning coffee and donuts as well as lunch.

The Command Officer seminar is open to all Montgomery County Chief Officers as well as Fire Officers the Chief feels would benefit from this training.

There are a limited number of available seats so you must register to attend. You can register with an e-mail to Cindy Myers cmyers@montcopa.org. Include names, fire company and email address for each person you wish to register.

The doors open at 8:00 a.m. for coffee and donuts and the Seminar will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Note: The Montgomery County Update will be replaced this year by a report from Chester County on the Barclay Friends Nursing Home Fire.

Free Estate Planning For First Responders

The Student Veterans Organization of Arcadia University and the Wills for Heroes program are partnering to provide essential legal documents free of charge to first responders, including wills, living wills, and powers of attorney.

The event will be held Saturday, Dec. 9th from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Arcadia University, Grey Towers Castle, 450 South Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038,

To make an appointment, go to <http://www.pabar.org/wfh/>, click on the "Arcadia" event, type in the password: Arcadia and select whether you want an appoint for yourself only or appointments for yourself and your spouse.

If you die without a will, Pennsylvania's intestate laws will determine who will receive your property.



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PulsePoint AED scholarship

The Department of Public Safety has partnered with GotAED, an initiative of Simon's Fund, to sponsor "The Easiest Scholarship Ever" contest for high school juniors and seniors in Montgomery County.

The goal is to get as many AEDs as possible registered through crowdsourcing using the PulsePoint AED smartphone app.

The contest began on November 1st. Every month, one high school junior or senior will be awarded a \$250 scholarship for uploading the location of the most AED devices in Montgomery County using the PulsePoint registry.

"AED devices are the only tool that can save someone in cardiac arrest," said Darren Sudman, CEO and Co-Founder of Simon's Fund. "Our crowdfunding site, GotAED, is trying to get them into places where kids learn and play, so it was a no-brainer to support this partnership between the county and PulsePoint."



Commissioners Chair Valerie Arkoosh, Commissioners Vice Chair Kenneth Lawrence, Samantha Krouse, GotAED Manager, Darren Sudman, CEO and Co-Founder of Simon's Fund, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Student Rachel Green & Commissioner Joseph Gale.

Montgomery County launched the PulsePoint apps in May to improve the survival rate for cardiac arrest victims in the county

"Sudden cardiac arrest takes the lives of students every year. As a physician, I know the difference that easy access to an AED can have in saving those lives," said Dr. Val Arkoosh, Chair, Montgomery County Commissioners. "Giving students the opportunity to earn an award toward their education while making it easier for any Pulse Point user to find these life-saving devices is a win-win."

Juniors and seniors at any public or private high school in Montgomery County can participate by registering for the contest at <https://gotaed.wpengine.com/scholarship/>.

They will then need to download the free PulsePoint AED app (the yellow one) from the iTunes Store and Google Play or by following this link: <http://www.pulsepoint.org/download/>

When students locate an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in a public location, they just open the app, enter a brief description of the AED's location, snap a picture and drop a pin on the map. It's that easy. Participants are awarded one point for submitting an AED already in the database and two points for submitting a new AED.

Montgomery County encourages everyone with CPR training to download the PulsePoint Respond app to their smartphone. Whenever a Sudden Cardiac Arrest is dispatched in a public area within a quarter-mile of their location, PulsePoint Respond will give an audible alert and display a map on their screen showing their location and the dispatch location. If an AED registered with PulsePoint AED is nearby, its location will also appear.



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Montgomery County US&R Team Training

The Montgomery County Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) team has been training hard for the past two months learning new techniques and keeping their skills fresh.

The team sent five members to a Heavy Equipment Rigging Specialist Course in Delaware County that is designed to teach participants to calculate and rig multi-point loads, cut tensioned metal, and interact with crane/heavy equipment operators.



Montgomery County US&R also hosted a two-part Paratech Based Shoring course. The first part brought responders from local fire departments together with team members to learn about advanced vehicle stabilization. Various stabilization and lifting techniques were taught using busses, tractor trailers, and more.

The second part of the course focused on shoring for a structural collapse. Our partners from the Philadelphia Fire Department joined team members for two days to learn about building stabilization in collapse environments. Montgomery County US&R maintains a large cache of Paratech and wood shoring equipment, as well as equipment to cut, breach, and break metal and concrete.



Montgomery County US&R can be requested via radio or phone through Montgomery County Emergency Communications center.

Career Opportunity

The Department of Public Safety is seeking candidates for the position of Technology Systems Specialist. The position is responsible for the daily operations of Public Safety's technology CAD infrastructure including switches, routers, backups, SAN, data center and computer equipment.

The Network Administrator will also consult with employees to determine hardware, software or system functional specifications. Implement and test new hardware and software and assist in its deployment.

For a complete job description and to download an application, please visit us on the Web: <http://montcopa.org/jobs.aspx>



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Naloxone For K-9s

The Department of Public Safety collaborated with regional veterinarians, national veterinary organizations, the ASPCA Poison Control Center, and other subject matter experts, to develop guidance regarding naloxone administration for K-9 opioid overdoses.

Any agency that has not already done so should develop a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the treatment and protection of K-9 assets exposed to opioids.

An advisory in the attached November 2017 Notices can be shared with your agency's K-9 veterinarian for policy development purposes.



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