



Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

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County-Hosted RMS System Going Live

Earlier this month, the Montgomery County Detective Bureau started using the Advanced Law Enforcement Intelligence System (ALEIS), marking the launch of the first county-hosted web-based records management system.

The system will be phased in over the next few months and when it's fully implemented departments using ALEIS will have the ability to make information in their records available to other departments on the system. All users will have the ability to query the system for a name, vehicle, incident and/or property to see if other departments have information related to their own investigations.

The Sheriff's Department and other county agencies are in line to convert to the new system in the coming weeks and two-thirds of the county's municipal police departments have filed letters of intent to start using the system in the coming months. Those 33 police departments are taking advantage of \$644,000 the County Commissioners approved to pay for their data conversion costs and other "early adopter" incentives.

That is on top of the \$2.2 million the County Commissioners agreed to spend when they voted to enter into a contract with CSI technology to provide the new system.

Once users have their data converted and start using ALEIS, they will have direct interfaces with the County Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, E-ticketing (UPS), CLEAN, Crash Reporting, LiveScan (DataWorks), LEJIS, and JNET.

ALEIS will also provide for their department's internal computing needs with modules for personnel scheduling, training, fleet management, case management of calls for service, master indexing of information, property/evidence tracking, arrests, warrants, UCR reporting, crime linking analysis, and accreditation.

The ALEIS system is the result of a nine-year effort and the close cooperation of the Department of Public Safety, the District Attorney's Office, County Detectives, the Sheriff's Department, the Police Chiefs Association of Montgomery County and the county Purchasing department.

New Fire Dispatch Code Added To CAD System

A new nature code for an Elevator Emergency has been added to the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and fire companies are asked to provide direction on how they would prefer to be dispatched for it.

The new category is called "Elevator Emergency" with a sub type of "ALARM" that are to be used when a call comes in for elevator alarms and elevator alarms with no contact. This is now separate from Elevator Rescue to allow for a reduced response to reduce the amount of apparatus dispatched for low-risk incidents.

A chief officer for each fire company is asked to contact Dennis Orangers at doranger@montcopa.org or (610) 631-6545 with the response plan you would like for "Elevator Alarm".

15th Annual Command Officer Seminar



Over 100 officers from fire companies across Montgomery County attended the 15th Annual Command Officer Seminar Saturday, which featured a presentation by Deputy Chief Derek Alkonis of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Alkonis gave a detailed description of how his department has implemented the latest research from Underwriters Laboratory and National Institute of Standards and Technology (UL/NIST) into its day-to-day firefighting.

The department's challenge was to train up 3,000 firefighters and convince them to change tactics many of had been using for a decade or more and do it by the time the next class of firefighters emerged from training so everyone was using the same tactics.

The LACoFD started by identifying subject matter experts and members of the department who were respected and had credibility with firefighters in the field. They first took the message to the department's fire chiefs and those other opinion leaders. The next step was to convince the department's senior management and the union's leadership of the validity of the research and need for a change in tactics, Alkonis said.

A captain and cameraman were tasked full-time with producing videos, another captain and a photographer worked full-time to produce related PowerPoint presentations while others worked to develop hands-on drills that were put together for weekly trainings over the summer of 2013 to teach the new tactics and reasons for making the changes.



Getting buy-in from the chiefs and respected members of the department proved to be a wise decision when some fire fighters initially resisted the changes, Alkonis said. Those advocates were well placed to sell the benefits of the new tactics as doubts and complaints came up.

The department has also included information and questions about the UL/NIST research in its promotional exams, he said.



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Evidence that the changes were working could be found in the statistics. While the number of structure fires increased in the year following the training, the amount of property loss and fire fighter burn injuries decreased significantly, Alknonis said.

Confirmation that the changes have taken hold can also be found in the reports that the department's officers write up following fires, he said. They now regularly include terminology that was used in the training.

The day-long seminar also included an update from Chester County Emergency Services on the challenges faced and lessons learned at the Barclay Friends Senior Center Fire in West Chester in November.

There were breakout sessions on a number of topics as well, including coordinating local response with federal resources during disasters, preventing fentanyl exposure, weather and emergency response and hybrid, electrical and alternative fuel technologies.

Department of Public Safety New Hires

The Department of Public Safety would like to welcome two additions to our team.



Janine Paul is the department's new Police Training Coordinator. Janine began her career as an officer with the U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division and served six years on numerous details, including providing protection for the President, Vice President, and foreign dignitaries. She was also part of the Trek Patrol Team and on the distinguished U.S. Secret Service Honor Guard. Her last few years with the Uniformed Division were spent at the James J. Rowley Training Center as Officer/Technician training all recruits and active personnel in protective driving.

After leaving the Secret Service, Janine started her own business providing advanced training in security, protective and evasive driving to local, state and federal law enforcement, executive protection specialists, corporate security teams and U.S. military.

Most recently, Janine became a national trainer for the Verbal Judo Institute teaching tactical communications to prevent or deescalate conflicts to a wide variety of professionals. She is also a graduate of the Executive Protection Institute, a member of the Nine Lives Associates and the Academy of Security Educators and Trainers.



Christopher Knight is the department's new 9-1-1 Systems Administrator. Chris previously worked six years as a systems administrator, most recently for Tabula Rasa HealthCare, a healthcare company focused on medication risk mitigation in at-risk populations.

Chris is a graduate of Drexel University and is a member of the Jefferson Fire Company in West Norriton and the Norriton Fire Engine Company in East Norriton.

Chris' duties will include administration of the 9-1-1 phone system, the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and other technologies used by the Department of Public Safety.



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Radio System Update

The Department of Public Safety has aeroflexed, flash upgraded and programmed over 1,700 of the older XTS/XTL radios that fire companies are keeping in service. That process is now complete.

Any fire company that has older XTS/XTL radios that were not reprogrammed and that they would like to have converted to fireground-only communications or sell to customers outside of Montgomery County will have to be brought to the Emergency Operations Center in Eagleville. Please contact eotech@montcopa.org or call 610-631-6511 to schedule an appointment. If a fire company sells an older radio 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.

As a reminder, the flash programming will only enable those older XTS/XTL radios to work on the radio system until December 31, 2019. At that time, a new FCC regulation will go into effect that requires the county make the radio system "TDA compliant," a technology the older radios cannot support. Fire companies should plan accordingly.

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

- The foundations for the tower and equipment shelter at the Hughes Road site in Upper Merion have been installed and additional site work is progressing. The shelter and the tower will be delivered in February.
- The equipment that needed to be hung on the Roxborough tower has been installed. The equipment shelter is scheduled to be delivered soon, at which point the remaining work can be completed.
- 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.

IST Receives Mass Casualty Training

The Montgomery County Incident Support Team reviewed the county's Mass Casualty at their quarterly training this week.



Lafayette Ambulance Chief Ed Martin and Harleysville EMS Chief Don Lynch, both members of the team, walked the other team members through the five response levels of the plan and the inventory of the support pods and trailers that are staged at various locations throughout the county.

The team reviewed the SMART triage tag system and alternative triaging methods. The purpose of the training was to give IST members the knowledge they would need to fill in at support positions during a Mass Casualty Incident to free up Advanced Live Support (ALs) and Basic Live Support (BLS) responders to provide patient care.



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Fire Academy Has Big Start To 2018



The Montgomery County Fire Academy got 2018 started in a big way when 58 students began entry-level fire training on Sunday, January 28th.

Those 58 students hail from 32 volunteer fire companies across Montgomery, Delaware, Chester and Berks counties.

This is one of the largest entry-level classes at the Fire Academy in several years. 6ABC Action News did a segment on Class 1801 on their 11 p.m. newscast Sunday evening.

Pennsylvania EMS Provider Foundation Grant Program

The Pennsylvania EMS Provider Foundation is accepting grant applications.

The grant will be awarded to an individual EMT or EMTs who would like to further their education and become Paramedics. The deadline for grant applications is the close of business on February 16, 2018.

A recipient must have at least three years of experience as a certified EMT and been employed (either paid or volunteer) by a Pennsylvania licensed EMS agency or has been guaranteed an offer of a position a licensed EMS agency following completion of the education program.

The amount of the grant will be determined by the Foundation Board of Directors and the recommendation of the Application Review Committee.

Additional information, an application and instructions can be found online: <http://www.aa-pa.org/content/grant/> or contact Heather Sharar, at executivedirector@aa-pa.org or 717-512-5609.

Career Opportunities

Abington Township and Narberth Borough are accepting applications for a police officer position.

The deadline to apply for the Abington position is 12 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2018 and a written exam will be offered on Saturday, March 10, 2018. Additional information can be found online: <http://www.abingtonpd.org/examapp/>

The deadline to apply for the Narberth position is 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 and a written exam will be offered on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. An announcement with additional details can be found in the attached January 2018 Notices.



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Emergency Management Certification Achieved



Congratulations to Upper Moreland Emergency Management Coordinator Brian Newhall on receiving FEMA Advanced Professional in Emergency Management certification.



Congratulations to David Stafferi, emergency management staff member at Lower Merion Township, on receiving PEMA Advanced Emergency Management certification.



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