



Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

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National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week April 8-14th



Each year, the second week of April is designated as National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week, and we would like to take this opportunity to honor our true first first-responders for the critical, and often under-appreciated, work that they do.

In the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center, shifts of 25 men and women work around the clock, seven days a week, 365 days a year to respond to emergency calls, dispatch police, fire and EMS and provide life-saving assistance to callers.

On an average day, they process 2,100 911 calls, manage 1,700 emergency incidents and maintain constant contact with nearly 700 police, fire and EMS units across the 483 square miles of Montgomery County.

During the week of April 8-14th, we would like to say "Thank You" to these professionals, also known as dispatchers and 911 operators, who serve as the heroes behind the scenes.

They work long 12-hour shifts saving lives, helping apprehend criminals and reassuring callers and they maintain a cool professional demeanor while doing so.

They have complicated jobs that are stressful and exhausting and what they do is often forgotten.

During any given shift, they answer calls from people who are hysterical and do their best to calm them down and help them until other responders arrive on the scene.

Sometimes, that involves coaching callers through Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), techniques to control severe bleeding and even child birth instructions.

They run license plates, check for warrants, make phone calls and whatever else the responders in the field need. They do it as quickly and efficiently as possible.

On occasion, they hear the stress and panic in the voices of responders who are in life-threatening situations. All too often, the communications are ended and they are left with no idea of how things turned out.

So, during the week of April 8th-14th, show your respect and appreciation to the 9-1-1 public safety telecommunicators, technicians, trainers, supervisors, managers and other 9-1-1 professionals who do everything they can to protect the public and first responders they serve.

Montgomery County Hiring Telecommunicators

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety is recruiting for a new class of Telecommunicator trainees.

Applicants can schedule an appointment for testing at the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center, 50 Eagleville Rd., Eagleville, Pa., 19403 from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 14th and Saturday, April 28th. To schedule an appointment, email Maryann Longo, Assistant Training Coordinator, at mlongo@montcopa.org

Anyone interested can view a full job description, download an application or apply online by going to www.montcopa.org/jobs and clicking on telecommunicator.

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

Implementation of County-Hosted RMS System Underway

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Department became the latest agency to start using the Advanced Law Enforcement Intelligence System (ALEIS) in March, joining the County Detective Bureau which began using the system in January.

The first group of police departments that have committed to using the new system are scheduled to start in May and all 33 of the departments that have committed should be using it by the end of the year.

Among ALEIS' many uses, the Sheriff's Department will be able to capture the daily activities of departments on the system. As more and more departments start using it, the Sheriff's will have an easier time tracking and locating fugitives and others with warrants for their arrest. In turn, the departments using the system will have more timely and accurate information on active warrants.

Users of 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 police departments that have already committed to using the system 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.



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Chemistry Training for HAZMAT Team

The Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Response Team (HAZMAT) participated in a four-part chemistry review last month that culminated in training to conduct field screenings to categorize unknown materials through “wet chemistry.”



Instructor Michael Mennella, Supervising Fire Marshal/Hazmat Specialist at the Nassau County Fire Marshal's office, applies heat to a sample of material to test its composition.

Team members learned to categorize the type of hazard posed by unknown materials based on a sample's interaction with reagents and other tests.

Being able to identify the hazards associated with an unknown material is critical to selecting the proper protective gear and in selecting the correct protective equipment and actions needed to mitigate the threat.

Anyone interested in joining the HazMat Team should contact John Waters at jwaters@montcopa.org

MCCC Award for Partnering with Public Safety and Arcadia U.

The Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) received an award this month for a program that partners with the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Training Institute and Arcadia University to make it easier for EMTs to obtain an associate degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health.

MCCC received the Riegelman Award for Excellence in Public Health and Health Navigation Education in Community Colleges from the League for Innovation in the Community College at its Innovations Conference in National Harbor, Maryland on March 18th.

Students who have taken the community paramedicine curriculum at the EMS Training Institute can transfer 15 credits from that training to MCCC and complete their associate degree in just three semesters. Following graduation, they can continue their education at Arcadia University, which has created a specific pathway for students to earn their bachelor's degree, including funding for scholarships.

The Department of Public Safety is proud of the work our EMS Training Institute has done to create this partnership with MCCC and Arcadia University to make it easier for our first responders to further their educations in public health.



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Opioid Symposium: Efficient Leadership In The Opiate Emergency

The Montgomery County Community College will host the “Efficient Leadership In The Opiate Emergency: The Montgomery County Integrated Community Health Approach” symposium on April 6th from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Held in conjunction with the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety and Arcadia University, this symposium is a follow-up to the “Opioids In Your Backyard” symposium held at Arcadia University last year.

Attendees will develop leadership strategies and gain insight into an integrated health systems approach within the Montgomery County Opiate Emergency context. Hear from public health, mental health, and emergency medical service experts regarding change management, uncommon stakeholder partnerships, consortium building and more.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Valerie Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair of the Montgomery County Commissioners.

Other key presenters for the day include:

- Dr. Everitt Binns: Change Management – Thriving in an Age of Change: Practical Strategies for EMS and Public Health Leaders
- Dr. Rev. Deborah Rahn Clemens: Advocacy – Speaking from the Heart: My story about what I learned and what I’ve done about the Opioid Crisis in our Midst
- Julie Williams, Shannon Cogdell, Karen Fithian: Warm Handoff Project at Abington Jefferson Lansdale Hospital
- Jason Snyder: Building Financially Sustainable Solutions – “Opioid Crisis to Emergency”
- Debra Ryan, Nina Drinnan: Uncommon Stakeholder Partnerships – Creative System Outreach
- Dr. Sarah Bauerle Bass: Safe Injection Sites

This event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Please see the attached March 2018 Notices for additional information.

Lower Moreland School Tabletop



A cross-section of about 25 professionals from the emergency services that serve Lower Moreland and the Lower Moreland School District came together Monday morning for a table-top exercise to practice how they would respond to a school shooting incident.

Officers from the Lower Moreland Township Police, and representatives from the township emergency management agency, Bryn Athyn Fire & EMS and the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety School Safety Unit joined educators to practice parent/child reunification and public messaging while providing safety and security.



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Radio System Update

Construction has been completed on one of the three remaining radio towers that need to be in place before Montgomery County's new emergency dispatch radio system is turned on and work is progressing on the other two.

The Hughes Road tower in Upper Merion is finished and all equipment has been installed.

Equipment shelters have been set in place at the Roxborough tower and Montgomery County's equipment is being installed now.

The Turnpike Authority has begun construction of its new tower in Willow Grove and the county will begin installing its equipment as soon as that is complete.

The system will undergo testing and adjustments in the spring and field users should be on the new radio system in the summer.

When it is complete, Montgomery County will have a radio system with 30 towers, up from 20 towers, and greatly improved coverage and signal strength. Reliability will also be greatly improved with the addition of a microwave network for communications between the towers, replacing the T1 lines that are frequently out of service.

The \$36.4 million project to replace the radio system began in 2012 because most of the existing system's infrastructure and equipment had reached the end of its useful life, with parts and service no longer available from the manufacturer.

Career Opportunities

The Upper Merion Police Department will conduct written examinations for the position of probationary police officer on Saturday, April 21st. The deadline for submitting an application is Saturday, April 7th at 4 p.m.

The Cheltenham Police Department is seeking applicants for the per diem position of Police Community Service Specialist. The deadline to submit an application is Monday, April 23rd.

A consortium of 16 local police departments will give a unified entry-level written test for the position of police officer on Saturday, May 12th. The deadline for submitting an application is Wednesday, May 2nd at 5 p.m.

More detailed information can be found in the attached March 2018 Notices.

Emergency Management Certification



Congratulations to Towamencin Township Emergency Management Coordinator Dan Littley for receiving FEMA Advanced Professional certification.



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