



Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

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Radio System Delay

Construction is complete, aside from a few minor items, and testing has begun on Montgomery County's new emergency dispatch radio system.

Unfortunately, the initial testing has identified problems with the microwave network that will enable all of the towers in the system to communicate with one another. The microwave network was purchased to replace the T1 lines used in the current system that have proven to be unreliable, particularly in bad weather.

Motorola and the Department of Public Safety agree that the microwave network supplied by a third-party vendor hired by Motorola does not meet our specifications or industry performance standards.

Until Motorola fixes the problem, the Department of Public Safety will not accept the new system.

Motorola is now re-engineering the entire microwave network plan. Engineers are visiting each tower site and developing a correction plan. Company representatives said they don't want to rush the process and could not give a timeline for when the problem will be fixed and the new system will be able to go live.

Motorola has been asked to send representatives to the various police, fire and EMS association and/or radio committee meetings in the coming weeks to address questions about the proposed remedies in the coming weeks.

Motorola Offering Radio Discount

Motorola is offering Montgomery County emergency response agencies a discount promotion for new radios that are purchased before the end of calendar year 2018.

The company is offering the same 32 percent discount from current list price as per the Montgomery County contract, plus trade-in credits for old XTS radios.

Motorola will give a \$700 trade-in credit for any old XTS radio toward the purchase of a new APX6000 or APX6500 or a \$400 credit toward the purchase of a new APX4000 or APX4500 for orders placed by Oct. 21, 2018.

After that date, the trade-in credit drops to \$350 for new APX6000 or APX6500 or a \$250 credit toward the purchase of a new APX4000 or APX4500 for orders placed by Dec. 21, 2018.

Motorola needs to receive the purchase orders by the dates listed above to honor the trade-in credits. You will not be invoiced by Motorola Solutions until your radios are programmed. The company is also offering financing options for 3, 4 & 5 years.

For additional information or to place an order, contact Rob Morella at Motorola Solutions: (267) 318-2132 or Robert.Morella@motorolasolutions.com

Countywide Fire Study Available

A strategic planning study to help prepare for the delivery of fire services in Montgomery County over the next 20 years is complete and available for review and its findings will be presented at a series of meetings over the next couple of months.

The study included direct input from both volunteer and career fire companies and was conducted on the premise that volunteers will be a viable force in the fire services for the foreseeable future.

It examines numerous issues the fire service is facing and makes recommendations for addressing those challenges now and in the future. Among the issues addressed are the challenges of recruiting and retaining volunteers, dispatch and response times, coverage, radio communications and dispatch services, apparatus and equipment needs, facilities and finances.

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety commissioned the study, which was paid for using Homeland Security grant funding. It was conducted VFIS, a firm with local ties that has performed similar studies across the country and was selected using a Request For Proposals (RFP) process.

VFIS will present the findings of study at the Montgomery County Fire Chiefs' Association meeting on Sept. 18th, at the Montgomery County Association of Township Officials meeting on Sept. 28th and at a joint workshop for fire chiefs, municipal managers and elected officials at the Montgomery County Fire Academy on Oct. 24th at 2 p.m. and at 7 p.m.

The study can be found by following this link: <https://bit.ly/2C4gmEe>

Records Management System/ALEIS Update

Montgomery County Department of Public safety is pleased to announce that there are 22 Police Departments currently operating on the Advanced Law Enforcement Information System (ALEIS) adopted by Montgomery County.

In September and October, 10 additional departments are scheduled to transition, for a total of 32 operating on ALEIS before the holidays.

Among the project's many advances, ALEIS recently received approval from the Pennsylvania State Police to interface with the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN), a capability that no other system currently offers.

With the ability to interface between several platforms and programs, ALEIS provides a centralized system from which police officers may operate, saving valuable time that can be used to better serve their communities. It also allows agencies to share valuable information and conduct local and countywide intelligence-driven operations, leading to reductions in crime.

Additionally, ALEIS enables the Department of Public Safety to more readily compile intelligence and data, which will hopefully lead to stronger partnerships with other organizations, including the Health Department, Suicide Prevention Task Force, Overdose Prevention Task Force and others.

Any police agencies interested in learning about ALEIS are welcome to attend a demonstration on Sept. 6th at 10 a.m. at the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center. If interested, please contact David Daugherty, Assistant Director - Homeland Security & Intelligence, at 610-631-6500 or ddaugherty@montcopa.org.



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Mutual Aid Deployment To Bradford County



Pictured l-r: Todd Stieritz, Montgomery County; Amanda Boyer and Sarah Neely, Bradford County; Emma Giardina and Priya Kumar, Philadelphia; Nancy Mechling, Bradford County; and Brandon Pursell, Montgomery County.

Earlier this month, two staff members of the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, along with two Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management staff, deployed to Bradford County to answer a statewide mutual aid request.

Bradford was one of several counties in northeastern Pennsylvania severely impacted by flooding earlier this month.

The two teams helped Bradford County staff its Emergency Operations Center and assisted its personnel coordinate debris management operations, damage assessments and logistics.

Structural Burn Session

A 16-hour course that will combine classroom review of fire behavior, company operations and fire attack methods with extensive hands-on live-fire training is being offered at the Montgomery County Fire Academy on Sept. 16th and Sept. 30th, 2018.

The 3-hour classroom portion will incorporate the latest UL studies and the hands-on activities will cover hose advancement, ladder review, live smoke search, as well as residential, commercial and high-rise fire attack.

Emphasis is placed on safety for both interior and exterior operations. All students must be at least 18 years old and have completed the Interior Fire Fighter course.

For more information on this and other upcoming training sessions and courses, see the attached August 2018 Notices. A registration form can be found on the fire academy web site: <http://montcopa.org/136/Fire-Academy>

Overdose Epidemic Report Available

The detailed analysis of the opioid epidemic in Montgomery County in 2017 is complete and available for review.

The Department of Public Safety produced the report at the direction of the Montgomery County Commissioners and in partnership with the District Attorney's Office, County Detectives and Coroner's Office.

The study provides a detailed analysis of the when and where drug-related incidents are occurring and who the victims are. Its purpose is to provide data for public safety, public health, substance abuse and mental health professionals to develop initiatives to combat the epidemic and reduce preventable deaths from drug-related overdoses.

The 75-page report can be found online by following this link: <http://emstrainingcenter.org/phocadownload/EMS/Naloxone/Report/index.html>



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PECO Fall Training Schedule

PECO is offering weekend, daytime and evening training sessions open to all fire companies in its service area at the PECO Energy Fire Academy, 300 Front St., West Conshohocken, PA.

The emergency services training program, "Handling Natural Gas and Electrical Emergencies", consists of classroom and practical training sessions for emergency response to natural gas, carbon monoxide, and electrical systems incidents.

PECO is also offering another class: "Not a Routine Odor Response."

Students should come prepared with notepad, pencils, and full turn out gear. S.C.B.A. is not required. Students should bring a lunch as the staff requests that students not leave the training facility during the thirty-minute lunch break.

A maximum of 3 members from each fire company can register to attend each of the programs. Unregistered personnel will not be accepted. Additional information is available in the attached August 2018 Notices.

Las Vegas Mass Shooting After-Action Report

FEMA has released the After-Action Report for the October 1st, 2017 mass shooting that left 58 concertgoers dead and over 800 wounded.

The report, created with the participation of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Clark County Fire Department, includes best practices and 72 lessons learned that jurisdictions from across the country can use to better prepare for mass casualty incidents.

It can found online by following this link: <https://www.hsd.org/?view&did=814668>

Career Opportunity

Horsham Township is seeking a qualified professional for the position of Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Coordinator.

This is a full-time position that will be responsible for reviewing new construction plans and the periodic inspection of existing structures for compliance with township ordinances and the ICC building codes.

The Fire Marshal will also investigate the cause and origin of all fires within the township. Inspects fire alarm systems and assists with fire drills for our local businesses, schools and medical facilities.

This person will work with township staff, police, fire, EMS and residents to develop and implement our Emergency Management Plan.

For additional information, see the attached August 2018 Notices or visit the township website:

<https://www.horsham.org/employmentView.aspx?eid=1001&catid=609&id=10486>

The deadline for filing an application is Friday, Sept. 14, 2018.



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Emergency Management Certifications



Congratulations to Department of Public Safety staff members who successfully completed PEMA and FEMA Emergency Management certifications. Pictured left to right: Tom Sullivan, Director of Public Safety, Brian McKown (PEMA County Professional Certification and FEMA Advanced Professional Series Certification), Roy Land (PEMA County Advanced Certification and FEMA Advanced Professional Series) and Brian Pasquale (PEMA County Professional Certification).



Congratulations to Ed O'Hanlon, Montgomery County Fire Training Coordinator, for receiving PEMA County Professional Certification.



Dan Miller, Royersford Emergency Management Coordinator for Royersford, was presented his PEMA Basic Local Certification recently by Heather Stem, Training and Exercise Coordinator for the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety.



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Royersford Fire Department Grants

The Royersford Fire Department received two grants recently for over \$169,000.

The department received an Assistance to Firefighter grant of \$166,100 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to replace the department's aging self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) which are thirteen years old.

The department also received a \$3,000 grant from the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation to purchase two new Automated External Defibrillators which will be used by the department's EMS Bicycle Team and be carried in the EMS Supervisor vehicle.

PCHF1.jpg - The Royersford Fire Department received a grant for \$3000 toward the purchase of Automated External Defibrillators from the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation.

Limerick & Linfield Fire Departments Grant

The Limerick and Linfield fire departments received an Assistance to Firefighter grant of \$242,096 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to replace 41 self-contained breath apparatus (SCBA) that are 10 years old.



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