



Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

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Emergency Medical Overdose Surveillance System

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety has received a \$1 million grant to develop an Emergency Medical Overdose Surveillance System (EMODSS) to create improved strategies for combatting the opioid overdose epidemic and other drug related problems that have plagued the county, the region, and the nation for the past several years. There were 736 confirmed cases of drug overdoses in Montgomery County in 2017, 245 of which were fatal.

The three-year grant was awarded by the federal Office of Justice Programs to form a multi-disciplinary group with representatives from numerous law enforcement, health, and social services agencies to develop a plan for collecting data in one cloud-based system that all agencies can access and use in combating the drug overdose epidemic.

EMODSS will compile data about drug use patterns of both non-fatal and fatal overdose victims in real-time and enable the immediate analysis of all the available data without having to wait months or longer for reports to become available. The ability to more quickly identify communities and individuals at greatest risk for drug misuse, abuse, and overdose will help the County's Opiate Response Task Force to brainstorm, plan, and implement data-driven responses to further reduce drug overdose deaths.

Fire Services Study Presentation

On Wednesday, October 24th, VFIS representatives presented the preliminary findings of the Montgomery County Fire Services Study to a large group of municipal emergency responders, municipal managers, and elected officials at the Public Safety Training Campus. The purpose of the study is to help prepare for the fire service delivery system in the county over the next 20 years. Areas of focus include staffing, training, communications, and funding, among many others.



The final report of the Fire Services Study can be viewed here:
<https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/21938/Montgomery-County-Detailed-Fire-Services-Report---Final>

SNS-MCM Exercises

The Department of Public Safety has partnered with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health Preparedness Program to exercise the County SNS-MCM (Strategic National Stockpile – Medical Countermeasures) plan. The SNS-MCM program allows for the mass distribution of medications or other goods from strategically located PODs (Points of Distribution) in the event of a pandemic or other emergency.



Full-scale exercises were conducted this month in Upper Moreland and Upper Providence Townships. In preparation for these events, both municipalities participated in a training program and tabletop exercise. During the full-scale exercise, Upper Moreland and Upper Providence Townships opened their PODs to hand out free preparedness information to the public.

The Department of Public Safety and Office of Public Health would like to extend a special thank you to Upper Moreland and Upper Providence Townships for their participation and to the volunteers that helped make these exercises possible.

Motorola Radio Discount Still Available

Motorola Solutions Inc. (MSI) 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.

While the first tier of trade in credit expired on October 21st, Motorola will still give a \$350 trade-in credit for any old XTS radio toward the purchase of a new APX6000 or APX6500 or a \$250 credit toward the purchase of a new APX4000 or APX4500 for orders placed by December 21, 2018.

Motorola needs to receive the purchase orders by the date 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, or 5 years.

It should be noted that, unlike the bulk purchase, radios purchased will not be shipped to the county for programming. The transaction is between MSI and the agency that orders the radios. When the radios are delivered to the agency that ordered them, MSI will provide the county with the information needed to register the radios in the county database and radio management system. Once that is done, MSI representatives will be able to program the agency's radios.

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



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Department of Public Safety Personnel Changes

Jason Emmel, Public Safety Information Coordinator since 2014, recently accepted the position of GIS Coordinator with the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC). Jason will manage GIS (Geographic Information Systems) staff and data, and will be responsible for training other MCPC personnel on GIS software. Jason will also develop maps for the different plans put together by MCPC.

Michael Rubin, Radiological Planner since 2016, recently accepted the position of Community Policing Division Coordinator with the Abington Township Police Department. Mike will coordinate programs and fundraisers and manage grants to expand and develop community policing. He will also serve as the liaison between the police department and various community organizations, such as the Police Athletic League and Citizens and Police Together.

Heather Morgan, Training and Exercise Coordinator since 2016, recently accepted the position of Training, Exercise Planning Specialist with Weston Solutions in West Chester, PA. Heather will be responsible for developing, updating, and facilitating technical training courses of the EPA, DHS, and other federal, state, and local agencies. This will include developing, managing, and supporting discussion-based and operation-based training exercises.

Thank you to Jason, Michael, and Heather for your years of service to the Department of Public Safety. Please join us in congratulating them and wishing them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

New Regional Medical Director

On August 1, 2018, Dr. Alvin Wang was selected as the Montgomery County Regional Medical Director. Dr. Wang is double-board certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine in Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medical Services and is a Diplomate of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine. He currently holds an academic appointment as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Jefferson University and is the EMS director for Jefferson Health System Northeast in Philadelphia.



Alvin has been continuously active in EMS since he started volunteering as an EMT in Northern NJ at the age of 16. After graduating with a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and completing his paramedic training at the Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA, he attended medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Wang has worked in rural, urban, and suburban settings as an EMT, Nationally Registered Paramedic, and a critical care flight paramedic. Prior to being appointed as the Regional Medical Director, Alvin served as the Deputy Regional Medical Director for Montgomery County Department of Public Safety since January 2014. In addition, he serves as a medical director for Narberth Ambulance, Bensalem Rescue Squad, and as a federal medical officer for the PA-4 Disaster Management Assistance Team. He also serves as an embedded medical director and SWAT medic for the Bucks County South SWAT team and Haverford Township Special Response Team.



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In the short time since his appointment as Medical Director, Dr. Wang has already been involved in several major responses in Montgomery County, including the fire and subsequent large-scale evacuation of patients at ManorCare Health Services in Lower Moreland Township, the shooting at the Walmart in Cheltenham Township, and the bus crash and Mass Casualty Incident in Upper Merion Township.

Countywide Records Management System Update

In 2007, the Department of Public Safety, in coordination with the Montgomery County Detective Bureau and Sheriff's Office, began to plan for the implementation of the first county-hosted Records Management System (RMS) for law enforcement agencies. Such a major project, recognized from the beginning by stakeholders as complex and expensive, was a significant challenge in terms of both logistics and policy. An extensive planning process that spanned several years included a series of multi-agency planning sessions, requests for information, and requests for proposals.

A determination was made that ten participating agencies were needed to make this project viable. As of the date of publishing of this newsletter, 33 agencies have taken advantage of the early adoption incentives and are now utilizing the Advanced Law Enforcement Intelligence System. It is anticipated that additional agencies will come on board in 2019.

The Department of Public Safety is committed to making continual enhancements and improvements to the RMS over time. Additionally, the real-time intelligence work product, utilizing RMS and CAD data, among other sources, will become available before the end of this year.

Thank you to all of the individuals and associations who have helped deliver and implement this enhancement to the criminal justice system in Montgomery County, including the Montgomery County District Attorney and Detective Bureau, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Police Chiefs' Association of Montgomery County, MCDPS staff, and Mission Critical Partners. In addition, the Department of Public Safety would like to express gratitude to the County Commissioners for funding the RMS and providing the system to our municipal partners.

Any interested agencies that are not currently involved in the Records Management System are encouraged to contact Dave Daugherty, Assistant Director for Homeland Security & Intelligence for more information. Dave can be reached at dougherty@montcopa.org or (610) 631-6515.



Emergency Management Certifications

Congratulations to Firefighter David Hicks for receiving the PEMA Local Basic Emergency Management Certification, and to Firefighter Ronald Lee for receiving the PEMA Local Professional Emergency Management Certification. David and Ronald, both Norristown firefighters and EOC Staff Members, are pictured here with Thomas O'Donnell, Norristown Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Chief.



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Training Announcements

The Department of Public Safety would like to make you aware of several upcoming training opportunities:

The Chester County Department of Emergency Services is hosting ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents and ICS-400: Advanced ICS in the coming weeks. ICS-300, a three-day course, will be offered from Wednesday, November 14th through Friday, November 16th. ICS-400, a two-day course, will be held on Thursday, December 20th and Friday, December 21st. Both courses will be held at the Chester County Public Safety Training Campus in Coatesville, PA.

The Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency will offer a Winter SKYWARN Spotter Course on November 13th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The objective of this course is to train storm spotters about winter storms and what to report to the National Weather Service (NWS) and local Emergency Management Agency relating to snow, ice, rain and flooding. This course will be held at the Luzerne County EMA in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, EMS Training Institute is offering Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from February 4, 2019 until May 1, 2019. The Institute is also offering Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and occasional Saturdays and Sundays between January 3, 2019 and August 8, 2019. Both courses will be held at the Public Safety Training Campus.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services are jointly sponsoring Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training on November 7-8, 2018 at the Public Safety Training Campus. There is no cost to participate in this program, but pre-registration is required.

Please see the October 2018 Notices for detailed course descriptions and registration information. For information on other upcoming training opportunities, visit <https://veoci.com/veoci/p/dashboard/7turvnnqu>.

Please note that as discussed above, the position of Training and Exercise Coordinator has recently become vacant. In the interim, please direct all training and exercise questions to Jason Wilson, Deputy Director for Emergency Management. Jason can be reached at jwilson@montcopa.org or (610) 631-6519.

The Emergency Management Coordinator November Monthly Meeting has been cancelled. Further information on future meetings will be distributed when it is available.

Active Shooter Dispatch Policy

The Department of Public Safety Emergency Communications Division, in collaboration with the Police Technology and Communications Committee, recently revamped the Active Shooter Dispatch Police Policy. Full scale training with field units will be held in early 2019, following training of telecommunicators in November and December 2018. The multi-disciplinary Active Shooter/Active Assailant Plan continues to be developed, along with an accompanying training program for field delivery.



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Career Opportunities

The Department of Public Safety is now accepting applications for two positions within the Division of Emergency Management.

The **Part Time Radiological Planner** is responsible for radiological emergency response planning and training. The Radiological Planner produces and reviews emergency plans for response to incidents at the Limerick Generating Station, and coordinates county, municipal, and school participation in associated drills.

This position requires attendance at evening and weekend meetings and is subject to 24 hour, 7-day call for weather, hazardous materials, and man-made emergencies in addition to Limerick Generating Station response.

The **Training and Exercise Coordinator** works to develop, coordinate, and execute community-wide disaster drills, exercises, and training programs to enhance the County's preparedness.

This position requires availability 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. This is an Essential Employee position. Essential Employees are obligated to report to work as scheduled or remain at work during emergencies.

For complete job descriptions and to download an application, please visit us on the web: <https://www.montcopa.org/jobs.aspx>



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