In Memory – Ute Spearman

It is with great sadness that Director Sullivan announces the untimely loss of Ute Spearman, who passed away on Monday, December 3, 2018. Ute, who served for nearly 28 years as an Emergency Telecommunicator with the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, fought a long and courageous battle with ALS before succumbing to the disease earlier this month. Director Sullivan and the members of the Department extend their deepest sympathy to her family, her coworkers, and her many friends.

Ute was a dispatcher, trainer, supervisor, and mentor. She had a passion for her work; her favorites were the “west” zone and PD5. Ute, who was highly respected by both field responders and her fellow dispatchers, will be remembered by her colleagues as a team player who always tried to keep the mood light, even during the most stressful situations.

Ute also loved teaching others. In the years before her retirement in 2017, she could often be found passing along her extensive knowledge to the new telecommunicators in the training academy. Ute will be greatly missed.

Priority 1 Closest EMS Unit Dispatch Policy

In order to reduce morbidity and mortality among residents of Montgomery County, the Department of Public Safety officially enacted a policy on December 11th to dispatch the closest available ambulance for “priority one” EMS calls.

When a priority one call is received, the closest available ambulance with a staffed crew will be determined by the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System using data derived from the Mobile Data Computers (MDC) and GPS coordinates transmitted from ambulances that are so equipped. If an ambulance does not have an MDC or real-time GPS coordinates available, the GPS coordinates of the closest licensed ambulance station (or staffed substation) will be used.

Montgomery County Emergency Communications will dispatch the closest available ambulance to the priority one call. Simultaneously, the primary EMS agency for the call location will receive a courtesy dispatch to advise them of the call.

Additional information can be found in the letter from Director Sullivan and Policy Statement, both of which are in the December 2018 Notices. Questions can be directed to David Brown, Deputy Director for EMS at (610) 631-6518.
Governor Wolf Announces Aid Available for Residents and Businesses after August Flooding

Homeowners, renters, and business owners in Montgomery County are now eligible to apply for U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan assistance to support recovery from late summer flooding.

After rounds of severe storms affected Montgomery County between August 10th and August 15th, Montgomery County Department of Public Safety staff worked with municipalities to document the damage in preparation for a potential Individual Assistance (IA) declaration from the federal government. Governor Tom Wolf announced earlier this month that even though it was determined that the damage wasn’t sufficient to warrant IA funding, Montgomery County homeowners, renters, and businesses may be eligible for low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration.

Low-interest loans of up to $200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, or up to $40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Businesses and nonprofits can borrow up to $2 million to restore damaged or destroyed buildings, inventory, equipment and assets. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial qualifications.

Individuals and businesses may obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), or by e-mailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA’s secure website at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is February 11, 2019. The deadline to return economic injury disaster loan applications is September 11, 2019.

Source: https://www.governor.pa.gov/governor-wolf-announces-aid-available-26-counties-following-record-shattering-summer-rains/?fbclid=IwAR113oWfnWHT0BteNNTY1oDBH0NIqmJWT2DfqNM8Uas6f2gLBDOqFmFNgfg

EMS Institute Training Announcements

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, EMS Training Institute is offering several courses starting in the spring:

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR): Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from February 4, 2019 until May 1, 2019
- Paramedic Prep Course: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays between March 3, 2019 and April 24, 2019
- Instructor Methodology Course: Thursday March 7th, Saturday March 9th, Sunday March 10th, Tuesday March 12th, and Thursday March 14th
- Paramedic Course: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays between May 20, 2019 and December 14, 2020

All courses will be held at the Public Safety Training Campus. Please see the December 2018 Notices for detailed course descriptions and registration information.
Safety and Security Symposium for Faith Leaders

In response to recent tragic events in houses of worship across the nation, the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety hosted over 120 faith leaders and 40 law enforcement officials for a Safety and Security Symposium at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus on Tuesday, November 27th.

Presentations were geared toward informing religious leaders of ways to spot a potential active assailant, and the technology and resources available that they can use to help keep their congregations safe.

“Faith is what draws us all together as human beings, even in times of divisiveness in our country, and we should all be able to worship and congregate without worrying about these horrific scenarios,” Dr. Val Arkoosh, Chair, Montgomery County Commissioners, said during her welcoming remarks.

“We hope that today’s symposium will help provide you with the tools and information to better prepare your houses of worship and congregations for any type of disruptive event, no matter how hopefully unlikely it might be,” she said.

The Department of Public Safety would like to thank the FBI, PEMA, the Montgomery County Office of Mental Health, and Mobile Crisis/Access Services for providing presentations.

Following the presentations, the day concluded with a networking session between religious leaders and their local law enforcement agencies.

North Penn School Nurses Meet at EOC

40 school nurses from the North Penn School District, as well as several nurses from private schools that are located within the District, recently met for an in-service day at the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center. This group of nurses covers 13 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 1 high school, 1 credit recovery school, and 5 non-public schools. The day began with an overview of the Department of Public Safety, distribution of Naloxone, and an introduction to the Pulse Point App for smart phones and the SMART 9-1-1 system. Much of the program was then focused on training, topics which included active threats, bleeding control, and tourniquets. The session concluded with a discussion of the Strategic National Stockpile plan and a tour of the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center and 9-1-1 Center.
Spring 2019 Fire Academy Training Schedule

The Spring 2019 Fire Academy Training Schedule is now available at: https://www.montcopa.org/1006/Fire-Academy-Training-Schedule. A PDF copy of the schedule is also included in the December 2018 Notices.

There are several new courses being offered this semester, including Scenario Based Decision Making for the Company Officer (February 3rd), Vent – Enter – Isolate – Search (March 30th), Truck Company Operations II (April 9th, 11th, and 13th), Water Rescue Operations Refresher (April 27th), and Water Rescue Technician Refresher (April 28th).

The Montgomery County Fire Academy will issue a certificate of completion for Strategy and Tactics Part I to those students who successfully complete the following four courses this spring: Basement and Garage Fires (January 17th), Open the Roof (January 31st), The Residential Structure Fire (February 28th), and Wood Frame Construction Awareness (March 28th). All four courses take place on Thursday evenings starting at 6:45 PM.

In order to register for courses, please use this updated Student Registration Form: https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/22596/Fire-Academy-Registration-Form. The registration form is also included in the December 2018 Notices.

EMS Operating Fund Equipment Distribution

The Department of Public Safety recently utilized money from the Pennsylvania EMS Operating Fund to purchase safety equipment for licensed ambulance agencies across Montgomery County. 19 agencies received 83 pieces of equipment, totaling over $28,000. The most recent distribution involved three different types of equipment:

- PediMate Plus ($275 each): A safety device that allows young children to be properly secured in an ambulance for transport.
- Binder Lift - Standard ($454 each): A patient carrying device that allows for a safe lift for both patients and EMS providers.
- Binder Lift - Bariatric ($540 each): A heavy-duty patient carrying device that enables rescuers to safely lift and move bariatric patients. These specialized moving devices were deployed to the EMS agencies that also operate bariatric-capable ambulances (units with specialty litters and ramp systems to safely move patients): 308, 318, 329, and 345.
New Naloxone Agency On Board

Laurel House staff were recently trained on the proper procedures to identify an overdose patient and are now equipped with the lifesaving Naloxone nasal spray.

Laurel House is a comprehensive domestic violence agency that provides supportive and preventative services throughout Montgomery County, including transitional housing, a 24-hour hotline and Domestic Abuse Response Team, education, and counseling.

Naloxone nasal spray is provided under a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). As the designated Central Coordinating Entity (CCE) for Naloxone in Montgomery County, the Department of Public Safety provides training for public safety and civilian emergency responders and equips them with the lifesaving antidote.

Jenny Boyer, Senior Director of Housing & Operations assisted in coordinating the efforts between Laurel House and the Department of Public Safety - EMS Division.

Division of Emergency Management Responses

2018 turned out to be a very busy year for MCDPS Emergency Management on-call responders. Ten MCDPS staff from the Emergency Medical Services, Administration, and Emergency Management Divisions serve in a weekly on-call rotation, providing Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staffing and field response for incidents that affect Montgomery County. So far in 2018, on-call staff have responded to 29 incidents, a number which does not include non-emergency preplanning or asset prepositioning.

On-call staff have spent a total of 206.2 hours in service this year, which is an increase from 137.8 hours in 2015 (82.3 excluding the Papal Visit), 198.7 hours in 2016 (74.6 excluding the DNC), and 96.0 hours in 2017. This increase can be partially explained by recent equipment purchases. A new capability of the on-call team is the ability to deploy UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems – a.k.a. “Drones”) to support incidents. This year, the UAS were deployed 10 times: 7 times for missing person searches, twice to support law enforcement incidents, and once to assist in the investigation of the Lower Merion house explosion. UAS are available for deployment for emergencies or non-emergency preplanning. Contact Jason Wilson, Deputy Director for Emergency Management (jwilson@montcopa.org) for more information.
The longest activation occurred in early March, when the EOC was staffed for 71 hours over 5 days in response to a winter storm that impacted the county in the afternoon and evening hours on Friday, March 2\textsuperscript{nd}. Two subsequent activations for winter storms followed on Wednesday, March 7\textsuperscript{th} (21 hours) and Wednesday, March 21\textsuperscript{st} (13 hours 30 minutes). Weather events also triggered activations on January 4\textsuperscript{th}, April 2\textsuperscript{nd}, May 15\textsuperscript{th}, and August 13\textsuperscript{th}.

Much like weather-related events, building fires typically make up a significant portion of annual activations. Emergency Management responses to fires occurred in Norristown (2), Upper Moreland, Upper Merion, Skippack, and Horsham. Other significant responses included the Super Bowl and Victory Parade in early February, the Active Shooter in Cheltenham Township and Long Term Care Facility Evacuation in Lower Moreland Township in mid-August, and the Vehicle Accident and Mass Casualty Incident in Upper Merion Township in September.

16\textsuperscript{th} Annual Command Officer Seminar

The 16\textsuperscript{th} annual Command Officer Seminar will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus. Fire company chiefs, command officers, training officers, and individuals being groomed for command positions are encouraged to attend.

The morning session will feature Dennis L. Rubin, Chief of the Upper Merion Fire Department and Dr. James Augustine, Medical Director for Fire/EMS agencies in Atlanta, GA, Naples, FL, and Dayton, OH, who will present on the Atlanta, GA Fire/Rescue response to the tragic active shooter event that took place on March 11, 2005. This session will also include a report by Thomas Nolan, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police for Upper Merion Township on the Montgomery County Active Threat Response Plan.

This year, each Montgomery County fire company attending the seminar will receive a book and DVD titled *The Evolving Fireground - Research Based Tactics* by Sean Gray and P.J. Norwood. The book and DVD will provide fire chiefs and training officers with ideas for station drills and important information on fireground operations that incorporate the newest research in fire dynamics.

Breakout sessions will include:

- The Role of the Public Information Officer
- Fire Company Consolidation
- Tourniquet Use
- CISM
- Supplementing a Standpipe/Sprinkler System

Preregistration is required. Contact Registrar Cindy Myers at cmyers@montcopa.org to register. There is no fee for this seminar.