Department of Public Safety 2018 Annual Report

The Department of Public Safety 2018 Annual Report is now complete and is available for viewing on the Department website: 2018 Annual Report. In order to reduce printing costs and paper usage and increase availability to partner agencies and the public, the 2018 Annual Report will be released only in a digital format. It was created using the ESRI Story Map Cascade tool, and is best viewed using Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox.

Inside the image-based report, you will learn about the many accomplishments of this Department in 2018, including implementation of the countywide Records Management System for law enforcement, execution of the EMS Priority 1 closest-unit dispatch policy, and completion of the Hazardous Materials Response Team Evaluation and Strategic Plan.

In addition, you will learn about interesting Department statistics, such as:

- National certifications issued by the Fire Academy: 461
- Total rounds fired at the Tactical Response Training Center: 940,416
- Time spent in service (EOC activations/field responses) by Emergency Management personnel: 207.95 hours
- Average 9-1-1 call answer time: 2.7 seconds

If you have any questions or feedback concerning the Annual Report, please contact Public Affairs Coordinator Todd Stieritz at tstierit@montcopa.org.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Award

On Tuesday, February 19th, Major General Wesley Craig presented the Department of Public Safety with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Seven Seals Award, which recognizes meritorious leadership and initiative in support of the men and women who serve America in the National Guard and Reserve.

Montgomery County Commissioners Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH (Chair), Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr. (Vice Chair), and Joseph C. Gale were at the Emergency Operations Center to accept the award and to thank Montgomery County employees who serve in our nation’s armed forces part-time.
February Snapshots

On Tuesday, February 12th, Telecommunicators Nancy Bangert and Amanda Rosentreter were interviewed for a story by NBC10. Nancy answered a 9-1-1 call on Feb. 7th about an erratic driver who was experiencing a medical emergency, and Amanda was able to dispatch police to the scene. Great work Nancy and Amanda!

On Tuesday, February 19th, the Montgomery County Urban Search and Rescue Team responded to Upper Merion Township to assist with a technical rescue. A male victim was pinned after a backhoe overturned at a construction site. Responders were able to safely extricate the male and transport him to the hospital.

On Saturday, February 23rd, Karen and Kam Lasater of Lower Merion Twp. visited the Emergency Operations Center to thank telecommunicators John Fondots and Craig Tinnen, who helped deliver Baby Elliot over the phone in January. Congratulations and best wishes to the Lasater Family!
Telecommunicator Recruitment

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety is still recruiting motivated and dedicated individuals for the next class of telecommunicators. Our telecommunicators answer 9-1-1 calls and dispatch emergency responders to police, fire, and medical incidents.

So why work for us? Just check out some of our “Comments from the Comm Center” below to find out more!

"Being able to actually make a difference every day. Also, I thrive under pressure and the idea of never knowing what is going to happen really interests me."

– Heather Freiling, Disp. #787

"There’s a lot that I like, I enjoy the hours, helping out the public. I enjoy the problem solving and the technology we use."

– Andrew Ventura
Disp. #708

"I was looking for a more rewarding career that presented different challenges...The unique schedule provided a lot of flexibility for my personal life...A great choice for me."

– Kevin Brogan, Disp. #762

Interested individuals can submit an application by clicking HERE. Once the application is received, you will be contacted to schedule initial testing. Applicants who are successful on the test will then be invited to an interview process, after which a short job shadowing experience is provided before top candidates are offered employment. The training academy will last approximately 8-9 weeks, and then telecommunicators will start on-the-job training in the Emergency Communications Center.

For more information, visit mcdps.org or contact Maryann Longo at (610) 631-6512.

Potential applicants should note that telecommunicators are considered essential personnel and will be required to report for work regardless of weather conditions.

2019 Telecommunicator Compensation and Benefits

- Starting salary of $35,605.41, with an increase after initial training
- Health, vision, dental, and prescription insurance
- Long term disability insurance and life insurance
- Pension plan
- Tuition & continuing education reimbursement
- Optional credit union membership
- Annual paid time off: 80 hours of vacation time (increasing to 120 after 5 years of service), 40 hours of personal time, 96 hours of sick leave, and 10 paid holidays
2019 EDITS Registration Now Open

The Eastern Montgomery County Emergency Management Group and Montgomery County Department of Public Safety are pleased to announce that registration is now open for the Emergency Disaster Incident Training Symposium (EDITS). The theme for this year’s conference is “Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future.” The 2019 EDITS Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 7th and Wednesday, May 8th. Presentations will include:

- Route 91 Tragedy
- Merrimack Valley Gas Crisis
- Trauma on the Job: A Training for First Responders & Direct Care Providers
- The Seven Deadly Sins of Emergency Management
- Behind the Scenes of the Disney OEM
- Cosmo DiNardo Case
- The Human Side of Aurora

EDITS will be held at the Normandy Farm Hotel & Conference Center in Blue Bell, PA. Registration for the full conference costs $150.00 per person. Register at www.emema.org.

An Evening for Volunteers, offered at no cost to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel within Montgomery County (out-of-county fee is $15/person), will be held on Monday, May 6th from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM, also at the Normandy Farm Hotel & Conference Center. Presentation topics will include the Merrimack Valley Gas Crisis, the Barclay Friends Nursing Home Fire, and the Bensalem Township Gas Station Explosion and Trench Rescue. Register for An Evening for Volunteers at www.emema.org.

See the February 2019 Notices for additional information. For questions or comments, call (215) 635-3739 or (215) 643-1600 ext. 3221.

North Penn School District Security Visit

On Friday, February 15th, members of the North Penn School District Security Teams visited the Emergency Operations Center for a half-day training session. Security staff received an overview of the Department of Public Safety, a presentation on active threat awareness and response, training on tourniquets and bleeding control, and tours of the Emergency Operations Center and 9-1-1 Center.

In addition, MCDPS staff presented on the capabilities of the Department’s Division of Emergency Management, public information and social media resources, and pre-deployed County assets.
Fire Academy Training Announcements

The Montgomery County Fire Academy is offering Truck Company Operations Level II for the first time this spring. The 16-hour course will be held on Tuesday April 9th (18:45-22:00), Thursday April 11th (18:45-22:00), and Saturday April 13th (08:15-16:30) at the Public Safety Training Campus. Topics covered during this advanced course will include Thermal Imaging Camera skills, Bilco door forcible entry, chain cutting, removal of window bars, overhead door removal, aerial ladder climbing, and large area search/rescue.

The Montgomery County Fire Academy is offering a Firefighter I Certification Preparation Class and Certification Testing this spring. The course will be held on Sunday March 31st (8:15-16:45), Sunday April 14th (8:15-16:45), Sunday April 28th (8:15-16:45), Saturday May 11th (8:15-16:45), Wednesday May 15th (19:00-21:00), and Saturday May 18th (08:00-16:00).

Please see the February 2019 Notices for additional information on both courses.

EMS Institute Training Announcements

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, EMS Training Institute is offering several courses starting this spring and summer:

- Instructor Methodology Course **Registration deadline is March 1st**: Thursday March 7th, Saturday March 9th, Sunday March 10th, Tuesday March 12th, and Thursday March 14th (Tues/Thurs 6 PM – 10 PM, Sat/Sun 8 AM – 5 PM)
- EMS Preceptor Training (Basic): Thursday, March 28th, 7 PM – 10 PM
- Skill Evaluator Training (BLS Testing): Wednesday, April 10th, 7 PM – 10 PM
- EMS Preceptor Training (Basic): Wednesday, May 15th, 7 PM – 10 PM
- Paramedic Course: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays between May 20, 2019 and December 14, 2020 (Mon/Wed 7 PM – 10 PM, Sat 8 AM – 4 PM)
- Medical Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Events: Tuesday June 4th and Wednesday June 5th, 8 AM – 5 PM
- Emergency Medical Technician: Monday – Thursday, 8 AM – 4 PM, from June 10th until August 8th
- Emergency Medical Technician – Arcadia University: Monday – Friday, plus 3 Saturdays (dates TBD) 8 AM – 4 PM, from July 22nd to August 23rd

All courses will be held at the Public Safety Training Campus, with the exception of Emergency Medical Technician – Arcadia University. Please see the February 2019 Notices for detailed course descriptions and registration information.
Municipal News

Congratulations to Richard Lockhart, who was recently promoted to Deputy Fire Chief of the Norristown Fire Department. Rich will serve as the first career Deputy Chief in the department’s history.

Chief Lockhart was sworn in on Tuesday, February 5th at the Norristown Municipal Hall in front of family, friends, department members, and many of his professional colleagues. Rich started his career as a firefighter in the Norristown Fire Department 32 years ago and rose through the ranks to Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief, and now Deputy Chief. He also served as the department’s communications technology officer for many years.

In his new role, Chief Lockhart will oversee the department’s Office of the Fire Marshal and the Public Safety Inspection, Prevention, and Education components.

Rich is pictured above with his wife Kathy and sons Brian and Michael (a career firefighter with Upper Merion Township). The oath of office was administered by Sonya D. Sanders, Norristown Council President.

Chief Wayne Kinsey (pictured left), who has served as Deputy Chief since 2004, has assumed the newly created position of Deputy 27-1. Chief Kinsey, an active member of the department and the Hancock Fire Company since 1964, has served in numerous administrative and line officer positions over the past 55 years.

Department of Public Safety Personnel Changes

Rickey Shuler recently accepted the position of Radiological Planner (part-time) with the Department of Public Safety. He was previously employed as a foreman for a landscape construction company. Rickey is currently working toward an Associate’s Degree in Emergency Management and Disaster Planning at the Montgomery County Community College. He is a current member of the Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Response Team, a Lieutenant with the Limerick Fire Department, and a volunteer for the Limerick Township Emergency Management Agency.

rshuler@montcopa.org
(610) 631-3020
Emergency Operations Center
Heather Stem (Morgan) recently returned to the Department of Public Safety as the Training and Preparedness Coordinator. Heather was previously employed by the Department from August 2016 until October 2018 as the Training and Exercise Coordinator, before accepting a position (Training, Exercise, Preparedness Specialist) with Weston Solutions, Inc. In her role, she is responsible for the design, development, and implementation of a variety of training and exercises. Furthermore, Heather coordinates emergency management training for EOC staff, County stakeholders, and for those looking to complete their PEMA certification. In addition, she will be responsible for maintaining the operational readiness of the Montgomery County EOC and Watch Desk. Heather holds a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology and a Master of Science in Emergency Management from Millersville University.

hstem@montcopa.org  
(610) 631-6517  
Emergency Operations Center

Donation of Training Funds

On May 5, 1986, the Montgomery County Municipal and Industrial Fire Marshal Association was founded by a group of volunteer and career fire marshals in the County. The group met to discuss common issues and to create mutual support for their individual jurisdictions at the North Penn Fire Company. One of the highlights of this organization was the creation of a training committee. This committee, as well as the Pennsylvania State Police, would annually present programs specifically focused for fire marshals.

Funds were collected over the years to support the program and compensate guest speakers. After the organization was disbanded in the mid-2000’s, the officers of the Association decided that the remaining funds should be turned over to the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety for the training of fire marshals throughout the County.

On February 26th, the officers of the Montgomery County Municipal and Industrial Fire Marshal Association presented Thomas M. Sullivan, Director of Public Safety, with a check for $11,515.10. These funds will support future training efforts at the Montgomery County Fire Academy.
Bureau of EMS Director Visits Montgomery County

This month, Mr. Dylan Ferguson, Director, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Pennsylvania Department of Health visited the Department of Public Safety. Director Ferguson met with the EMS Division and received an overview of the Department as well as a tour of the 9-1-1 Center and Emergency Operations Center. He met with various individuals including Director Sullivan, Dr. Wang, EMS staff including the Training Institute, and an EMS Advisory Council member.

Some of the topics discussed included:

- Integration of 9-1-1 and Emergency Medical Dispatch
- Emergency preparedness and EMS assets
- Ballistic protection equipment and bleeding control training
- Medical Advisory Committee and medical-clinical issues
- Training Institute issues including evaluation and certifications
- Simulation Lab and technology solutions at our accredited Training Institute
- EMS data and reporting
- Naloxone program, including EMS agency Leave Behind Naloxone program for overdose reversals-refusals

EMS Field Training

The Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services is always working to ensure that EMS providers in the County have access to high quality continuing education and training.

On Wednesday, January 30th, MCDPS EMS instructors provided Souderton Area School District nurses with training on bleeding control techniques using tourniquets and wound packing. Realistic amputation training simulators allow students to practice applying a tourniquet to a life-like limb while a computer determines whether or not pressure is sufficient to stop bleeding. This training, while targeted to save lives in an active shooter scenario, is also applicable for other types of injuries that a school nurse may encounter.

Earlier this month, members of the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services completed a Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) Train-the-Trainer course. This will allow these newly certified instructors to provide training in TCCC for first responders in Montgomery County. TCCC was created by the U.S. Department of Defense to teach evidence-based, life-saving techniques and strategies for providing the best trauma care on the battlefield. The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) conducts a Train-the-Trainer course for EMS personnel, which teaches how to apply tourniquets, pack wounds, correct any life threatening airway issues, and set up scenarios for students based off of real-life events.