Assistance Available After July Flooding

On September 5th, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that disaster assistance funding will be available for Montgomery County residents and businesses affected by flash flooding on July 11th and 12th.

The following types of loans are available:

- **Business Physical Disaster Loans:** Loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery, and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, non-profit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc. are also eligible.

- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL):** Working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.

- **Home Disaster Loans:** Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate and personal property, including automobiles.

While the Disaster Loan Outreach Center accepting in-person applications has closed permanently, residents and business owners may still apply in one of two ways:

- Online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at [https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/).

- Over the phone by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing)

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **November 4, 2019**, while the deadline to return economic injury applications is June 3, 2020.

For more information, see the September 2019 Notices or visit: [https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Declarations/DeclarationDetails?declNumber=6004247&direct=false&fbclid=IwAR13vQ-vtgBACParp5It2Hd_o-3r70hDhoD6-24EBSSNXstpFyhC2z-6MG8](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Declarations/DeclarationDetails?declNumber=6004247&direct=false&fbclid=IwAR13vQ-vtgBACParp5It2Hd_o-3r70hDhoD6-24EBSSNXstpFyhC2z-6MG8).
**2019 Pennsylvania State EMS Awards**

**EMS Communications Award**

In the early morning hours of Friday, June 21st, the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center received a 9-1-1 call from a female reporting that her one-month-old child was not breathing. Telecommunicator Sara Stauffer answered the call, quickly ascertained the caller’s location, and had medical and police services dispatched immediately.

Sara then provided clear, step-by-step instructions to the mother and grandmother on how to provide infant CPR and coached them through the proper procedures. Both callers were frantic, but Sara remained calm and was persistent in her instructions to keep them focused on the task at hand.

While Sara was counting out loud to guide CPR compressions, Telecommunicator Emily Gallagher sensed the extreme stress of the situation and came over to help. Emily then took over the CPR instructions until responders arrived shortly thereafter.

In recognition of their efforts on this call, Sara and Emily were presented with the 2019 Pennsylvania EMS Communications Award at the State EMS Conference on September 5th.

Congratulations Sara and Emily! Great job!

**EMS Educator of the Year**

Horsham Fire Company paramedic and Willow Grove Fire Company Deputy Chief Brian Focht (right) was recognized at the 2019 State EMS Conference as the EMS Educator of the Year. Since 2001, Brian has worked for PECO Energy as a Senior Training Specialist at their Fire Academy. In addition, he is an experienced regional fire and emergency medical services instructor.

In the course of his duties as a firefighter and paramedic, Brian recognized that many of his fellow emergency responders were unsure how to handle encounters with an autistic individual. Brian developed an education program, which he offered on his own time to anyone who wanted to learn about autism.

After many public outreach sessions, the program is now offered on a regular basis by two regional training centers, including the Montgomery County Fire Academy. Congratulations Brian!
Department of Public Safety Retirement

On Friday, October 4th, Department of Public Safety Executive Assistant Ava Tuturice will officially retire, capping a 25-year career of public service. Ava spent more than two decades working at the Montgomery County government complex in Norristown, first at the Treasurer’s Office and then for the Recorder of Deeds.

In early 2016, Ava made the move a few miles up Ridge Pike to Eagleville and joined our Public Safety team. Since then, Ava has been a treasured and essential addition to the department.

Ava brings a renewed energy and sense of camaraderie to the entire team – not to mention bringing about ten thousand calories a month with all of the delicious baked treats she likes to share with the staff from time to time!

Ava handles any project we throw at her with determination – and almost always finds a way to make those projects turn out better than we planned. She helps make our operations run more efficiently and helps make the Department of Public Safety a fun place to work.

On Thursday, September 19th, Ava was recognized by the Board of Commissioners for her many years of service to the residents of Montgomery County. Best wishes on a safe, happy, and healthy retirement, Ava!

Tanker Task Force Dispatch Changes

The leadership of the Tanker Task Force is proposing a change to the dispatch procedure that will utilize a “flow stream” system whenever their assets are requested. The Task Force developed a list of the closest tankers for each municipality using an address located near the geographic center of the township or borough. Both physical distance and estimated travel time were considered.

The list for each municipality will include twenty tankers and six fill engines, based on the same “flow stream” system. A first alarm task force will bring five tankers and two fill engines. Each subsequent alarm will bring an additional five tankers, with the third alarm adding two more fill engines.

To see the list developed for your municipality, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mike Risell at amrisell@gmail.com. It is requested that all lists be finalized prior to November 19, 2019.

Please note that this change only affects the dispatch of the Tanker Task Force and will not impact run orders set by individual fire companies.
Several Montgomery County first responders were recently recognized at the National Liberty Museum’s 14th annual Awards of Valor for extraordinary acts of courage, empathy, and meritorious service. Congratulations to all honorees!

**Meritorious Community Service Awards**

- Police Officer Shannon Sell, Bridgeport Police Department
- Police Officer Ryan Allen, Hatboro Police Department
- Police Officer Josephine Murray, Lower Merion Township Police Department

**Awards of Valor**

- Lieutenant Frank Boyle, Cheltenham Township Emergency Medical Service
- Police Officer Daniel Gallagher, Lansdale Police Department (above)
- Lower Merion Township Police Department and Norristown Fire Department

**18 Years Later**

Eighteen years ago, on September 11, 2001, the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York collapsed, killing thousands of people while throwing millions of pounds of debris downward and outward into surrounding buildings and onto the streets of lower Manhattan. Later that evening, after sustaining severe structural damage from the earlier catastrophe, 7 World Trade Center fell to the ground, completely destroying the offices, facilities, and vehicles of the New York City Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management.

In the days following September 11th, emergency managers from eastern Montgomery County, working with colleagues in New Jersey, organized the donation of recently retired police cars by a number of municipalities. Emergency lights and sirens for the vehicles were also donated and installed by local first responders. The vehicles were stripped of existing department logos and names and were re-lettered by Upper Moreland firefighters with “NYC Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management.”

Some of the vehicles are pictured here, in front of the Willow Grove Fire Company, ready for deployment by Montgomery County police officers and firefighters to New York City.
September Snapshots

On Tuesday, September 10th and Wednesday, September 25th, Montgomery County Department of Public Safety staff attended Preparedness Month events at The Vanguard Group in Malvern. DPS staff promoted Smart911, PulsePoint, and ReadyMontco, and spoke to employees about 9-1-1 and emergency preparedness.

On Tuesday, September 10th, nine members of the Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Response Team took a tour of GlaxoSmithKline’s Upper Merion campus. MCHMRT technicians checked out the facility’s hazardous chemical storage and processing areas to plan for a potential response. Many thanks to GSK for the tour!

On Thursday, September 12th, the members of the newly formed Emergency Management Workgroup of the Southeastern PA Regional Task Force met at the PSTC. This workgroup will bring together emergency management directors from Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia, and Montgomery Counties to coordinate various projects and initiatives.
Employees Recognized for Years of Service

On September 5th, several Department of Public Safety employees were honored for reaching milestones in their years of employment with Montgomery County. The following employees were recognized:

10 Years
- Jordan Bandy
- Kathryn Burfete
- Jeremy DeStefano
- Matthew Dotter
- Megan Miller
- Edward O’Hanlon Jr.
- Kevin Rairdon
- Susan Schulberger
- Craig Tinneny
- Marco Torres
- Michael Vest

20 Years
- Jeffrey Korenkiewicz

30 Years
- Lisa Aydin

25 Years
- Judson Reigh
- Ava Tuturice

35 Years
- Glenn Beard
- John DiNolfi

Each employee was presented with a commemorative pin by Commissioners Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr., and Joseph C. Gale during a ceremony at the County Courthouse. These dedicated public safety professionals have provided a combined 280 years of service to Montgomery County!

Thanks to all for your hard work!

Fire Police Countywide Paging Procedure

In coordination with the Montgomery County Fire Police Association, the Department of Public Safety has developed paging codes which will allow for the immediate mass notification of fire police officers across the county during a major incident. New tone/voice cap codes and alphanumeric codes for east only, west only, and countywide paging have been built, tested, and distributed to the Association for dissemination.

These pager codes should be added to existing pager equipment to ensure timely alerting of essential personnel during a significant event. Any fire police agency in need of the pager programming information sheets should contact Carroll Davis, Jr. at cdavisjr@aol.com.
Department of Public Safety Personnel Changes

Matthew Roberto recently accepted the position of School Safety Coordinator, replacing Steve Beck, who retired on June 28th. Matt previously served as an FBI Agent, most recently in the Newark Division, for 31 years. In his new role, Matt will be responsible for continuing the coordination of training and resources for County students and school entity staff in matters relating to school security and preparedness.

mroberto@montcopa.org
(610) 278-3500 ext. 6629
Public Safety Training Campus

Jake Frye recently accepted the position of Radiological Planner (Part Time) with the Department of Public Safety. He comes to us from the Hatboro-Horsham School District, where he worked for operations doing grounds maintenance. Jake holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Science and Public Safety Administration from Holy Family University. During his time at Holy Family, Jake interned with the Whitemarsh Township Fire Marshal's Office and the Office of Emergency Management. He is a current member and the Vice President of the Flourtown Fire Company.

jfrye@montcopa.org
(610) 631-3020
Emergency Operations Center

Did you know?

The Department of Public Safety recently installed several “Veteran Parking Only” signs in the parking lots at the Emergency Operations Center and the Public Safety Training Campus (pictured here). If you served or are currently serving in our nation’s armed forces, please feel free to park in one of those spots next time you visit us!

Thank you for your service!
Emergency Management Certifications

Over the last month, several of our municipal partners were presented with their Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency certifications. Individuals involved in municipal emergency management in the Commonwealth can achieve certifications at three levels: basic, advanced, and professional. Each level requires the applicant to complete numerous training classes, as well as attend Department of Public Safety monthly meetings.

While appointed municipal Emergency Management Coordinators are required by Commonwealth law to obtain basic and advanced certifications, all levels are voluntary for other staff members. Despite this, many of our municipalities have gone above and beyond the requirements, certifying their Coordinators at the professional level and other staff at basic, advanced, or professional.

Anyone involved in municipal emergency management in Montgomery County who is interested in obtaining their PEMA certifications can contact Heather Stem at hstem@montcopa.org for additional information.

Individuals receiving their certifications this month include:

Advanced Level

Joseph Catagnus, East Norriton Township Emergency Management Coordinator (above, left)
Andrew Duncan, Douglass Township Emergency Management Coordinator (above, center)

Basic Level

Kevin Dillard, Norristown Borough Emergency Operations Center Staff (right)
Christopher Heleniak, Skippack Township Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator (above, right)

Fire Academy Course Offerings

On Saturday, October 26th and Sunday, October 27th, the Montgomery County Fire Academy is holding a High-Rise Firefighting class. This course will provide instruction in firefighting and support operations in high-rise buildings, as well as discussion on the special problems encountered by the firefighter in this type of fire. Safe operations, the use of a tactical checklist, and application of the Incident Command System will be stressed.

For additional information on this course, see the September 2019 Notices.
Career Opportunities

The Department of Public Safety is accepting applications for the following positions:

- The **Hazardous Materials Program Coordinator** is responsible for the preparedness, upkeep, and operational response of the state-certified Hazardous Materials Response Team. Along with emergency response operations, this position is also responsible for assisting with the execution of the County HazMat Planning Program, which encompasses planning for SARA Title III facilities, transportation hazards, and municipal pre-planning.

  This position is subject to 24-hour, 7-day call for all-hazard emergency incidents which could require response to an incident scene and/or the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

- The **School Safety Specialist** coordinates the continued accomplishment of the “safe schools” assessment with school district, non-public school, and college/university liaisons and external agencies. The position will be responsible for assisting in the development and review of school safety plans and for conducting school risk and vulnerability assessments.

  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.

- **Telecommunicators** are the public’s primary points of contact when requesting a response by public safety resources. They promote the Department’s core values of integrity, respect, and customer service without compromise. Telecommunicators receive calls from the public and accurately assign requests for police, fire, emergency medical units, and other public safety resources.

  Telecommunicators are considered "essential personnel" and will be required to report for work regardless of weather conditions.

To learn more about these positions or to apply now, visit [www.montcopa.org/jobs](http://www.montcopa.org/jobs).