2021 Telecommunicator and Trainee of the Year Announced

Congratulations to the Department of Public Safety’s 2021 Telecommunicator of the Year, Zachary Zettlemoyer, and 2021 Telecommunicator Trainee of the Year, Nicholas Markovich! Zac and Nick were presented with their awards by Director Michael Vest (below, center) during Telecommunicators Week on Thursday, April 14th.

Zac (left) was nominated for Telecommunicator of the Year by the Emergency Communications Supervisors. He serves on the Tactical Communications Team and is one of only a few staff who have been promoted to the rank of Senior Dispatcher. Zac’s situational awareness and cool, calm, and collected manner while dispatching are huge assets to his colleagues and to the field. He is willing to stay late and change his schedule for the betterment of his shift and the Department and does so in a totally selfless manner. Zac has a great attitude and is the epitome of a team player!

Nick (above, right) was nominated for Telecommunicator Trainee of the Year by the Department’s training staff. He is a very quick learner, advancing from calltaker to police dispatch in a short period of time. While he rarely makes an error, Nick takes constructive criticism well. He never seems to get rattled, and, like Zac, possesses a very calm and cool demeanor. After only a few months on the job, Nick was recently commended for instructing a 9-1-1 caller to perform CPR on her one-year-old son who was choking. The responding paramedic reached out after the incident to let us know that the baby likely wouldn’t have survived if it weren’t for Nick’s assistance.

Congratulations to both Zac and Nick! Keep up the great work!

Accelerated, Blended EMT Training Program Starts This Summer

Are you looking to help save lives or build your resume for a new career? If so, become certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) through the Department of Public Safety - EMS Training Institute’s accelerated summer program!

The blended/hybrid course runs from June 6 until August 5, 2022, and meets every week Monday through Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM. The three in-person sessions each week will be held at the Public Safety Training Campus, located at 1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428. Internet access and a laptop or tablet are required for virtual sessions. Register online at http://emstrainingcenter.org before May 16th.
Final Chance for Radio Reprogramming

As of March 2022, the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety had successfully reprogrammed over 99% of the approximately 8,000 public safety radios on our system. However, there are still a few radios that need to be updated. **For security reasons, on Monday, May 2, 2022, any radio that has not yet received the updated programming will be remotely disabled and inhibited from operating on the Montgomery County public safety radio system.**

Representatives from each of the affected agencies with any outstanding radios yet to be reprogrammed have been contacted directly by Department of Public Safety staff informing them of such. After May 2nd, if a not-yet-updated radio is discovered by an agency, it can be brought to the EOC to be updated and re-enabled. With questions or to make arrangements for radio programming, please contact the DPS Radio Technical Services team at EOCTech@montcopa.org or (610) 631-6511.

Missing Person Successfully Located After Multi-Agency Search

During the early morning hours of Thursday, April 21st, the Department of Public Safety assisted with a search for a missing subject in Marlborough Township. Responding units included Division of Emergency Management UAV (“drone”) pilots, the Urban Search & Rescue Team, and Field Comm 1. The subject was located safely at just after 8:00 AM.

First responder agencies interested in learning more about the Department’s deployable units and teams may email publicsafety@montcopa.org.

2022 EDITS “An Evening for Volunteers” Announced

This fall, the Eastern Montco Emergency Management Group and Montgomery County Department of Public Safety will again offer An Evening for Volunteers on the night before the EDITS conference begins. The event will take place on Monday, October 3rd from 6:30 to 9:30 PM at the Normandy Farm Hotel & Conference Center in Blue Bell. Topics and speakers will include:

- Surfside Condominium Collapse (near Miami, Florida)
  - Chief Ray Jadallah, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue
  - Chief Dave Downey, Deputy Coordinator, Florida Statewide Emergency Response Plan
- Morris City Lithium Battery Warehouse Fire
  - Chief Tracey Steffes, Morris City Fire Protection & Ambulance District

This event is offered at no cost to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel within Montgomery County. The out-of-county registration fee is $15.00/person. For more information, see the flyer in the April Notices.

Preregistration is required, both for An Evening for Volunteers and for the full EDITS conference. Individuals interested in attending are encouraged to register as soon as possible, as space is limited. Register at https://www.emema.org/event/edits-2022/.
Special Operations Teams Participate in Regional Exercise

On Saturday, April 23rd, the members of the Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Response Team, Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Team, and Division of Emergency Management participated in a regional full-scale exercise at the Philadelphia Fire Academy. The scenario involved an explosion and subsequent building collapse, as well as a leaking propane cylinder.

HazMat technicians from Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, and Philadelphia counties worked together to assess the situation, develop a strategy for action, and execute the plan. After carefully checking the cylinder, teams determined that it was damaged to a point where the product (propane) could not be safely contained or offloaded. Technicians worked to initiate a flaring operation to burn off the product and reduce the possibility of an uncontrolled fire or explosion.

US&R specialists from the same jurisdictions had to contend with two areas of operations: an apartment building and a parking garage that each sustained severe damage and collapsed following an explosion. They were tasked with shoring and stabilizing the rubble, and then with searching for an unknown number of trapped victims (rescue dummies). Using specialized equipment and Montgomery County US&R’s K-9, teams located and removed two victims from the parking garage and four victims from the apartment building.

Training with responders in our surrounding counties is essential in preparing for a large scale, multi-agency incident. An exercise like this allows each individual team to test the interoperability of procedures and equipment, as well as improve communications and coordination between personnel.

Jefferson Health and Bensalem EMS Hosting EMS Education Day

On Thursday, May 19th, Jefferson Health and Bensalem Rescue Squad are partnering to host an EMS Education Day and Luncheon, in recognition of 2+ years in service for the Mobile Stroke Unit.

The event will take place at the Bensalem Township Country Club, located at 2000 Brown Avenue, Bensalem, PA 19020, from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Con-ed will be available for Pennsylvania EMS providers.

To register, simply send an email to mjackson@bensalemrescue.org. For additional information, including a detailed schedule, visit https://conta.cc/3xQFae9.
2022 EMS Week: Save the Dates

Montgomery County EMS providers are encouraged to Save the Dates for the 2022 EMS Week, which runs from May 15th through May 21st! The Department of Public Safety has multiple events planned.

On Monday, May 16th, Tuesday, May 17th, and Wednesday, May 18th, lunchtime lectures will be held at the Public Safety Training Campus. The sessions themselves will run from 11 AM until 1 PM each day, while lunch will be available between 10 AM and 2 PM.

The following speakers are already confirmed, with more to come!

- Anna Trout, Director of Mental Health and Diversion
- Jess Fenchel, Director of Access Services
- Dr. Steve Pulley, DO
- Dr. Ryan Overberger, DO
- Dr. Theresa Walls, MD
- Dr. Amanda Pacheco, DO
- Dr. Alvin Wang, DO

Reserve your spot and register today at https://forms.office.com/r/HXbiykFRf2. The EMS Week event flyer is available in the April Notices.

Although in-person attendance is encouraged so individuals can receive lunch and a special token of our appreciation, all lectures will also be available via Zoom webinar.

June 1<sup>st</sup> End of Life Approaching for Windows 7 and Sierra Wireless Modems

In order to maintain CJIS compliance, the Department of Public Safety previously blocked police departments and EMS agencies from using Windows 7 on MDCs. Fire agencies were given additional time to upgrade and replace equipment. Effective June 1, 2022, Windows 7 devices will no longer be allowed on the Montgomery County dispatch network, regardless of discipline.

Fire agencies still using Windows 7 must upgrade now, otherwise access will be lost starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. No exceptions will be made to this new deadline. For assistance, please send an email to DPSCADHelp@montcopa.org.

Additionally, the Department of Public Safety has been deploying new Cradlepoint modems and antennas to all police, fire, and EMS agencies. The old Sierra Wireless modems will no longer be supported or replaced as of June 1, 2022. If you have new Cradlepoint modems that are not yet installed, please get them installed as soon as possible. If you still need to obtain your new hardware, please send an email to DPSCADHelp@montcopa.org with:

- Agency name
- Agency contact(s) who are authorized to sign for and pick up equipment for the agency
- Vehicle list with identification numbers of vehicles currently equipped with Sierra Wireless modems

These new modems and antennas are provided free of charge in a 1-for-1 swap. All agencies with Sierra modems are required to switch over to new Cradlepoint modems. Agencies are responsible for installation charges and carrier data plans.
Department of Public Safety Career Opportunities

The Department of Public Safety is now hiring! For more information about each role and to apply online, visit [www.montcopa.org/jobs](http://www.montcopa.org/jobs) or click on the links below.

- **The Communications Systems Specialist** is responsible for installing and troubleshooting mobile voice and data communications equipment. The position maintains broadband wireless mobile data equipment utilizing IP networks, public safety software applications such as Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD), Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL), and communications console equipment.

- **The Customer Service Representative** establishes professional relationships with all stakeholders and is responsible for the overall front desk activities, which include but are not limited to management of the reception area and meeting areas, customer service, phones, mail, and office supplies.

- **The EMS Training Assistant** is responsible for coordinating training resources; scheduling and teaching both credential-producing as well as continuing education for EMS professionals and laypersons from the community.

- **The Paramedic Program Coordinator** provides academic leadership to students and instructors in all EMS certification and refresher training programs while maintaining a climate of open communication, collegiality, and teamwork.

HazMat Technicians Participate in Identification Skills Refresher

On Tuesday, April 5th, the Department of Public Safety’s Hazardous Materials Response Team technicians gathered for a refresher on the many meters and other identification equipment that the Team carries on its apparatus. Some of the devices reviewed include:

- **Hazmat ID Elite**: identifies an unknown substance using FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared) technology, which obtains an infrared spectrum of the absorption or emission of a solid or liquid.

- **Agilent Resolve**: identifies an unknown substance using Raman Spectroscopy, which measures the energy that scatters after the substance is excited by a laser emitted from the instrument.

- **MX908**: identifies an unknown substance using HPMS (High Pressure Mass Spectrometry), which creates a vacuum while simultaneously heating the product to give off measurable or detectable vapors.

- **Ludlum Model 2241**: detects ionizing radiation.

- **FLIR Nanoraider**: identifies radioactive isotopes and detects fields of ionizing radiation to locate sources.

- **HazCat Chemical Identification Kit/HazFind Screening System**: allows a user to manually test a product to determine its properties and base its classification on the results.

For additional information about the HazMat Team and its capabilities, contact Hazardous Materials Program Coordinator Brandon Pursell at bpursell@montcopa.org.
Department of Public Safety Creates First Responder Wellness Committee

The Department of Public Safety has convened a First Responder Wellness Committee in an effort to support Montgomery County first responders, public safety agencies, their employees, and volunteers in physical and mental wellness. The committee will utilize networking, idea-sharing, brainstorming, education, and programming to support workforce development and alleviate stress on the public safety community. First responders of all levels of certification and leadership are invited to join the committee, and external stakeholders in the mental and physical health realms will be encouraged to join as well.

The goal of this committee will be to create a sustainable and multidisciplinary group of first responders in varying levels of leadership with interest in sharing wellness programming, improving access to resources, exploring best practices, increasing educational opportunities, and building desired and progressive programming. Additionally, this group will support other resources available to first responders, such as the CISM team, while working to streamline processes, increase access to existing resources, and find solutions to fill any gaps that exist.

The committee has held a few initial meetings, but we are still looking for additional dedicated public safety professionals who would like to have a voice in first responder wellness programming. We will continue to discuss current topics of mental health resources and gaps in Montgomery County and create several action items to progress forward.

If you are interested in joining the committee, being a core committee member, or nominating someone as a core member, please fill out this form https://forms.office.com/r/fksRW0Hunq.

With questions or suggestions, please contact Health and Safety Specialist Madison Sehn at msehn@montcopa.org.

Electronic Naloxone Request Form Now Available

Utilizing grant funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety distributes Narcan® (naloxone) nasal spray for use in response to opioid overdoses. First responders and other pre-approved organizations can receive Narcan® through this grant.

To request a supply of Narcan®, approved organizations can click on the link below or use the QR code to the right. After the Department of Public Safety approves or rejects the request, the requestor will receive an email.

Request Narcan® Here

Organizations not previously approved can contact the Department of Public Safety at (610) 631-6500 on weekdays between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM to be considered for this program.
**First Responder Mental Health First Aid Course to be Held in June**

The Department of Public Safety is partnering with Southeast Regional Mental Health Services to offer a FREE Mental Health First Aid course for first responders! This course will be in-person at the Public Safety Training Campus (1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA) on Wednesday, June 8th from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Lunch will be provided.

The course is approved for continuing education credits and will cover responding to mental and behavioral health crises in the field, as well as discussion surrounding the mental health and wellness of first responders.

Please fill out this form [https://forms.office.com/r/4s5Q7XP03m](https://forms.office.com/r/4s5Q7XP03m) if you wish to attend the course, and someone will reach out to confirm your attendance. With any questions, please contact msehn@montcopa.org. To view the course flyer, see the April Notices.

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**Department of Public Safety Hosts Law Enforcement Conference**

Many thanks to all of the local law enforcement partners who joined us for our training conference at Normandy Farm Hotel & Conference Center on Thursday, April 7th! Thanks also to the FBI’s Philadelphia Field Office and Fort Washington Resident Agency for their assistance in planning and hosting this event!

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**Fit Testing Machine Available for First Responder Agencies**

As part of the Department of Public Safety’s Health and Safety Development program, police, fire, and EMS agencies are reminded of the availability of the Department’s quantitative fit testing machine. The device is capable of quantitative fit testing soft N-95 or similar respirators, as well as half- and full-face respirators. Quantitative fit testing can provide more accurate results than qualitative fit testing.

In addition, the device is capable of connecting with an agency-supplied laptop to help maintain automated fit-testing records and track respirator pass/fail status. For more information about the device’s capabilities, please visit: [https://accutec.com/accufit-9000/](https://accutec.com/accufit-9000/). To borrow the device at no-cost, please contact Madison Sehn, Health and Safety Specialist, at msehn@montcopa.org for an orientation session.

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**COVID-19 Vaccine Remains Available to Responders by Request**

As the demand for COVID-19 vaccines among first responders has decreased, the Department of Public Safety paused regular vaccine clinics at the end of February 2022. If you are a Montgomery County first responder (EMS, law enforcement, firefighter, or emergency management official) who needs a COVID-19 vaccine (any dose), please fill out this form: [https://forms.office.com/r/psjSSsGfZe](https://forms.office.com/r/psjSSsGfZe)
Firefighters Complete Live Fire Training; Set to Graduate in May

On Sunday, April 3rd, the members of Montgomery County Fire Academy Class 2103 completed their last day of the Interior Firefighter course with their live-fire class. This was the first cohort of students to participate in the Fire Academy’s new scenario-based, live-fire training. The new firefighters worked in teams to conduct a coordinated fire attack in evolutions that replicated real assignments on the fireground. The thirty-two members of Class 2103 will graduate from the entry level fire training program on Wednesday, May 18th at 7:00 pm.