Montgomery County Emergency Communications Now Hiring Around the Clock

Effective immediately and until further notice, interested individuals can now apply for the role of 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Trainee at any time. Previously, the Department of Public Safety accepted applications for periods of a few weeks, a few times per year.

Telecommunicators answer 9-1-1 calls from the public and dispatch police, fire, and EMS to the scene. They save lives and make a difference in their community every day.

Other benefits of the job include:

- Excellent & affordable health insurance
- 120 hours of PTO annually (160 after 5 years of service), plus sick time
- Up to $5,250 per year in education/tuition reimbursement
- Eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness

To view the full job description and to apply online, visit www.montcopa.org/911. Learn more about Montgomery County employee benefits at www.montcopa.org/benefits.

Additional Department of Public Safety Career Opportunities

The Department of Public Safety is also hiring for several other roles. For more information or to apply online, visit 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.
On Wednesday, May 18, 2022, the 32 new firefighters of Montgomery County Fire Academy Class 2103 graduated from the Pennsylvania Entry Level Firefighter training program. Thomas M. Sullivan, who retired as the Director of the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety in 2021, was the commencement speaker.

Class 2103 included a father-son duo, Jeffrey and Evan Patrick of the Ludwigs Corner Fire Company, who graduated from the program together. Jeffrey Patrick (the father) also received the Interior Firefighter Award for scoring the highest grade in the class.

The graduates of Class 2103 will protect their communities in 23 volunteer and combination fire companies in Montgomery, Berks, Chester, and Delaware counties.

Congratulations to Class 2103! Below is a list of the graduates:

Firefighter Edward J. Abel, III, Springfield Fire Co.
Firefighter Morey Averill, Belmont Hills Fire Co.
Firefighter Daniel Azeff, Harmonville Fire Co.
Firefighter Daniel A. Bare, Radnor Fire Co.
Firefighter Austin Bernard, Amity Fire and Rescue
Firefighter Scott H. Bernhard, Upper Darby Fire Dept. - Secane
Firefighter Kim J. Bixler Jr., Limerick Fire Dept.
Firefighter Aaron Blunden, Darby Fire Company
Firefighter Michael N. Bozzetto, Upper Darby Fire Dept. - Secane
Firefighter Emmett Cantrell, Pennsburg Fire Co.
Firefighter Dustin Cotton, Sanatoga Fire Company
Firefighter Tyler J. Eachus, Ludwigs Corner Fire Co.
Firefighter Harold A. Emory, Berwyn Fire Co.
Firefighter Kenneth D. Felker, Springfield Fire Co.
Firefighter Michael W. Geraghty Jr., Broomall Fire Co.
Firefighter John J. Laurin, Merion Fire Co. of Ardmore
Firefighter Daniel O. Long, Radnor Fire Co.
Firefighter Bryan McGann, East Brandywine Fire Co.
Firefighter Dylan T. Moran, Perkiomen Twp. Fire Co.
Firefighter Keri Myers, Flourtown Fire Co.
Firefighter Nicole Nemitz, Lower Providence Fire Dept.
Firefighter Evan A. Patrick, Ludwigs Corner Fire Co.
Firefighter Jeffrey Patrick, Ludwigs Corner Fire Co.
Firefighter Alessandro Pileggi, Harmonville Fire Co.
Firefighter Harry J. Preston, South Media Fire Co.
Firefighter Tyler L. Ressler, Springfield Fire Co.
Firefighter Luca G. Rizzi, Broomall Fire Co.
Firefighter Iliana Rozon Liz, Fairmount Engine Co.
Firefighter Alexander Rudnicki, Narberth Fire Co.
Firefighter Samantha B. Simonsen, South Media Fire Co.
Firefighter Timothy R. Trego, North End Fire Co.
Firefighter Dovid C. Weintraub, Union Fire Assoc.

Firefighters Graduate from Entry Level Training
Dept. of Public Safety Thanks Telecommunicator Week Donors

The Department of Public Safety would like to sincerely thank all of the organizations that donated food and other items to support our staff during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Donors include:

Belmont Hills Fire Company
Bryn Mawr Fire Company
Centre Square Fire Company
Cheltenham Township EMS
Chick-fil-A Audubon
Fire Department of Montgomery Township
Franconia Twp. Police Benevolent Assoc.
Gladwyne Volunteer Fire Company
Limerick Fire Department
Limerick Township Police Department
Lower Merion Fire Department
Lower Providence Police Association
Merion Fire Company of Ardmore
Montgomery County Detective Bureau
Montgomery County Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
Montgomery County Municipal Fire Officers Assoc.
Montgomery Township Police Department
Narberth Ambulance
Narberth Fire Company
Norristown Fire Department
Penn Wynne Fire Company
Second Alarmer's Rescue Squad
Spring Mill Fire Company
Towamencin Township Police Department
Telford Borough Police Department
Union Fire Association
Upper Merion Township Fire & EMS
Upper Moreland Police Department
Upper Providence Township Police Dept.
Vol. Medical Service Corps of Lansdale
The Wawa Foundation
Wegmans
West Pottsgrove Township Police Dept.

Department of Public Safety Recognizes EMS Providers

With the 2022 National EMS Week recently coming to a close, the Department of Public Safety would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to all of the EMS providers who keep Montgomery County and its residents safe. It is truly a pleasure to work with you!

As a small token of our appreciation, DPS staff distributed lunch coolers to each of our EMS agencies throughout the week. Pictured here are some of the dedicated EMTs and Paramedics of the Whitemarsh Community Ambulance Association.
Municipal Emergency Managers Earn PEMA Certifications

Over the past month, numerous municipal emergency management professionals across Montgomery County have been presented with their Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) certifications. Congratulations to the following individuals:

**Professional Level**
Brendan Brazunas, Upper Merion Township *(bottom, middle)*
Robert Chiarlanza, Springfield Township
Blaine Leis, Upper Merion Township *(bottom, right)*
Michael Risell, Upper Providence Township *(top, middle)*
Michael Rohlfing, Lower Providence Township *(top, left)*

**Advanced Level**
Andrew Rathfon, Upper Merion Township *(bottom, left)*

**Basic Level**
Tina Chandler, Whitemarsh Township
Drew Ingvertsen, Whitpain Township *(top, right)*

Interested in pursuing your PEMA certifications? Contact Training and Preparedness Coordinator Amanda Brady at abrady@montcopa.org to get started today.
HazMat Technicians Stay Busy on Weekend of May 21st

On the third weekend of May, the members of the Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Response Team stayed busy with two separate trainings. On Saturday, eight technicians brushed up on their driving skills with an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course in Upper Merion Township. Each technician had to successfully navigate both HM81 and SS81-1 through numerous obstacles, driving forward and in reverse. This practical evaluation was a follow-up to the lecture portion of the course, held on Tuesday, May 3rd.

At the same time on Saturday, and again on Sunday, three technicians attended a regional 16-hour cargo tank incident response training at the Chester County Public Safety Training Campus in Coatesville. Working side by side with members of the Bucks and Chester County HazMat teams, technicians had the opportunity to work with numerous hands-on models, props, and simulators, all of which were designed to prepare them for a real-world transportation incident.

So far in 2022, the members of the Montgomery County HazMat Team have participated in 17 specialized trainings, exercises, and educational demonstrations, for more than 68 hours in service. The team has at least 19 scheduled for the remainder of the year, with more to come.

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 May 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/.
National Night Out Requests: Deadline Approaching

The 2022 National Night Out is quickly approaching (Tuesday, August 2nd). Any municipality or emergency services agency wishing to request Department of Public Safety personnel or assets for an event on August 2nd or another nearby date should contact Public Affairs Coordinator Todd Stieritz at tstierit@montcopa.org as soon as possible. When making a request, please try to be as specific as possible in terms of days and times, venue (indoors, outdoors, hybrid, etc.), available space, and your preferences for vehicles, equipment, handout materials, and staff. Please note that the Department may not be able to fulfill all requests depending on number and type received.

Pennsburg Fire Company Receives Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition

The Department of Public Safety would like to congratulate and recognize the Pennsburg Fire Company, which was recently recertified as a participant in the Pennsylvania Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition (VRSR) Program at the Vehicle and Machinery Rescue – Operations Response Level.

The VRSR program is intended to provide guidance for staffing, training, education, and equipment for vehicle and machinery rescue, guidance which is supported by NFPA standards 1006 and 1670. There are three categories of recognition available to recognize varying levels of rescue capability: Basic Response Level, Operations Response Level, and Advanced Response Level.

- Basic: identifies basic tools, equipment (mostly hand tools), manpower, and training requirements that personnel trained to the awareness level can use to undertake basic technical rescue operations.

- Operations: identifies basic tools, equipment (hand and basic power tools), manpower, and training requirements that personnel trained to the operations levels can use to undertake basic to moderate rescue operations. This equipment may be carried on any first line fire or rescue apparatus.

- Advanced: identifies basic tools, equipment (hand and basic power tools), manpower, and training requirements that personnel trained to advanced levels can use to undertake basic through complex rescue operations. This equipment may be carried on a heavy rescue squad or other specialized rescue unit.

The program is a partnership between the Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner (OSFC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of EMS (PA-DOH/BEAMS), with the coordination through the Montgomery County Regional EMS Office (MCEMSO). For additional information on the VRSR program in Montgomery County, contact Tim Dunigan, Pre-Hospital Systems Coordinator, at (610) 278-5233.
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 May Notices.

Fire Academy Instructors, US&R Technicians Attend Specialized Rescue Training

Four Montgomery County first responders, all of whom are rescue instructors at the Montgomery County Fire Academy and members of the County’s Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Team, recently attended the week-long Indiana River Rescue School in South Bend, Indiana.

The school teaches technician-level skills from NFPA 1006 (Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications) in the nationally recognized East Race Waterway, a purpose-built white water run that has been the site of Olympic trials and kayaking events. The instructors look forward to sharing what they learned with Montgomery County responders and utilizing the skills while deployed with the US&R team.

The Montgomery County Fire Academy offers the complete catalog of PA Fish and Boat Commission water rescue courses, as well as operations and technician-level refresher programs. Contact Rescue Training Coordinator Rob Carovillano (rcarovillano@montcopa.org) for more information or to request a course for your agency.

For a full listing of upcoming courses at the Fire Academy, visit [https://www.montcopa.org/1006/Training-Schedule](https://www.montcopa.org/1006/Training-Schedule).

Pictured (left to right): Steve Young, Conshohocken Fire Department; Kevin Swan, Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills Fire Company; Rob Carovillano, Union Fire Association of Lower Merion; and Andrew McIntyre, Norristown Fire Department
June 1st 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 1st. 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.

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.

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
The 26 members of Montgomery County Fire Academy Class 2201 wrapped up the final day of *Interior Firefighter* class with live-fire evolutions on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

In addition to fire suppression, the training that day included thermal dynamics, hose-line advancement, and search & rescue operations in the Burn Building. Class 2201 is scheduled to undergo skills testing for Firefighter I certification in June.

**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.

**NOAA Predicts Another Above-Normal Hurricane Season**

On Tuesday, May 24th, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released their 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook. NOAA is again predicting above-normal hurricane activity this year (65% chance), which would make it the seventh consecutive above-average hurricane season.

For 2022, NOAA is forecasting a likely range of 14 to 21 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence. For more information, view the full outlook on NOAA’s website.

*Graphic and content courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*