In Memory: Richard L. Williams

Richard L. Williams, a founding member of the Montgomery County Fire Advisory Board and a driving force in the creation of the permanent facility for the Montgomery County Fire Academy, passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 21st, surrounded by his family at his home in Jeffersonville. He was 77.

Richard was a mentor to generations of firefighters and fire instructors throughout Montgomery County during his lifetime of service to the community. He was the on-site lead instructor for the Fire Academy when it primarily operated at Building 17 on the Norristown State Hospital grounds.

Starting in the 1970’s, Richard led the effort to convince the Montgomery County Commissioners to build the Fire Academy a permanent facility at what is now the Public Safety Training Campus in Plymouth Township. His name is on the plaque marking the building’s dedication in 1986.

Richard also led the creation of the Fire Academy’s first rescue training program. He used civil defense handbooks to develop the curriculum for the Rescue I and Rescue II courses geared toward firefighters and EMS. He then sent the curriculum for those two courses to the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, which made some modifications and adopted them statewide.

The Department of Public Safety would like to extend sincere condolences to Richard’s family, his friends, and the many members of the emergency services community whose lives he most certainly made an impact on.

Department of Public Safety Staff Ride with Wheels of Justice

Several Department of Public Safety staff were proud to participate in the Ben to the Shore Bike Tour on July 24th as members of the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Wheels of Justice cycling team!

The 250+ member team completed the 65-mile ride from Philadelphia to Atlantic City and raised over $87,000 to support the Families Behind the Badge Children’s Foundation, which provides financial relief for the families of fallen or critically injured first responders.
EMS Agencies Improve Controlled Substance Accountability

Harleysville Area EMS and Trappe Fire Company No. 1 EMS Division have collaboratively introduced a new paperless, cloud-based controlled substance security and accountability system: NarcBox by EMS Logic.

NarcBox allows tracking of all controlled substances from time received until time administered or retired using RFID (radio frequency identification) technology, employs dual authentication security, and is supported by cloud-based reporting and administration tools. Each NarcBox device is connected through vehicle Wi-Fi technology and provides immediate updates on access, administration, and security of medications required to be carried in agency Advanced Life Support units.

“This system increases crew efficiencies by moving away from a paper-based process while adding greater data for reporting and administration accountability,” says Deno Gualtieri, DO, Medical Director for both Harleysville and Trappe. This effort is one of several aimed at improving efficiencies in staff commitment and workflow while both agencies pursue a joint regional EMS service later this year.

Responder Agencies Encouraged to Check Radio Antennas

The Department of Public Safety urges fire companies, police departments, EMS agencies, and other organizations operating on Montgomery County’s public safety radio system to check mobile radio antennas that are installed on vehicles. DPS radio technicians have found several vehicles in the field that still have the old/legacy radio system antennas on them, which can cause issues when the radio is transmitting or receiving on the new 700 MHz frequencies. This can occur on both system and non-system channels. For assistance or with questions, email EOCTech@montcopa.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>800 MHz Antenna Old/Legacy System 2001 to 2020</th>
<th>700/800 MHz Antenna New System 2020 to Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Replace with new antenna</td>
<td>No action needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Above and Beyond Recognition: Roy Land

Montgomery County Fire Academy staff would like to recognize Roy Land, who works for the Department of Public Safety’s Administration Division, for his essential contributions to fire service training across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A few years ago, the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy convened a committee to write a new Firefighter I skills book, transitioning and updating the skills from the Essentials of Firefighting, 6th edition to the Essentials of Firefighting, 7th edition. This skills book is provided to all students enrolled in the Firefighter I training program throughout Pennsylvania.

As the committee went through the seven-month long editing process, it became very clear to Ed O’Hanlon, a committee member and Montgomery County Fire Academy Professional Standards Coordinator, that formatting, layout, and design of the skills book needed a major overhaul. Knowing Roy’s abilities in these areas from previous projects, Ed reached out to him to see if he could lend a hand.

Roy immediately offered to help and ended up taking over the layout, formatting, and everything else related to the skills book presentation. “Roy spent hours and hours in preparing the book. He went above and beyond helping and completing the project,” Ed recalled. “Roy was the sole reason this document was reformatted and presented for publication.”

“Roy’s participation in the monumental update of the Pennsylvania Entry Level Skills Book made it possible for us to deliver it in a timely fashion,” said Kerby Kerber, Committee Chairperson and Deputy Director of the Delaware County Emergency Services Training Center. “Without Roy’s help, we would have been basically lost in the wilderness.”

Way to go, Roy!

Department of Public Safety Personnel Changes

Samuel Barriskell recently became the Coordinator for the Department of Public Safety’s Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program. He has been involved in emergency services in Montgomery County for the past 10 years as an EMT, Paramedic, and firefighter. Sam started at the age of 16 at Burholme Emergency Medical Services as an EMT/dispatcher. He received his bachelor’s degree in Biology from Bryn Athyn College prior to beginning Paramedic school. After becoming certified as a Paramedic in 2019, Sam quickly climbed the ladder to Clinical Care Coordinator at Narberth Ambulance. He also volunteers with the Gladwyne Fire Company in his off time.

sbarriskell@montcopa.org
(610) 631-3097
Emergency Operations Center
Over the past several weeks, the members of Class 104 have undergone rigorous classroom training in emergency calltaking and dispatch. In early September, they will start several more weeks of on-the-job training in the Emergency Communications Center. Congratulations and welcome to our newest employees!

David Suriano is the Department of Public Safety’s new 9-1-1 Systems Administrator. He started his career in emergency services in 2005 as a junior EMT for Newton EMS in Sussex County, New Jersey. Over the next decade, David worked as a dispatcher, law enforcement park ranger, EMT, and paramedic in numerous roles across Colorado, New Jersey, New York, Maine, and Pennsylvania. During this time, he designed and built a CAD system for the National Park Service (NPS) at Rocky Mountain National Park. From 2017 until he started with the Department of Public Safety, David worked as a park ranger and dispatcher for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. In addition to dispatch, his responsibilities included maintaining radios and radio systems for nine NPS units, serving as CAD and phone system administrator, and performing GIS mapping/9-1-1 addressing for eight NPS units. David has a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Arcadia University.
Department of Public Safety Recategorizing Water Rescue Assets

In an effort to best support municipalities during flooding events, the Department of Public Safety will be re-categorizing water rescue assets. In addition to the existing boat (BT) unit, two new units, High-Water (HW) and Swiftwater (SW), will be added. All existing water rescue assets will need to be reclassified through the below online form. The criteria for these units are as follows:

- **Boat (BT)** - An inflatable or flat bottom boat with a 25HP or less motor, with all required auxiliary equipment and staffing that meet requirements defined by NFPA 1670 to conduct operations level skills in non-moving water (less than 1.15MPH).

- **Swiftwater (SW)** (e.g., swiftwater 24, or SW24) - An inflatable or rigid inflatable boat (RIB) with a 30HP or greater motor, with all required auxiliary equipment and staffing that meet requirements defined by NFPA 1670 to conduct technician level operations in swift water environments.

- **High Water (HW)** – Vehicles designed to specifically ford water and evacuate residents.
  - Minimum 18" water fording height
  - Minimum 4x4 or greater drive capabilities
  - Survivor carry capacity of at least 6 (in a seated position)
  - Must be able to transport passengers in safe manner
  - Minimum gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 16000#
  - Defined SOP for operation

- **Marine Units (MU)** - A marine unit is NOT a boat asset, but a vehicle that tows or transports boats or water rescue equipment.

To vet your existing units, or to add new units, fire departments and emergency management agencies should fill out the online Water Rescue Asset Survey using the link below. Results from the survey will be reviewed by MCDPS personnel and will be used to implement CAD changes. No additional correspondence is needed following your submission. Chiefs will be contacted once CAD changes are implemented. You are encouraged to submit information as soon as possible. Moving forward, this survey will be used for all water rescue asset changes and/or additions.

The survey requests detailed information about your boats and high-water assets, so please allot ample time to complete in full. Only one entry is needed per department/agency.

Survey: [https://veoci.com/v/p/form/tkq8cgrsumk9](https://veoci.com/v/p/form/tkq8cgrsumk9)

**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)
Summer EMT Students Graduate from Training Program

Congratulations to the members of our accelerated summer Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program! After nine rigorous weeks of both lecture and practical training, not to mention study and preparation outside of class, the 23 EMT Cadets graduated on Thursday, August 4th during a ceremony at the Public Safety Training Campus. Throughout the month of August, the students went on to complete skills evaluations and written testing in order to obtain their certifications.

Many thanks to Aaron Rhone, Director of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), for serving as the Commencement Speaker and offering insightful, informative, and optimistic remarks to the Cadets. Best wishes to all of our graduates for a long, safe, healthy, and successful career in EMS!

EMT Cadet Anthony Beltrante  EMT Cadet Quran Frazier  EMT Cadet Eileen Rall
EMT Cadet Henry Cao       EMT Cadet Kendra Garrett  EMT Cadet Nolan Ramanjulu
EMT Cadet Francis Curran   EMT Cadet Giovannina Kirby  EMT Cadet Yeshwin Sankuratri
EMT Cadet Sam Detwiler    EMT Cadet Celina Li       EMT Cadet Sally Shin
EMT Cadet Jorja Dorley    EMT Cadet Ricardo Macarro  EMT Cadet Sofía Tylawsky
EMT Cadet Madison Eppers   EMT Cadet Kenneth Medvetz  EMT Cadet Addison Waldman
EMT Cadet Peter Fischer   EMT Cadet Beier Nelson    EMT Cadet Salihah Ward
EMT Cadet Andrew Fisher   EMT Cadet Rachel Nicolai

Fire Academy Releases Fall 2022 Training Schedule

The Montgomery County Fire Academy's Fall 2022 Training Schedule is now available! Visit www.montcopa.org/1006/Training-Schedule to register for classes today.

The fall semester schedule, which runs from August 30th to December 7th, features:

- 49 total courses
- 11 online/virtual courses
- 18 single-day courses
- 5 single-weekend courses (Saturday and Sunday)
- All 4 Entry Level modules (Firefighter I)
- 5 HazMat Ops Refresher courses
- 13 rescue courses (water, rope, vehicle, confined space, trench, general requirements)
Members of US&R Team Stay Busy with Advanced Trainings

Five members of the Montgomery County Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Team spent a weekend in mid-August attending a Large Animal Rescue Operations class in Bucks County, presented by ASAR Training and Response. The course encompassed aspects of large animal technical rescue and focused on the ropes and rigging skills that may be applied in various situations.

During the training, Montgomery County US&R specialists had the opportunity to work with members of the New York State Fire Special Operations Branch, as well as local horse owners who would play an essential role during a rescue operation.

Then, on August 17th, the US&R Team partnered with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad for a joint training session. Members of the specialized units worked together to review rope skills that will allow bomb technicians to reach explosive devices and other suspicious objects in difficult-to-access locations. Members utilized single and team-based lowers in both open and confined areas in a series of evolutions leading up to a larger scenario-based drill planned for September.

Department of Public Safety Career Opportunities

The Department of Public Safety is seeking qualified applicants for several vacancies. For more information or to apply online, visit www.montcopa.org/jobs or click on the links below.

- The **Assistant 9-1-1 Facility System Technician** is responsible for assisting with the constant readiness of the electrical, mechanical, and environmental systems which service all Department of Public Safety buildings, sites, and facilities, including, but not limited to, the 9-1-1 Communications Center, Backup 9-1-1 facility, and 30 remote 9-1-1 tower sites throughout Montgomery County.

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

To learn about the many benefits of working for Montgomery County, visit www.montcopa.org/benefits.

Note: The Department of Public Safety has temporarily paused hiring for 9-1-1 Telecommunicators while existing recruits proceed through classroom and on-the-job training. Hiring will resume soon and will be announced in a future edition of PSN.
Fall EMT Program Registration Deadline Rapidly Approaching

The registration deadline is quickly approaching for the Montgomery County EMS Training Institute’s fall 2022 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program! Registrations will not be accepted after Monday, September 5th. Don’t miss out on this opportunity!

- Dates: September 27, 2022 through March 30, 2023
- Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays (6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.) plus one Saturday per month (TBD)
- Location: Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus - 1175 Conshohocken Rd, Conshohocken, PA 19428
- Requirements: internet access and a laptop or tablet

The course flyer is available in the August 2022 Notices. To register online, visit http://emstrainingcenter.org To pay the course fee via credit card, visit https://www.velocitypayment.com/client/montgomerycountypa/publicsafety/index.htm

With questions, contact the Montgomery County EMS Training Institute at (610) 287-2666.

2022 EDITS "An Evening for Volunteers” Coming Soon

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 p.m. 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. Preregistration is required. 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/.

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/. To borrow the device at no-cost, please contact Madison Sehn, Health and Safety Specialist, at msehn@montcopa.org for an orientation session.
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 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to be considered for this program.

Traffic Safety Window Clings Available for First Responders

As of July 30th, 31 responders have been struck and killed this year while working along roadways in the United States. Among them were Pennsylvania State Troopers Branden T. Sisca and Martin F. Mack III, who lost their lives on March 21, 2022 on Interstate 95 in Philadelphia. This statistic does not include the number of responders injured or the amount of property damage caused to response vehicles.

It is critically important that we continue to spread this key message: “Protect Those Who Protect You: Move Over, It’s The Law.” A limited quantity of window clings is available to EMS agencies, fire companies, and public works departments through the Department of Public Safety. Contact Deputy Director David Brown at dbrown2@montcopa.org for additional information.

Individuals and agencies may also reach out directly to the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association to obtain decals, brochures, and other materials. Email iFirePrevention@gmail.com for assistance.