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Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

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**In an Emergency
Dial 9-1-1**



**Department of
Public Safety**
610-631-6500



**Public Safety
Training Campus**
610-278-3500



**EMS Training
Institute**
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CAD Helpline:
610-631-3001



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Materials Available for National Preparedness Month

This September marks the ninth annual National Preparedness Month. The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety asking all of its emergency responder partners to help spread the word and encourage residents to be prepared to take care of themselves and their loved ones for at least three days in the event of a crisis or disaster.

The Department has a significant supply of *Ready or Not?* brochures that give the public specific steps they can take to make sure they and their loved ones are prepared to disasters and emergencies of all kinds. In addition to English, the brochures are available in Spanish, Russian, Korean, and to a limited extent Vietnamese, Chinese and Cambodian.

The brochures give instructions for how to stay informed, what to have on hand in the event of an evacuation or need to shelter in place and how to prepare a family communications plan.

If your agency is interested in distributing these brochures, please contact Tim Elbertson, Community Outreach Coordinator at (610) 631-6510 or telberts@montcopa.org.

Large Diameter Hose Strike Team Drill

The Eastern Montgomery County Large Diameter Hose Strike Team conducted a drill Sunday, September 9th at McNeil's facilities in Springhouse with the goal of providing 1,000 gallons of water per minute over a distance of one mile for a sustained period of time.

Mission accomplished. The Strike Team, which consists of the Barren Hill, Colmar, Fort Washington, Horsham, North Penn, Oreland and Wissahickon fire companies, laid 6,200 feet of five-inch line for the drill.



Register Now for 2012 EDITS Conference

Registration is now open for the sixth bi-annual Emergency Disaster Incident Training Symposiums (EDITS), a unique training opportunity for emergency managers and first responders sponsored by the Eastern Montgomery County PA emergency managers.

EDITS 2012 "Building the Framework for Excellence" is scheduled for October 17th and 18th at Presidential Caterers, 2910 DeKalb Pike, East Norriton, PA.

This two-day affordable training will feature a keynote address by Gordon Graham, a nationally recognized expert in emergency and risk management, and presentations by a variety of knowledgeable speakers who have experienced recent major incidents.

Early bird registration is \$125 per person and ends September 15th, at which time the registration fee jumps to \$150. The registration form is in the attached announcements and can be found online at: <http://www.emema.org/pdf/RegistrationForm2012.pdf>

Topics and Speakers

- Gordan Graham, Keynote Speaker
"If you can Predict it, you can Prevent it"
- Dr. Kenneth W. Schor, DO, MPH
"Coordinating National Health in Disasters"
- Christopher Voss
"Pre-Planning Large Events"
- Lt. Tom Fitzpatrick
"Top Secret Terrorism Exercise-Lessons Learned and Lessons Reinforced"
- Gerald Baron
"Importance of Social Media in Emergency Management"
- Dr. Elizabeth Ablah, PhD, MPH
"Evaluating Response"
- Dr. Richard Gasaway
"Situational Awareness and Decision Making"
- Leo Pratte, Regional Emergency Services Directory Southeastern PA American Red Cross
"Working with Partner Services in Disaster Relief"
- Chief Mitch Randles, Joplin, MO
"Tornadoes of 2011"

Norristown to Host 133rd Firemen's Convention and Parade

The Norristown Fire Department will host the 133rd annual Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania Convention, September 26th through 29th.

This year's convention will focus on firefighter training and all meetings, the memorial and training will be held at the Montgomery County Fire Academy. The Convention Parade will wind through Norristown's Historic West End and Downtown Business District.

This year's Convention coincides with the 200th Anniversary of the Municipality of Norristown. Many civic groups, bands and floats are expected to join this year's parade, making it one of the largest and grandest in Norristown's history.

Please see the attached flyer for detailed information or access the information online at: <http://www.norristownfd.org/2012-convention.php>

You can watch what's happening at the Pennsylvania Firemen's Convention and Parade on Twitter: #FASP2012



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Montco Resource and Recovery Committee Formed

A new faith-based non-profit organization has formed to help those still struggling to recover in the aftermath of last year's Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

The Montgomery County Resource & Recovery Committee is on a mission is to use donated funds, resources and manpower to address any lingering issues from the two storms.

More than 3,300 Montgomery County residents registered for disaster assistance through FEMA after the two storms unleashed historic amounts of rainfall last summer. The resulting grants, personal insurance and low-interest loans covered some of the losses, but it doesn't appear to have been enough.

As a result, a number of local faith-based and non-profit organizations have come together and are offering assistance to those who still need help. Initial outreach to 750 FEMA registrants turned up 49 respondents who still need help with recovery from the storms.

Based on those numbers, the committee estimates between 200-250 Montgomery County families may still need help.

Volunteers trained in disaster case management have been meeting with the homeowners identified so far and found they have needs ranging from mold removal and replacing lost clothes to repairing damaged roofs and replenishing depleted bank accounts.

The Montgomery County Resource & Recovery Committee does not receive government funding and is unlikely to meet all of the needs with the resources it has unless it can find more community partners to help survivors maximize their available resources and speed up the road to recovery.

The committee is also in need of volunteers – primarily those who have a background in construction, engineering, architecture, etc.

If you know of someone who is still struggling to recover from the storms – or if you'd like to learn how you can help – please call the Resource & Recovery Committee at 215-207-9377 or email: montcorecovery@yahoo.com

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety supports the committee's mission of getting people back on the road to recovery. It is anticipated this will evolve into a standing committee that will be able to be used in future events.

DPS Hosts Blood Drive



The Montgomery County Public Safety Department would like to thank everyone who participated in the blood drive the department hosted last month.

The American Red Cross said your donations will touch (and maybe even save) the lives of 42 people in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Red Cross nurses and volunteers who made the event so successful. Here's to the power of the platelets!



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National Night Out Activities

The Montgomery County Commissioners and the Department of Public Safety were pleased to participate in National Night Out on August 7th in Franconia, Hatboro, Plymouth and Souderton and a Pre-Night Out in Abington on August 6th.



L-R: Telford Police Chief Randy Floyd, Commissioners Chair Josh Shapiro, DA Risa Ferman and Commissioner Bruce L. Castor, Jr.

The Franconia Township Police Department was also celebrating its 50th Anniversary and the township concluded its festivities with a rousing fireworks display.

Over 3,000 Montgomery County residents received information regarding emergency preparedness and the county's 9-1-1 system during the events. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, strengthen support for police in the community and let criminals know that neighbors are watching out for each other.

Calling 9-1-1 From A Cell Phone

Members of the public who call 9-1-1 from a cellular phone in communities near the County border are being asked to immediately state that "I'm calling from Montgomery County" when the call-taker answers the phone.

If the nearest cell tower to where the call is placed is across the border in a neighboring county, the call will be routed to the 9-1-1 centers in Philadelphia, Bucks, Berks, Chester or Delaware counties, depending on where the tower is located.

The neighboring 9-1-1 centers will transfer the call to Montgomery County, but the time it takes to figure the actual location out, transfer the call and then supply the information about the incident again could make a difference in saving someone's life.

Stating "I'm calling from Montgomery County" at the outset will greatly reduce any delay in getting people the help they need.

Using a landline to call 9-1-1 will result in the call automatically being routed to the proper call center.

Flyers to promote awareness of this issue have been distributed at local Night Out events, a brochure is being developed to promote awareness as well and this information will be forwarded to municipalities to consider using in their newsletters to residents.

Hazards Of Basement Fires Study

Fire Rescue Magazine reports in its August 2012 issue on a two-year UL study on the hazards of basement fires that found some surprising results.

Among other things, it concluded the collapse time of all unprotected wood floor systems are within the operational time of the fire service, regardless of response time; attacking a basement fire from a stairway places firefighters at risk because of the flow of hot gases up the stairs; and the temperatures at the bottom of the basement stairs were often worse than at the top.

A full online course about tackling basement fires safely can be found at:

<http://content.learnshare.com/courses/73/356711/player.html>



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Entry Level Fire Fighter Graduations

The Montgomery County Fire Academy and Montgomery County Community College graduated two classes from the Pennsylvania Entry Level Fire Fighter Course in August.

Eyewitness News reporter Walt Hunter, who served as a volunteer fire fighter for 29 years in Montgomery County, was the keynote speaker.

FF Kayla Angstadt of the Fogelsville Fire Company received the Fireground Support award for the Summer Essentials class. FF Seth Renner of the Perseverance Fire Company received the Exterior Firefighter award for the Summer Essentials class. FF Reed Apostol of the Malvern Fire Company received the Interior Firefighter award for the Summer Essentials class and FF Stephen Byrne of the Union Fire Company received the Interior Firefighter award for the Evening Essentials class from the Montgomery County Fire Advisory Board.

Congratulations to all. Below are group pictures from the ceremony and a list of graduates from each class:

Summer Essentials Daytime



Firefighter Jeremy Allen
Firefighter Kayla Angstadt
Firefighter Reed Apostol
Firefighter Len Babula
Firefighter Daniel Bussell
Firefighter Bill Cinaglia
Firefighter Alexander Clark
Firefighter Kristin Collins
Firefighter Michael Consorte
Firefighter Bianca DeLuca
Firefighter Marcus Demarici
Firefighter James DeStefano, Jr.
Firefighter Gregory Fasold
Firefighter Jonathan Ferraro
Firefighter Steven Henderson

Upper Salford Fire Company
Fogelsville Fire Company
Malvern Fire Company
Barren Hill Fire Company
Valley Forge Fire Company
Broomall Fire Company
King of Prussia Fire Company
Lima Fire Company
Harmonville Fire Company
King of Prussia Fire Company
Radnor Fire Company
Berwyn Fire Company
Flourtown Fire Company
Malvern Fire Company
Upper Salford Fire Company



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Summer Essentials Daytime Cont.

Firefighter Brian Kirk
Firefighter Douglas Lapp
Firefighter Zachary Long
Firefighter Joseph Maguire
Firefighter Erin McGuckin
Firefighter Brady McHale
Firefighter Walter Missimo
Firefighter Steven Peyton
Firefighter Alan Poindexter, Jr.
Firefighter Seph Renner
Firefighter John Ryan
Firefighter Adam Saylor
Firefighter Aaron Sifford
Firefighter David Tench
Firefighter Julia Valenti
Firefighter Keith Winnemore

Perkiomen Fire Company
Cochranville Fire Company
New Hanover Fire Company
Horsham Fire Company
New Hanover Fire Company
Gladwyne Fire Company
Llanerch Fire Company
King of Prussia Fire Company
LaMott Fire Company
Perserverance Fire Company
Concordville Fire Company
East Brandywyne Fire Company
Valley Forge Fire Company
Fogelsville Fire Company
King of Prussia Fire Company
Sanatoga Fire Company

Evening Essentials



Firefighter Mark Amorim
Firefighter Ryan Belcher
Firefighter Jarrett Berot
Firefighter Maxine Bickings
Firefighter Sean Boyd
Firefighter Stephen Byrne
Firefighter Matthew Caro
Firefighter Matson Carter
Firefighter Lucia Cianelli

Brookline Fire Company
Centre Square Fire Company
Middletown Fire Company
Harmonville Fire Company
Prospect Park Fire Company
Union Fire Association
Flourtown Fire Company
Perkiomen Fire Company
Broomall Fire Company



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Evening Essentials Cont.

Firefighter Erik Cleveland
Firefighter Stephen Cuffeld
Firefighter Christopher Foster
Firefighter William Hart
Firefighter Robert Hodes
Firefighter Kristen Kelly
Firefighter Jordan Koch
Firefighter Brittany Kronmuller
Firefighter Matthew Kruszewski
Firefighter Sean McGinley
Firefighter Eric Mellon
Firefighter Kyle Mellon
Firefighter Douglas Mouat
Firefighter Daniel Murphy
Firefighter John Mutchler
Firefighter Christian Nellett
Firefighter George Nixon, Jr.
Firefighter Calvin Perlman
Firefighter Deon Phillips
Firefighter Patrick Roberts
Firefighter Tyler Sandlin
Firefighter Christofer Savage
Firefighter Thomas Slater Jr
Firefighter Michael Sullivan
Firefighter Eddie Thorne, Jr.
Firefighter Jarrett Timlin
Firefighter Haley Vodopija
Firefighter Scott Wiercinski

Birdsboro-Union Fire Company
LaMott Fire Company
Lower Providence Fire Company
Prospect Park Fire Company
New Hanover Fire Company
Jefferson Fire Company
Manoa Fire Company
Kimberton Fire Company
Weldon Fire Company
Worcester Fire Company
Middletown Fire Company
Middletown Fire Company
Weldon Fire Company
Philadelphia Fire Company
McKinley Fire Company
Worcester Fire Company
LaMott Fire Company
Centre Square Fire Company
LaMott Fire Company
Lower Frederick Fire Company
King of Prussia Fire Company
Washington Fire Company
Lower Frederick Fire Company
Briarcliffe Fire Company
Manoa Fire Company
Norwood Fire Company
Perkiomen Fire Company
Broomall Fire Company

EMT Classes Graduate

Two new classes of Emergency Medical Technicians graduated from training this summer.

The new EMT's received training to assess a patient's injuries or medical condition, follow appropriate treatment protocols, administer medical treatment and properly transport the patient to the hospital.

The classes were held at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus.

Summer Accelerated Class at the PSTC

Krystal Akers	Nicole Jacona
Rohit Batish	Natalie Jusino
Shree Batish	Rachel Ko
Paige Bickel	Helen Moser
Veronika Bockmair	Natalie Pabon
Francisco Cacerez	Amar Patel
Daniel Ciabattoni	Vaikunt Ranganathan
Nathan Clapper	Jacob Reich
Justin Coogan	Daniel Reife
Melissa Corcoran	George Smith
Alison Cseko	Diana Wijtyk
Jacob Frankel	Stacey Wong
Crystal Gonzalez	



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PSTC Class Spring/Summer 2012

Yadira Alberto	Sean Littlewood
Magda Brennan	Alexa Malizia
Vaugh Bryan-Webb	Alvin Pagan
Sunny Chher	Rhondalyn Prado
Richard Finn	Jeremy Gurgbatow
Felisa Romero	Veronica Tsang
Colin Hunsicker	Colin Shive
Brett Hunter	Jennifer Stum
Alexander Kenigsberg	Charles Tarloski
Phillip Kim	Ian Thomas
Frederick Kraske	Mark Tiller
Shane Lester	

Radio Display Postponed

Due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts, a vendor display of radio equipment that had been scheduled for September 13th has been postponed. A new date will be communicated when it is rescheduled.

5th Fire District's Third-Quarter Meeting

The 5th Fire District will hold its third- quarter meeting on Wednesday, September 19th at the Towamencin Fire Company. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Topics will include candidates for the upcoming election and 2013 water battle. Please RSVP by calling (215) 260-1421 or (215) 699-8454

Training Officers Association Meeting

The Montgomery County Fire Training Officers Association (MCFTOA) is scheduled to meet Thursday, September 20th at 7 p.m. at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus.

Anne Le Tournreau, Pennsylvania's representative, and Tony Zampella, a senior manager at the Insurance Services Organization, will be there to discuss requirements for training record keeping. This is an important topic for Fire Training Officers, so members are asked to make every effort to attend.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

The next Emergency Management Coordinator's monthly training will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2012 at the Operations Center in Eagleville, PA. Thomas Bold, DEP Dam Safety, will be presenting information on Dam Emergency Action Planning. Amanda Atkins, Montgomery County Municipal Planning Specialist, will also overview the Special Needs Registry. The two-hour presentation is from 10am to Noon with a second session from 7-9pm. Please RSVP to Tom Piatek at 610-631-6515 or tpiatek@montcopa.org.

The October Emergency Management Coordinator's training will be held on Wednesday, the 24th, at the Operations Center in Eagleville, PA. John Casey, Engineer Environmental Operations for Norfolk Southern Railway, discusses railway safety and response for First Responders and Emergency Management Coordinators. The two-hour presentation is from 10am to Noon with a second session from 7-9pm. Please RSVP to Tom Piatek at 610-631-6515 or tpiatek@montcopa.org.



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A Basic Public Information Officer Course (G290) will be held Wednesday and Thursday, November 14th and 15th, at the Operations Center in Eagleville, PA.

This 16 hour course is designed to prepare participants to function as full- or part-time PIOs. Additionally, this training is a prerequisite and foundation for more advanced training that takes participants from the awareness level to the mastery level in their public information careers.

The Basic Public Information Officer course is on the list for Emergency Management Coordinator's and their staff working towards certification under PEMA Directive 2011-02 Professional Local or Advanced County.

Please refer to the calendar located at:

<https://www.google.com/calendar/feeds/rj2mj3nte2t1f3ng1bh434hhlg%40group.calendar.google.com/private-b2fdd5a74e6b2adcca10150f7533509c/basic>