

Chester County
Department of
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The Responder

An informational source for the
Emergency Responders of Chester County

September 2006



School Bus Safety Rules

For some 22 million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. Unfortunately, each year many children are injured and several are killed in school bus incidents.

School bus related crashes killed 164 persons and injured an estimated 18,000 persons nationwide in 1999, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and General Estimates System (GES).

Over the past six years, about 70% of the deaths in fatal school bus related crashes were occupants of vehicles other than the school bus and 20% were pedestrians. About 4% were school bus passengers and 2% were school bus drivers. Of the pedestrians killed in school bus related crashes over this period, approximately 77% were struck by the school bus.

Although drivers of all vehicles are required to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload passengers, children should not rely on them to do so. The National Safety Council encourages parents to teach their children these rules for getting on and off the school bus.

Rules for getting on and off the school bus

- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness. Do not stray onto streets, alleys or private property.
- Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
- Use the hand rail when stepping onto the bus.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- Stay away from the rear wheels at all times.

Behavior on the bus

- When on the bus, find a seat and sit down. Loud talking or other noise can distract the bus driver and is not allowed.
- Never put head, arms or hands out of the window.
- Keep aisles clear -- books or bags are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.
- Before you reach your stop, get ready to leave by getting your books and belongings together.

Correct way to cross the street

- Children should always stop at the curb or the edge of the road and look left, then right, and then left again before crossing.
- They should continue looking in this manner until they are safely across.
- If students' vision is blocked by a parked car or other obstacle, they should move out to where drivers can see them and they can see other vehicles -- then stop, and look left-right-left again.

DES Monthly Update

9-1-1 Operations: The 9-1-1 Operations Center processed 30,496 calls in July. This is over 980 per day and is unusually high because of the storm on the evening of 18 July. The large number of calls also caused our dispatch times to go up for the month. There were 1,502 Fire Dispatches and 3,029 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Dispatches. The average Fire/EMS dispatch time was 1 minute and 46 seconds. There were 27,858 police responses for the month of July. The average police dispatch time was 2 minutes and 34 seconds. We conducted 220 formal quality reviews for telephone, radio and Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD). The combined weighted average of 96% remains well above the Department objective of 90%.

Emergency Management: There were two HazMat Team responses and one Staff response in July. For the year there have been 11 Team responses and 12 Staff responses. All 73 municipalities have current municipal Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). A current EOP is defined by Commonwealth guidance as one that was signed by a majority of the current elected officials and the municipality has not had a major vulnerability change since the signing. Fifty-nine municipalities have signed declarations adopting the National Incident Management System and 53 have signed on to the County umbrella Mutual Aid Agreement. These are important actions to keep both the municipality and the county eligible for federal Homeland Security funds. The EOPs for three Day Care facilities, one dam and one private business were reviewed in July. The Disaster Recovery Center for the June flooding was open at Ludwigs Corner Firehouse from 7 to 21 July. So far a total of 248 County residents have applied with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Individual Assistance and 23 municipalities have begun the process to apply for Public Assistance. The Emergency Operations Center was activated from 20:00 on 18 July until 22:49 on 20 July in response to the storm and resulting power outages.

Fire Services: There were five Fire Training classes with 83 graduates in July. So far this year there have been 844 graduates in 48 classes. There were 292 fire inspections last month. So far this year there have been 1,471 inspections. In cooperation with local fire marshals, the County Fire Marshals conducted 36 investigations in July. So far this year the County Fire Marshals have conducted 249 investigations. A very serious arson case came to a conclusion this week with the sentencing of a Landenburg man to 5 - 10 years in State prison and the restitution of \$1,000,000 in damages. This was accomplished through the joint efforts of The Chester County Fire Marshals Office and the State Police. The Chester County Fire Marshals Office is currently working with several municipal police departments in connection with numerous arson fires. Almost 1/4 of the fires investigated by the Chester County Fire Marshals Office are incendiary in nature. Many of the arson cases involve juvenile offenders. Fortunately there is a high rate of apprehension and these juveniles are required to participate in the Chester County Fire Marshals "Juvenile Fire Setters Intervention Program". This program has been very successful and is endorsed by the law enforcement community as well as the Judges at all levels. The program enjoys a less than 1% repeat rate.



Camping safety tips

- Always use a flame retardant tent and set up camp far away from the campfire.
- Only use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns inside the tent or any other closed space, not liquid-filled heaters or lanterns.
- Always build your campfire down wind away from your tent. Clear all vegetation and dig a pit surrounded by rocks before building your campfire.
- Store liquid fire starter (not gasoline) away from your tent and campfire and only use dry kindling to freshen a campfire.
- Always put out a campfire when going to sleep or leaving the campsite. To extinguish the fire, cover with dirt or pour water over it

GETTING TO KNOW...



John Terlizzi

president of Operations for an Ethan Allen furniture store.

John has worked his way up through the ranks of DES. He has been a call taker, police dispatcher and scope operator. He became an APCO instructor in June 1999.

He worked as an instructor helping teach the new call takers and police classes until he became the Assistant Training Coordinator in 2001.

He is the lead instructor for all training classes held for the radio room personnel. He oversees the all the Telecommunication classes: call taking with Emergency

Medical Dispatch , Police Dispatching, Certified Training Officer and Supervisor Training.

John also trains all the radio room employees on any new equipment that may be placed in the radio room and is a member of the DES Quality team.

In his spare time John enjoys reading and working on his tan, either at the beach or on the patio in the back yard. John resides in Lancaster County.

DES Director, Health Director and HazMat Chief attend training.

Director Atkins along with Health Director Dr. Maher and HazMat Chief Glass attended a three-day intensive course dealing with Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents conducted by instructors from the National Center For Biomedical Research and Training Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education for the Louisiana State University. The course provided a good overview of the Effects and Treatment of Biological Agents; Threats and Vulnerabilities related to Bioterrorism incidents and issues regarding the response to a Biological Incident. The course culminated with a six-hour strenuous tabletop exercise where the participants were put through the paces using their particular expertise to handle the event. Chester County is now a little better prepared to respond to a Biological Incident.

METERING TIPS:

Check expiration dates on Calibration Gas!

Each fire company received multi-gas meters that can be used to detect various hazards in the atmosphere. In order to receive accurate readings the meters must be checked against a known gas to ensure that the sensors in the meters are working properly. On a regular basis, the meters should be calibrated according to the manufacturer's instructions, which again ensures that the meters are doing what they are intended to do.

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The successful implementation of NIMS depends on the participation and integration of all state, territorial, local and community-based organizations, including any public, non-governmental and private organizations that may have a role in preparing for or responding to an all hazards incident. Achieving NIMS compliance for the county will preserve Chester County's eligibility for further federal preparedness funding.

The county has reviewed and included all required organizations in its NIMS implementation efforts, including private sector emergency medical and hospital providers, transportation systems, utilities and special facilities such as industrial plants, nuclear power plants and factories.

The Emergency Management Division of the Department of Emergency Services has been holding training classes for the following: IS-700: NIMS An Introduction, IS-100: Introduction to ICS, IS-200: Basic ICS and IS-800: National Response Plan (NRP): An Introduction. These courses were provided in April, May and June with classes being well attended. The number of individuals completing the required course are as follows: IS-700 - 1,514; IS-100 - 309; IS-200 - 110 and IS-800 - 97.

DES has been working with the 73 municipalities and first responders located within the county to assist them in becoming NIMS compliant.

Training Opportunities

Please visit the department website for the most current information
or contact the appropriate division



Fire Training

- 9/9 Pumper/Driver Operator
- 9/16 Firefighter II
- 9/30 Rapid Intervention Teams

Con-Ed Training

- 9/6 PALS Contact: John Applegate 610-363-1067
- 9/7 PALS R Contact: John Applegate 610-363-1067
- 9/18 Respiratory Emergencies Contact: Bob Horton 610-960-2203

Emergency Management Training

- 11/2 & 11/4 CERT Contact: Rosemary Geldof 610-344-5000



HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN ARTICLE YOU
WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN
THE RESPONDER?

CONTACT PIO PATTY MAINS WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS.
PMAINS@CHESCO.ORG

EMMA & NFIRS Reports are due on
the 15th of every month to Bob
Kagel. Contact him with any ques-
tions: rkagel@chesco.org or
610.344.5000