



January 2006

# The Responder

Chester County Department of Emergency Services  
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www.chesco.org/des

An informational source for the  
Emergency Responders of Chester County

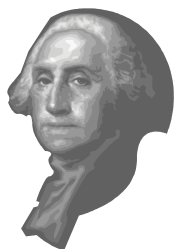
## DES Monthly Update

**9-1-1 Operations:** In December the 9-1-1 Operations Center processed 24,376 emergency calls for an average of 786 per day. For the first time there were more 9-1-1 calls placed from wireless phones (7,811) than there were from wire line phones (6,947). The balance of the emergency calls (9,618) were 10-digit calls. In 2005 the 9-1-1 Operations Center handled 297,451 emergency calls of which 89,473 were wire line 9-1-1 calls, 82,520 were wireless 9-1-1 calls, and 125,458 were 10-digit calls. In December there were 983 fire responses and 3,005 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses. The average Fire/EMS dispatch time was 1 minute and 40 seconds. There were 22,439 police responses for the month of December. The average police dispatch time was 1 minute and 53 seconds. We conducted 207 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%. Comm-1 deployed twice for community events. During 2005, Comm-1 deployed on 12 emergencies and 25 community events.

**Emergency Management:** There was one HazMat Team response in December. For the year there were 15 team responses and 17 staff responses. In December the Emergency Management Division reviewed the emergency plans for three day care facilities, one dam and one municipality. During 2005 the division reviewed plans for 71 hazardous chemical storage sites, seven schools, 30 day care facilities, five hospitals and nursing homes, 24 dams, two private businesses and two municipalities. Last month there was one Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness class for 17 emergency responders. During the year there were 47 classes for 679 emergency responders.

**Fire Services:** In cooperation with local fire marshals, the County Fire Marshals conducted 25 investigations last month. The Fire Marshals conducted 390 investigations in 2005. There were 15 fire inspections in December for a 2005 total of 1,116. There were 12 Fire Training Classes with 285 graduates. For 2005, the Fire Services Division has conducted 113 classes with 2,617 graduates.

**Field Services:** The Field Services Division continues to review, along with the County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations the proposed changes to the EMS Act. The draft Act can be seen at the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services website, [www.pehsc.org](http://www.pehsc.org). Please copy us on any comments you have. The Office of EMS and DES will also be holding a Town Meeting here, at the Government Services Center on March 29, 2006 to solicit comments and input on the new draft. This is YOUR chance to have input into the EMS law that will govern us for the next ten or more years. The division has been actively involved in updating the Pennsylvania Ambulance Strike Team concept. We have been working with the Office of EMS to develop guidelines for the EMS Strike Teams in case of future deployment. Work is in progress on current training and equipment requirements based on the experiences of the deployments in Louisiana this year.



DES Administration  
Offices will be closed on  
February 20 in Obser-  
vance of Presidents Day.

Coming up in Next Month's responder:  
DES End of Year Summary

Attention  
Fire & EMS Chiefs:  
Please send in your up-  
dated officer listing to  
Patty Mains. Thank you!!

## 2006 Association Officers

### Chester County Fire Chiefs Association

Glenn Allison, President

Robert "Hoofy" Doan, Vice  
President

Jon Brill, Secretary

Tom Lee, Treasurer

Jack Law, Membership

### Police Chiefs Association

Chief John Slauch, President

Chief Ralph Burton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice  
President

Chief Scott Bohn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
President

Lt. Mike Spirito, Recording  
Secretary

Chief James Franciscus,  
Financial Secretary

Chief Tom Nelling, Treasurer

Lt. Joe Gleason, Sergeant at Arms

Chief. J. Patrick Davis, Chaplain

### EMS Council, Inc.

Bob Hotchkiss, President

John Felicetti, Vice President

Mike Groff, Secretary

Frank Sullivan, Treasurer

### Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Robert Fleming, President

Russell Phifer, Vice President

## Congratulations to the following new chiefs:

Chief Mark McCarthy, West Chester Fire Department,  
Chief Paul Wilkins, Malvern Fire Company, Chief  
Tom Nelling, Concordville Fire Company, Delaware  
County

Chief Mike Holmes, Lionville Fire Company

## Candle Fires on the Increase

Careless use of candles is on the increase causing an estimated 18,000 home fires during the year 2001. These fires resulted in an estimated 1,450 civilian injuries, 190 civilian deaths, and an estimated \$265 million in property loss. (2001 is the most current year for data). The preliminary data for post 2001 indicate a steady rise in candle related fires. One-third (34%) of candle related fires were due to "unattended candles". Twenty-six percent were due to combustibles too close to the candle. Six percent were started by people playing with the candle, which usually were children. Reported candle fires in homes rose 15% from 2000 to 2001, hitting a 22-year high in 2001. (The most recent year for this data) As the popularity of burning candles in the home increase the incidents of home fires caused by candles will follow. There are no statistics available as to the amount of home fires caused by "inferior or defective candles". This office investigates many candle related fires that are due to cheap, imported candles. (Documentation or confirmation of this data is extremely difficult due to evidence destruction and rely on victim information)

## DES Welcomes New Employee

Please join us in welcoming John Bowman to the staff of Emergency Services. John has been hired as a Planner in the Emergency Management Division. John recently worked at Acme Markets and has a long history as a volunteer with the Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company.