

The Responder



Chester County Department of Emergency Services
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An informational source for the
Emergency responders of Chester County

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Recently, the Department of Emergency Services formalized a policy documenting that we are good stewards of the public money entrusted to us from the federal, state and county governments. The premise of policy #100-19 "Good Standing" is to ensure organizations are current in maintenance and accountability of equipment, provide required reports and satisfied all outstanding financial obligations, before any additional equipment, grant funding or other assistance is distributed. Examples; any items lost or miss-

Good Standing Policy

This is not intended to be punitive. It is simply a way for us to be sure equipment is properly used and maintained, while allowing us to demonstrate the tracking of funds.

ing must be accounted for and/or replaced prior to the consideration of a new request; ambulance trip tickets as required by EMS are up to date; all monies due for any training class are paid in full; an agency must be in compliance with all policies and procedures of all Divisions of the Department of Emergency Services.

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Attention EMS Providers:

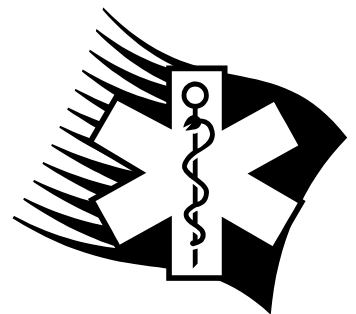
You may be contacted by Metropolitan Communications regarding MDC installations. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Steve Webb at 610-344-5000

First Responder Bridge Course

A long awaited pilot project will soon commence here in Chester County, which will bridge those PA certified First Responders (or American Red Cross Emergency Responders) to their EMT certification. The course is slated to begin September 7th and run through the end of October; meeting two nights a week and several Saturdays. The course requires an admission evalua-

tion process, to be conducted in late August, consisting of practical skills evaluation in a scenario based setting and a written test. Twenty four seats are open to those interested candidates. The project has roots in Chester County's EMS Training Institute and was recently approved as a pilot by the Department of Health. Those interested in this innovative course may phone the EMS

Training Coordinator at 610-344-5000 or by email at lpierce@chesco.org.



DES Monthly Update

9-1-1 Operations: The 9-1-1 Operations Center processed 24,907 calls or about 800 per day during the month of May. Of these calls, 10,638 were on 10-digit lines, 7,414 were wire line 9-1-1 calls and 6,855 were wireless 9-1-1 calls. During the month, there were 923 fire responses, 2,644 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses, and 25,701 police responses. The average Fire/EMS dispatch time was 1 minute and 19 seconds. The average police dispatch time was 1 minute and 50 seconds. A total of 329 formal quality reviews for telephone, radio and Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) were conducted during the month. The combined weighted average of 96% remains well above the Department objective of 90%.

Emergency Management: To date, 42 municipalities have enacted resolutions adopting the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as

the standard for responding to emergency incidents. This resolution is one component of demonstrating compliance with the federally mandated NIMS program. The second component is NIMS training. The easiest way to satisfy the training requirement is to take the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web-based independent study course on NIMS available at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS>. If one prefers, a classroom version of NIMS training is taught throughout the County by the Department of Emergency Services. See the Training Opportunities on page 4 for dates.

For several years the federal government has stated for a community to be eligible for Mitigation Grant money following a disaster, they must have a Hazard Mitigation Plan in place prior to the disaster. They are serious about this. Several municipalities in Pennsylvania

have been denied mitigation grants from the storm this spring because they did not have mitigation plans in place. There are two ways a municipality can satisfy this requirement: They can develop their own Disaster Mitigation Plan or they can sign on to the already approved County Plan. If you would like help for either approach call 610-344-5000

Technical: Chester County is in the process of installing Mobile Data Computers (MDC's) in the Chester County Ambulances. These new MDCs will replace the older Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) that have been in service for about 8 years. The MDCs will improve patient care by allowing the first ambulance on the scene to begin a patient care report that will later be transmitted to the hospital Emergency Department. The MDCs were made available by grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Health

and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. A companion project to replace MDTs and MDCs for the police and to provide 2 MDCs for each fire company is in coordination with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

Fire Services: In cooperation with local fire marshals, the County Fire Marshals conducted 31 investigations last month. There were 12 fire training classes in May with 352 graduates. So far this year, the Department of Emergency Services has conducted 40 classes with 1140 graduates. Thanks to a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security, 55 Thermal Imaging Cameras were distributed to county fire companies. These cameras were manufactured by Bulvard and will assist fire fighters with personal protection, search and rescue and other various duties preformed by fire fighters.

Donate Your Acme Receipts to the Hero Fund

In January 2005, Albertsons Inc., Acme Markets, offered the Chester County Hero Fund a no cost fundraiser. Acme will donate 1% of the total of all receipts collected to the Hero Fund. As of May 31st, Chester County Emergency Service Providers have collected enough receipts for a generous donation of \$2175.57. If you



wish to collect and donate Acme receipts, contact Marge Gordon (County coor-

dinator) at 610-719-0510. The Hero Fund is a charity organization established to

render financial assistance to the families who are left with little or no support when an emergency service provider is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty. If you would like to make a contribution or to learn more on how you can help call 610-407-4448 or go to our website: chestercountyherofund.com

EMS Training Institute Graduates EMT-B Class

The long grueling road to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification led fifteen candidates to their EMT Graduation ceremony which was held at the Government Service Center in West Chester on May 26th. The course, which began in January of this year, concluded with the candidates receiving their PA EMT certifications in front of family, friends, co-workers and EMS instructors. The ceremony, held at the conclusion of each EMT-Basic Class, recognizes the commitment and

efforts of the EMT candidates and allows family and friends to take part in their important accomplishment. Personal achievement awards are given out to those maintaining perfect attendance throughout the 140 + hours of the rigorous course and to those who excel academically. The evening also featured a pictorial presentation about their class. Andrew Gilger, EMS Planning and Clinical System Manager for the State Department of Health, Office of EMS, was the fea-

tured keynote speaker for the ceremony. Praising the newest group of EMT's for their accomplishments, he spoke of the future of EMS in the Commonwealth. Mr. Gilger, along with Director Ed Atkins and Deputy Director Steve Webb, presented the class with their certificates. Afterward, they each raised their right hand and recited the Oath of Geneva, an oath for those entering into the medical profession. Members of the class presented a skit spoofing the instructor staff and their

experiences, and followed it by presenting thank you cards and a class photo to each of their instructors. The following were members of the Spring 2005 EMT-Basic course: Salvatore Alfano Jr., Timothy M. Brown, Richard L. Donnell Jr., Shannon A. Glenn, Jeffrey Godin, Amy Huch, Samantha K. Jackson, Rachael M. Kinsey, Emily B. Moffitt, Eileen Navarro, Heidimarie I. Opperman, Stephen A. Redding, Paul D. Sheets, Sarah Stumpf, and Jason Wilkens.

Fire Marshal Update

During the month of May, the Fire Marshal's office responded to 31 investigations; 28 accidental, 1 undetermined, and 2 incendiary. Fire related injuries consisted of 11 civilians and 1 firefighter. Property at risk, \$5,317,250; Property Loss, \$1, 223,250. To date conducted 17 Juvenile Fire Setters Intervention Programs and completed 410 building inspections. Within the last few months, fire companies have responded to residential fires in which the resi-

dence is "full of stuff"; wall to wall, floor to ceiling in every room of everything imaginable. In two cases, doorways were blocked as were the majority of the windows. This made suppression difficult, if not impossible in some areas. After an initial interior attack, the OIC decided

to go to an exterior attack due to the possibility of collapse of either part of the structure or the stacked "stuff" on the suppression crews. This proved to be an excellent decision by the OIC as stuff started to fall that would have hindered the suppression crew, possibly trapping them. In the other

case, they had a collapse of the first floor to the basement just from the weight of the "stuff" and the added weight of the water absorbed by the "stuff". Both of these incidents could have resulted in serious injury or loss of life to firefighters without a good strategy and tactical plan. Whether you are an OIC now, future OIC, or firefighter in charge at an incident, expect the unexpected. Training, education and experience is the key to a successful end result. Please be safe.

Whether you are an OIC now, future OIC, or firefighter that may be in charge at an incident, expect the unexpected.

CISM

The people we see in our response to their emergencies are very anxious, upset, and STRESSED. We, as responders can also become stressed by some of the things we experience as we help others. Where can we, as responders, turn for assistance? Who would understand what we've been through? Chester County has a group of seasoned Police, Fire, and EMS Responders who have special training in Stress Management, the Critical Incident Stress Management or CISM Team! This group will assist any Emergency Provider deal with the stress of responding to emergencies; whether you're paid in money or something else (Volunteer); and it won't cost you a dime, it's FREE! The CISM Team can come to Your Station to give you an overview of who we are and what we do. You even get Con-ed credits for it!! We have three continuing education classes that we can teach for credits. A CISM Team member authored one here in Chester County.

Would you like more information? Contact the Coordinator at (610) 344-5021 or email cism@chesco.org.

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Spring 2005 Fire I Graduation

The Chester County Fire Training Division held its Spring 2005 Fire I Program graduation at the Fame Fire Company, West Chester, PA, on Wednesday, May 11, 2005. The Guest Speaker was Major Jeff Lipson, USMC. The Academic Award for the highest grade point average was presented to Robert Felker, Wagontown Fire Company. Class Cadet, who is selected by the graduating class for the Cadet who showed the most improvement throughout the



2005 Fire I graduating class poses for their graduation picture

class was presented to Melissa Hamilton of Coatesville Fire Department. Congratulations to the Graduating Class: Paoli Fire Company: Eric Daly, Longwood Fire Company: Paul

Agostini, Chris Picard, Cole Simeral, Pomeroy Fire Company: Robert Liney, Honey Brook Fire Company: Shawn Manning, Wagontown

Fire Company: Kody Armentrout, Rob Felker, Thorndale Fire Company: Vincent D'Amico, Coatesville Fire Department: Melissa Hamilton, Mousa Hawa, Chris Trainor, First West Chester Fire Company: Anthony Cascone, Goodwill Fire Company: James Devenny, Brian Stover, Fame Fire Company: Brad Cosgrove, Brian Nicholson, Goshen Fire Company: Ed Gorrie, Ludwig's Corner Fire Company: Thomas Duym, Matt Robinson, and Josh Spangler.

Training Opportunities

For more information on Fire, EMS or Emergency Management Training, please call 610.344.5000 and ask for the appropriate division.

Con-Ed Training

7/7 Surface Trauma
8/4 Respiratory Emergencies

Fire Training

7/9 Confined Space Rescue
7/23 Off Road Vehicle Rescue
8/13 Pumper/Driver Operations

NIMS Training

held in Room 042 at the GSC from 8:30-11:30

June 22
July 13
August 24

CERT/VOAD

8/11 & 8/13 CERT/VOAD Training
Contact Emergency Management
