



The Responder

Chester County Department of Emergency Services
601 Westtown Road, Suite 12, West Chester, PA 19380

An informational source for the
Emergency Responders of Chester County

September 2005

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EMS Council holds its Annual Awards Ceremony

On September 14, the Chester County Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc. held its Annual Awards Ceremony at the Fame Fire Company. Robert Hotchkiss, President of the Council, was Master of Ceremony. Chester County Commissioner Andrew Dinniman and John Felicetti, Vice-President of the Council, presented plaques to the award winners.

The Chester County EMS Distinguished Service Award was given to Sandy Fry. The distinguished service award is given to an individual in the Chester County EMS community who has positively impacted the EMS system or Community through longevity of exceptional service. Sandy has been an EMS provider for 20 years and also is one of the coordinators for the National EMS Memorial Service, which is held each year in Roanoke, VA.

The Chester County EMS Council, Inc. Citizen Award was given to B.J. O'Connell for his true

heroism and quick thinking actions that saved the life of a friend who had fallen into an ice covered pond.

The Dispatcher of the Year was given to Jeanine Dougherty. The Instructor of the Year was given to Jerry Peters. The EMT of the Year was given to H. Barclay Hargreaves.

The ALS Practitioner of the Year was given to Adrienne Pohar. Adrienne was also awarded a Life-saving/Clinical Excellence Award for the aggressive pre-hospital neonatal resuscitative care she gave to a pre-mature newborn.

Stork Pins were given out to providers who delivered babies in a pre-hospital setting: Tim Noonan and Kira Dodd, Spring City Area Ambulance; Scott McLimans, and Amanda Riggs, Chester County Department of Emergency Services, 9-1-1 Dispatchers. A Lifesaving / Clinical Save Award was also given to 3 firefighters from Union Fire Company of Oxford for their rescue of an unconscious resident. Those awarded: Fire-

fighter/EMT Allen Fowler and Firefighters Morgan Derr, and Rick Prettyman.

Awards were given out to emergency services providers who initiated life-saving care to patients in cardiac arrest. All of the patients that these providers gave care to were discharged from the hospital several days after their incident. The awards were given to:

Paramedic Dee Griffith, Medic 94; EMT John Lee, West Grove Fire Company EMS; EMT Dan Eichinger, West Grove Fire Company EMS; Paramedic Don Nardelli, Former West Grove Fire Company EMS; EMT Dennis Bisson, Longwood Fire Company EMS; EMT Kevin Sweeney, Avondale Fire Company EMS; EMT Tom Harley, Avondale Fire Company EMS; Paramedic Brian Casson, Medic 94; Officer John Gibson, New Garden Township Police; Officer Dave Wegner, New Garden Township Police; EMT Kelly Finicone, Avondale Fire Company EMS; Chief Chris

Obenchain, Union Fire Company; Firefighter B.J. Meadowcroft, Union Fire Company; EMT Shelly Meadowcroft, Union Fire Company EMS; Paramedic Allen Wood, Medic 94; Paramedic Don Keith, Medic 94; EMT Eric Phillips, Washington Hose Fire Co.; EMT Robert Patterson, Washington Hose Fire Co.; EMT/Paramedic Teresa Patton, Medic 93; EMT/Paramedic Michelle Catania, Medic 93; EMT Steve Beebe, Martins Corner Fire Co. EMS; EMT Chuck Ryan, Sadsburyville Fire Company; EMT Tony Profeto, Sadsburyville Fire Company; EMT Scott Weaver, Sadsburyville Fire Company; EMT/Paramedic David High, Medic 93; EMT Dave Varner, Minquas Fire Company EMS; EMT Nathan Spece, Minquas Fire Company EMS; EMT/Paramedic Thomas Mamo, Minquas Fire Company EMS; Officer Michael Carsello, Tredyffrin Police; Officer Joseph Butler, Tredyffrin Police and Paramedic Thomas Stauffer, Malvern Fire Company EMS.

DES Monthly Update

9-1-1 Operations: The 9-1-1 Operations Center processed 26,519 calls or about 855 per day during the month of August. There were 976 fire responses and 2,683 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses. The average Fire/EMS dispatch time was 1 minute and 45 seconds. There were 25,336 police responses. The average police dispatch time was 1 minute and 50 seconds. The Department conducted 230 formal quality reviews for telephone, radio and Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD). The combined weighted average of 95% remains well above the Department objective of 90%. Comm 1 deployed twice for emergencies and twice for community events during the month.

Technical: We still are working on the planning for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ordered Re-Banding of the 800 MHz system. Although the Transition Administrator (TA) has acknowledged receipt of our request for \$677,000 of advance planning money we still do not know if this will be approved. If we do not receive this money, we will suspend planning activities in preparation for ne-

gotiations with Nextel that are scheduled to begin in February 2006. This action will be problematic for Nextel, the FCC and the TA but it will not have any operational effect on our radio system.

The four EF Johnson Ascend portable radios we were using for testing were shipped back to the factory after we experienced failures in three of the four. EF Johnson is unable to tell us when we will get new test portables or mobiles. This is a further complicating issue for the Re-Banding effort since our current radios will not be Re-Banded by EF Johnson and they do not have an acceptable replacement available.

The Mobile Data Computer (MDC) installation project is essentially complete for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations. The first 50 MDCs for the police and fire services have been received. We are coordinating the installation schedules with the Police Chiefs Association and the Fire Chiefs Association.

Emergency Management: There was one HazMat Team response on the PA Turnpike with Station 5, East Whiteland Fire Com-

pany. A van with water treatment chemicals was involved in the accident.

One of the major themes at the 2005 Pennsylvania Counterterrorism Symposium held in State College during the last week of August was the importance of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The NIMS will soon be the foundation for everything we do in emergency services. Training is important both so we understand the system and to ensure continued Federal funding. NIMS online training is available at www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb. The Department will also conduct a series of classroom sessions of the same course at firehouses and ambulance stations throughout the County for the remainder of 2005. For 2006 and beyond, NIMS training will be an integral part of initial fire, emergency medical or emergency management training. It doesn't matter how you get the training, but it is important that everyone involved in emergency services be trained.

Fire Services: In cooperation with local fire marshals the County Fire Marshals conducted 38

investigations in June. So far in 2005 the Fire Marshals have conducted 260 investigations. There were 43 fire inspections last month making a total of 826 inspections so far this year. Last month there were nine Fire Training Classes with 214 graduates. So far this year we have conducted 60 classes with 1,505 graduates.

Field Services: There are 40 new Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) who graduated from the summer EMT classes. Congratulations to all! The First Responder to EMT Bridge Class has started with 14 First Responders enrolled. This state pilot program is designed to pick up where First Responder training leaves off and add the skills in the EMT scope of practice. If this class proves successful, there may be additional bridge programs in the future.

Coming next month in *The Responder*:

- Information on Wireless 9-1-1, Reverse 9-1-1 and VoIP
- Premise Information

Chester County receives two PESH Awards

The PA Emergency Service-Health Care Council presented their annual awards on August 19, 2005 at the Penn State Hotel and Conference Center in State College. Among the award winners:

Westwood Fire Company

Ambulance Service was given the award for Ambulance Service of the Year. Westwood received the award for their development of their ambulance service, staffed wholly by volunteers and for their activity in the area of AED promotion; having provided AEDs for

all the local municipal police cars.

Jeanine Dougherty was given the award for Dispatcher of the Year. Jeanine received the award for her dedicated involvement in training and mentoring her fellow telecommunicators.

She also received the award for the outstanding individual performance that she displayed on a child abduction incident in which her actions assisted in safely reuniting the child and her mother, and bringing the incident to a successful conclusion.

September is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and schools. The campaign, co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross, also includes more than 190 national groups and all 56 states and territories to highlight the importance of public emergency preparedness.

The goal of National Preparedness Month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. During September, the National Preparedness Month Coalition Members asks all Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for emergencies including getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about different threats and getting involved in preparing their communities.

- **Get a Kit-** Get a kit of emergency supplies that will allow you and your family to survive for at least three days in the event an emergency happens.
- **Make a Plan-** Plan in advance what you and your family will do in an emergency.
- **Be Informed-** Learn more about different threats that could affect your community and appropriate responses to them.
- **Get Involved-** After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step: get training in first aid and emergency response and get involved in preparing your community. Learn about training and volunteer opportunities through your local Citizen Corps Council or American Red Cross Chapter.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is fast approaching. This year Fire Prevention Week is October 9 – 15, with a theme of “Use Candles with Care; when you go out, blow out.” Candles may look nice, but they’re a growing threat in our communities. Candle fires account for 2.4% of all fires, result in 6% of total injuries from fires and 3% of

all fatalities from fires. These figures will rise with the significant increase of candle usage. What’s more, young school-aged children are the most likely to be the victims of fires started by candles. Knowing the facts about candles is a key to fire safety. The misuse of candles account for 85% of all

candle fire incidents. Unattended candles account for a large portion of candle related fires. If you are not in the room with a lit candle, extinguish it. When using candles, remember to:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended
- Never have a burning

candle near items that may catch fire.

- Keep burning candles out of the reach of children and pets.

Remember to check smoke detectors regularly and install new batteries every 6 months!

Hurricane Information

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, the generic term for a low pressure system that generally forms in the tropics. A typical cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms, and in the Northern Hemisphere, a counter-clockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface. All Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastal areas are subject to hurricanes or tropical storms. Parts of the Southwest

United States and the Pacific Coast experience heavy rains and floods each year from hurricanes spawned off Mexico. The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June to November, with the peak season from mid-August to late October. Hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage to coastlines and several hundred miles inland. Winds can exceed 155 miles per hour. Hurricanes and tropical storms can also spawn tornadoes and microbursts,

create storm surges along the coast, and cause extensive damage from heavy rainfall. Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential (see chart). Category Three and higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, though Categories One and Two are still extremely dangerous and warrant your full attention

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Scale Number (Category)	Sustained Winds	Damage	Storm Surge
1	74-95	Minimal: Unanchored mobile homes,	4-5 feet
2	96-110	Moderate: All mobile homes, roofs,	6-8 feet
3	111-130	Extensive: Small buildings, low-lying	9-12 feet
4	131-155	Extreme: Roofs destroyed, trees down, roads cut off, mobile homes	13-18 feet
5	More than 155	Catastrophic: Most buildings destroyed. Vegetation destroyed.	Greater than 18 feet

Training Opportunities

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

Fire Training

- Oct. Fire I
1
- Oct. Confined Space Rescue
8
- Oct. Trench Rescue
22
- Nov. Off Road Vehicle Rescue
5
- Nov. Fire Police
8
- Nov. Fire Officer I Certification
12
- CON-ED**
- Oct. ACLS R
6 Contact Jerry Peters
610-431-5567
- Oct. NIMS
19 Contact Leroy Pierce
610-344-5000
- Oct. ACLS
27 Contact Jerry Peters
610-431-5567