Deadline Approaching for 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Applications

The application deadline for the Department of Public Safety’s next class of 9-1-1 Telecommunicators is quickly approaching! Telecommunicators answer incoming emergency calls and texts from the public and dispatch police, fire, and EMS responders to the scene. The application period closes on **Wednesday, March 6th at 11:59 PM.**

Applicants selected for the job will start the paid training program on Monday, April 8th. The starting salary during classroom training is $40,799.46. After certification, which most staff reach approximately six months after their first day of training, the salary increases to $50,400.91.


HazMat Team Assists with Annual Operations Refreshers

Throughout the month of February, in addition to their normal training requirements, members of the Hazardous Materials Response Team assisted with three HazMat Operations Refresher courses for firefighters across Montgomery County. The Team was in Conshohocken on February 14th (right), East Greenville on the 15th (below), and then wrapped up the month in Lower Merion Township on February 26th. County HazMat Technicians also attended an Ops refresher in Whitpain back in January and are scheduled to be in Abington and Lower Frederick in March.

The goals of these partnerships are to promote better relations between County and municipal responders, provide an awareness of HazMat Team capabilities, resources, and operations, and give firefighters a different approach to the practical portion of the program that they have to complete on an annual basis.

Interested in learning more about the HazMat Team or partnering for a future training session? Contact Hazardous Materials Program Administrator Brandon Pursell at [Brandon.Pursell@montgomerycountypa.gov](mailto:Brandon.Pursell@montgomerycountypa.gov).
US&R Team Trains in Boat Operations, Collapse Rescue

On Sunday, February 3rd, fifteen members of the Montgomery County Urban Search & Rescue Team braved the icy cold waters of the Delaware River to conduct some emergency boat operation skills (right). Over the preceding weeks, heavy rain and increased downstream flow enhanced underwater geological features in the river, creating unique water currents and large standing waves. These conditions mimic what responders can encounter and have experienced during real-life flooding events. Boat operators practiced skills such as navigating and holding in wave trains and ferrying into non-conducive spaces to make subject picks from objects.

Much like the drivers of emergency vehicles on land, boat operators have a huge responsibility. With the support of their assigned crew, they must be able to read and understand water dynamics, know the capabilities of their craft, and maintain their composure when the unexpected happens. With these obligations in mind, the US&R Team travels to train in different environments and expose operators to diverse conditions.

A few weeks later, on Thursday, February 15th, the Team held a search and rescue drill at the Allied Recycling Center in Upper Dublin Township, in partnership with the Fort Washington Fire Company and the Upper Dublin Township Office of Emergency Management.

Responders were faced with the aftermath of a simulated severe weather event, which included the collapse of a masonry-type building and multiple missing subjects. This was an invaluable opportunity to operate on real, unstable rubble piles (left), composed of both natural materials (mulch, branches, vegetation) and manmade construction debris (concrete, rebar, stone, etc.).

Live volunteer victims were hidden throughout the complex, along with fake body parts in the debris. US&R members and Fort Washington firefighters climbed the piles, checked pieces of large machinery, and searched areas in and around structures on site. The exercise also integrated four-legged rescuers, with search dogs Surf and Luna sniffing out the scents of live victims and alerting their human handlers that further assistance was needed in a particular area.

Many thanks to Allied Landscape & Contractor Supply for hosting the drill and to Station 88 and Upper Dublin Township for participating! Montgomery County US&R is always working hard to ensure mission-readiness. Agencies and individuals interested in learning more about the Team may contact Task Force Leader Joseph Dishler at Joseph.Dishler@montgomerycountypa.gov.
Montgomery County
Commissioners
Jamila H. Winder
Neil K. Makhija
Thomas DiBello

Department of Public Safety Personnel Changes

Jake Frye was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Director of Emergency Management for Special Operations. As the Assistant Director of Emergency Management, he is responsible for the coordination and management of the Hazardous Materials Response Team, Urban Search and Rescue Team, Logistics program, and other county-sponsored response teams. Jake started with Montgomery County as the Radiological Planner in 2019 and moved into the role of Emergency Preparedness Specialist in 2020. Jake holds an associate’s degree from the Montgomery County Community College and a bachelor’s degree in fire science and public safety administration from Holy Family University. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in emergency services management from Columbia Southern University. Jake also serves as a Lieutenant and the President of the Flourtown Fire Company and is a member of the Barren Hill Fire Company.

Jake.Frye@montgomerycountypa.gov | Emergency Operations Center | (610) 631-3020

Department of Public Safety Career Opportunities

The Department of Public Safety is seeking qualified applicants for the following vacancies. For more information about the roles or to apply online, visit www.montgomerycountypa.gov/jobs or click on the links below. With questions, email publicsafety@montgomerycountypa.gov or call (610) 631-6500 during business hours.

Emergency Communications Division

The 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Trainee will be trained and certified to be the public’s primary point of contact when requesting a response by public safety resources. They will be engaged in training that requires complete dedication to the course of instruction and instructors. He/she promotes the Department’s core values of integrity, respect, and customer service without compromise. Deadline: Wednesday, March 6th

Emergency Management Division

The Emergency Preparedness Specialist – Critical Infrastructure is responsible for developing and maintaining emergency action plans for critical infrastructure present in Montgomery County; such as high hazard dams, facility preplanning, and multi-jurisdictional response planning associated with fixed facilities, critical infrastructure and transportation incident response. Additionally, the position is responsible for radiological emergency response planning, training and exercises. The position produces and/or reviews emergency plans for response to incidents at the Limerick Generating Station (“LGS”) and coordinates County and Municipal participation in associated events and incidents.

The Logistics Program Manager will ensure that all MCDPS managed equipment, supplies, and vehicles remain in a constant state of readiness. This entails that all resources are used and maintained in accordance with the guidance of its funding source and that policies and procedures are developed, trained, and followed. Additionally, the individual will coordinate non-emergent scheduling, deployment, and demobilization of MCDPS resources. The Logistics Program Manager will manage the County designated warehouse and vehicle storage facilities.
Fire Academy

The Fire Instructor delivers fire training courses in various emergency services disciplines including fire suppression, technical rescue, driver/operator, officer/instructor development, and hazardous materials. In addition, instructors may be utilized to teach specialized courses in subject matters such as emergency management, first aid/CPR, EVOC, PA Fish and Boat Water Rescue, instructional techniques, and fire service administration.

The Ignition Control Officer is responsible to safely construct, ignite, and control fires in the Montgomery County live fire burn building for fire suppression training programs, drills, and exercises in accordance with the Montgomery County Fire Academy Standard Operating Guidelines and NFPA 1403 Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions. The Ignition Control Officer may also be called upon to support additional Fire Academy training programs as needed.

Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program

The Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program works collaboratively with multiple offices and departments throughout the County to address the issues of complex patients who use the Emergency Department for the treatment of substance use and behavioral health disorders. The program uses mobile resources to deliver care and services to patients in an out-of-hospital environment in coordination with healthcare facilities or other healthcare providers. This program additionally focuses on substance use disorder patients to prevent unnecessary emergency department visits and establish a clear referral pathway from the field to long-term rehabilitative care. MIH specialists shall be certified PA Dept. of Health EMS workers or RNs with prehospital experience, approved for unrestricted medical command authorization by the DPS Chief Medical Officer, and be responsible for identifying and engaging with various patient cohorts for follow-up by the multi-disciplinary Mobile Integrated Health Team. Available positions:

 Full-Time EMT | Full-Time Paramedic | Part-Time EMT | Part-Time Paramedic

Emergency Managers Earn PEMA Certifications

Over the past few months, three emergency management professionals across Montgomery County were presented with their well-deserved PEMA certifications. Interested in pursuing your own emergency management certs? Contact Department of Public Safety Training and Preparedness Coordinator Amanda Brady at Amanda.Brady@montgomerycountypa.gov to get started today! For more information, visit https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/3312/Training-and-Exercises.

Congratulations to the following individuals:

- John Barnshaw, Collegeville Borough, Municipal Associate Certification
- Roy Land, MCDPS, County Associate Certification (above, left)
- Ronald Snyder, Lansdale Borough, Municipal Associate Certification (right)
Municipal Emergency Managers Check Out DPS Resources

On Wednesday, February 21st, approximately 60 municipal emergency management personnel spent the morning at the Emergency Operations Center learning about Department of Public Safety assets, vehicles, and resources that are available to them during an emergency, preplanned event, or training exercise. Units on display included the new HazMat 81 and Collapse 20-1, as well as FieldComm, BearCat, the DPS ambulance, UAV (drone) truck, and other vehicles from the HazMat and US&R teams. Thanks to everyone who attended!

CISM Team Sponsors Table at Public Safety Training Campus

The Montgomery County Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team is now “sponsoring” the welcome table at the Public Safety Training Campus. The table will be stocked with personalized LifeSavers and other candy to remind first responders about mental health services that are available to them. The goal of this initiative is to encourage responders of all disciplines to seek help if needed and eliminate any barriers to access.

First responders can request the CISM Team during or after an incident via the Emergency Communications Center (610-631-6541 or radio).

Technology Division Reminds Agencies About Radio Installation

Any agency purchasing new mobile radios must have them calibrated and aligned by the Department of Public Safety’s radio repair shop prior to installation. If not completed prior to installation, agencies will have to have the radio removed, calibrated, and aligned prior to programming. With questions, contact Assistant Director Rick Lohwasser at Rick.Lohwasser@montgomerycountypa.gov.