

Chester County Department of Emergency Services
601 Westtown Road, Suite 012
West Chester, PA 19380

Fall 2021



the Responder

*An informational resource
for the responders of
Chester County.*

Commissioners: Marian Moskowitz | Josh Maxwell | Michelle Kichline
Director: Michael P. Murphy Jr.

Limerick Generating Station-Exelon Full-Scale Exercise

The Chester County Department of Emergency Services (DES) participated in the Limerick Generating Station federally evaluated full-scale exercise. The three risk counties (Berks, Chester, and Montgomery), in coordination with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), demonstrated our capability to mobilize appropriate staff, activate respective Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), and implement simulated emergency response operations to include sheltering and/or evacuation. This full-scale exercise occurs every two years to demonstrate preparedness should there be a true emergency at the Limerick Generating Station.

The Chester County EOC provided effective and efficient direction and coordination to the 15 risk municipalities who were also being federally evaluated: Charlestown Township, East Coventry Township, East Nantmeal Township, East Pikeland Township, East Vincent Township, North Coventry Township, Phoenixville Borough, Schuylkill Township, South Coventry Township, Spring City Borough, Upper Uwchlan Township, Uwchlan Township, Warwick Township, West Pikeland Township and West Vincent Township. “The involved municipal emergency management coordinators (EMCs) and their staff did an excellent job preparing for and participating in this exercise, demonstrating a high level of preparedness to respond to a potential radiological emergency,” stated Bill Turner, Deputy Director for Emergency Management for DES. Also evaluated were the School Districts in the Emergency Planning Zone: Owen J. Roberts, Phoenixville, Downingtown and Great Valley. The two support counties (Bucks and Lehigh) also participated in their assigned support roles.

Also supporting the EOC coordination for this exercise: Chester County FIRST-organization that represents private industry, ARES/RACES-amateur radio operators, American Red Cross, Chester County Sheriff’s Office, and a liaison from PEMA.

During the full-scale exercise, a simulated route alerting was performed by Liberty Fire Company of Spring City. The Chester County Hazardous Materials Response Team, along with Downingtown Fire Department and Lionville Fire Department were also evaluated on their preparedness in a decontamination exercise held on October 20.



Chester County EOC

Mike Murphy, Director of DES, commented, “Reports from the federal evaluators are all positive and encouraging.”



*Great Valley School District
EOC*

Welcome to the Team!



Sean Shannon
Safety & Security
Operator



Matt Fink
Fire Training Officer



Larry Smythe
ALS Coordinator



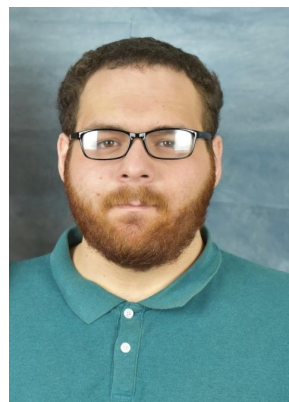
Matthew Porter
Ops Comm Specialist



Jonathan Woomer
Ops Comm Specialist



Casey Applegate
Telecommunicator I



Tyler Szadaj
Telecommunicator I



Thomas Madron
Safety & Security
Operator



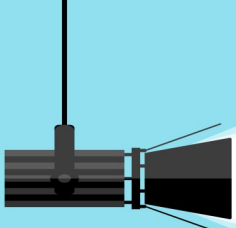
Rebecca Boyle
Telecommunicator I



Emily Keiter-Cornett
Telecommunicator I



Samantha Nields
Telecommunicator I



Promotions



Alex Bechtel
Telecommunicator III



Kevin Naylis
Assistant Platoon Leader



Stacy Catren
Assistant Platoon Leader



Mark Koenig
Technical Comm Specialist



Evan Dominick
Platoon Leader



Joe Pennington
Assistant Platoon Leader



Kyle Munro
Telecommunicator III



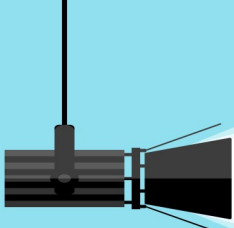
Randall Patton
Asst. County Fire Marshal



Cory Barker
9-1-1 Training Officer



Dan Karakas
Safety & Security Supervisor



Employee Spotlight

Employees recognized with 25 years or more of service with the County



Ken Battin
36 years



Mike Groover
25 years



Aprille Kronmuller
25 years



Latta White
28 years



Bob Kuklantz
27 years



Gerry Lindenlauf
37 years



Athena Clarkin
25 years



Greg Gottier
25 years

Chester County Dedicated First Responder Memorial Garden and Memorial Plaque for Firefighter Who Suffered a Line of Duty Death

Memorial to Goshen Fire Company Assistant Fire Chief George Parry was added to the 11 memorial plaques placed in a newly located Memorial Garden.

Leaders of Chester County’s first responder community and the County Commissioners joined the family of firefighter George Parry for a memorial ceremony to honor Parry, the Goshen Fire Company Assistant Fire Chief who died in the Line of Duty on October 29, 1955.

In addition to laying the memorial hero plaque for George Parry, the event included the rededication of memorial hero plaques previously dedicated to 11 other Chester County law enforcement officers and firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The 12 hero plaques will now reside in a special memorial garden located at the Chester County Public Safety Training Campus in South Coatesville.

Memorial Plaque for Assistant Chief George Parry



Members representing the first responder agencies of Chester County in front of the Memorial Garden



The McGyvers of Chester County

There is a group of volunteers that has been serving Chester County for well over 30 years. They typically are in the background, but are always working alongside the Department of Emergency Services during exercises, events, and activations. In many cases, these volunteers have provided vital communications when the County's usual means are unavailable. These volunteers are members of the ChesterCounty ARES/RACES organization (CCAR).

CCAR reports directly to the Department of Emergency Services, in the role of providing backup communications. Their members are all licensed amateur radio operators, and provide all of their services on a voluntary basis, using amateur radios of their own. Amateur radio has a well-known reputation throughout the world as providing reliable communications in all situations. CCAR has committed to the County to provide voice communications anywhere throughout the County within an hour of being requested. Their ability to 'make it happen' has earned them the moniker of 'McGyvers'.

The Department of Emergency Services has seamlessly integrated CCAR into its emergency plans. CCAR is an integral part of the team for the Nuclear Generating Station exercises for Limerick and Peach Bottom. CCAR members have installed, and maintain, professional level weather stations that provide accurate ground truth weather data utilized by the National Weather Service (NWS), as well as the County to be included with its own GIS information. This weather data is sent from each operator's home station via Amateur Radio and is routed to the County and the NWS via Internet-connected gateways.

CCAR has established its own microwave data network around Chester County. This network is based upon an Amateur Radio microwave frequency band and is totally isolated from the public Internet. In case of a breakdown of the Internet, and even cellular phone service, CCAR operators are still able to send email and data via this microwave network anywhere throughout the County.



CCAR's reliable voice communications are implemented by utilizing commercial grade FM and digital repeaters installed at six sites located around the County. These are linked to one another via amateur radio and through the microwave system.

To maintain their communications proficiency, the CCAR operators provide communications to support various community events. These events include the Northbrook Canoe Challenge supporting the Cerebral Palsy Association, the Chester County Hospital Bike for a Cure for Cancer, the Marshalton Triathlon, the French Creek Iron Tour, as well as many others.

One of the CCAR microwave nodes located



The McGyvers of Chester County, cont'd

DES has provided space and equipment for CCAR in the Government Services Center (GSC). This allows them to have a central location to coordinate their communications and is well placed to provide easy access between the County Emergency Operations Center, the 9-1-1 Call Center, and CCAR. The amateur radios placed there allow for voice and digital data communications anywhere in the county, the region, and around the world. A second identical station is being installed in the Public Safety Training Campus in South Coatesville.

For more information regarding CCAR, please visit their website at www.w3eoc.org



*The CCAR W3EOC Amateur Radio
Station in the GSC*

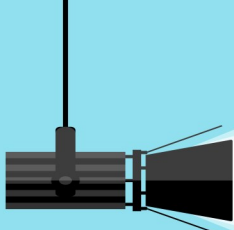
Chester County Pipeline Safety Advisory Board Update

The Chester County Pipeline Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) met four times during 2021. In line with COVID-19 protective measures, meetings were held either virtually or hybrid. In total there are 21 members currently serving on the board. The board's purpose is to review and make recommendations to the Chester County Commissioners and pertinent County Departments on the following:

- Identify areas of best practice in pipeline safety, including but not limited to local emergency planning, training, and response
- Review and provide recommendations on local and county policies and procedures regarding emergency response and planning for pipelines
- Provide recommendations to increase transparency and public engagement on any pipeline issue
- Review and provide recommendations on proposed statutory, legislative, regulatory, and contractual changes affecting pipeline siting, design, construction, safety, and operations in Chester County
- Review pipeline incidents occurring in Chester County and provide recommendations relevant thereto with the consideration of improving local and county response, interaction and involvement

The board continues to support the Chester County Commissioners' purpose. The board voted to create seven committees including First Responder Preparedness, First Responder Training, Communications, Legislation and Regulation, Planning, Incident Review, and Permitting, Construction, and Siting.

At the October 2021 meeting, Colonial Pipeline provided a presentation and the board agreed to invite a pipeline operator to each meeting going forward. This will allow the board to learn about pipeline operators' local operations. The board also plans to comment on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.



Local Spotlight



PEMA Emergency Management Certifications Earned

The following have earned their certificates from the PEMA Certification Program:

County Professional: Molly Peterson

County Basic: Cameron Zettlemoyer

Kelly Tinsman

Nick Melchiorre

Local Advanced: Michael Meyer

For more information on how to earn your PEMA Certification contact Heather DeStefano, Training and Exercise Coordinator at hdestefano@chesco.org

Thank a Hero Award presented to CISM/Peer Support Team

On September 11, 2021, the anniversary of the horrific attacks on our nation, the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps wanting to emphasize the heroism shown on that day created their first ever “Thank A Hero Award”. This year the Chester County CISM/Peer Support Team was chosen to receive the award for the great work done by the team for many years helping First Responders who face many traumatic incidents and stresses that go with the job. The team also does preventative training called “Taking Care of Our Own” which deals with stress management as well as understanding and preventing suicide. Receiving the award on behalf of the team are CISM Coordinator Chaplain Jerry Schwartz and Team Leader Sergeant Wes Holman.



Thank a Hero Award



Chaplain Schwartz (left) and Sergeant Holman

Law Enforcement Services' Support to Chester County First Responders and County Agencies

New Records Management System Implementation in 2022 for Safety and Security

The DES Safety and Security staff will experience a more efficient and organized way of recording incidents in 2022. As a part of their 2021 goals, they sought to enhance their way of incident reporting through a software program that could serve as a source for secure record keeping and reporting.

Safety and Security agencies throughout the country rely on their ability to maintain important data like accidents, personal injury, theft, vandalism, lost and stolen items etc., to monitor specific Safety and Security activities, generate incident audits, identify problematic situations and trends, and manage documentation more efficiently in electronic form.

We look forward to the improvement of the safety and security records management system to better serve the county employees and citizens of Chester County.

Chester County Police Chief's Association – Recruitment and Retention

The Chester County Police Chief's Association under the leadership of Chief Holland (Downingtown Police Department) has taken steps to obtain additional information about recruitment and retention and how it is impacting our law enforcement in Chester County.

In coordination with DES, a recruitment and retention survey was distributed to all of the Chester County Law Enforcement agencies for the purpose of recognizing, preparing and finding solutions to potential issues we are facing here in Chester County when it comes to recruitment and retention of our police officers.

The Chester County Police Chief's Executive board will analyze the survey results and work with the membership to determine the next steps necessary.

Recorder of Deeds Active Threat Training and Exercise

In collaboration with the Chester County Sheriff's Office, the DES Exercise and Planning team helped develop a training and exercise at the request of the Recorder of Deeds Office to address active threat response for their employees.

This included assessments of their area and review of their current plans, following a two day training course provided by one of the County's ALICE instructors specializing in active threat response for citizens.

As a result of the positive feedback and need to continue this type of training, the County's Court Security Committee approved efforts for this group to research and develop a plan for all county employees to receive similar training. An Active Threat Training Subcommittee has been formed and currently working on those efforts.

Law Enforcement Services' Support to Chester County First Responders and County Agencies cont'd

Chester County Emergency Response Teams – Large Scale Exercises

The Chester County Regional Emergency Response Team and the West Chester Emergency Response Team conducted large scale collaborative exercises in 2021. Combined members of each team worked alongside their counterparts and through high intensity and dynamic scenarios. The DES Incident Support Team was pleased to help support the exercise and assist during actual deployments throughout Chester County in 2021.

The teams encounter very dangerous events like, barricaded and armed subjects, high risk search warrants, and even assisted with many successful search and rescue operations. During these events the safety of the team members and citizens are of the highest priority requiring extensive and comprehensive training for each team.

Chester County Election and Voter Services Support

The Safety and Security staff assisted Voter Services in supporting numerous tasks resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and heightened security concerns during the 2021 election.

We assisted in providing security assessments and recommendations to enhance security protocols and equipment. In collaboration with the Emergency Planning group developed Incident Action Plans to prepare for potential threats to the election in addition to monitoring of events by our OpsComm group and regional fusion centers.



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JANUARY 2022							TRAINING AND EVENTS	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	ALL CLASS DATES ARE DEADLINES TO REGISTER	
						1	Jan 01	New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Jan 17	M. L. King Day
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Jan 26	LE – ACT 235 Training Class
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Jan 26	Police Chiefs Association Monthly Meeting
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30	31							

FEBRUARY 2022							TRAINING AND EVENTS	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	ALL CLASS DATES ARE DEADLINES TO REGISTER	
		1	2	3	4	5	Feb 14	Valentine's Day
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Feb 21	President's Day
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Feb 01	Firefighter I Class
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Feb 03	Fire Chiefs Association Monthly Meeting
27	28						Feb 08	EMS Council, Inc. Meeting
							Feb 10	Communication & Technical Committee Meeting
							Feb 12	Building Construction; Combustible Class
							Feb 14	Vehicle Rescue Class
							Feb 19	Incident Safety Officer Class
							Feb 26	Intro to Wildland Urban Firefighting Class
							Feb 27	Police Chiefs Association Monthly Meeting

MARCH 2022							TRAINING AND EVENTS	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	ALL CLASS DATES ARE DEADLINES TO REGISTER	
		1	2	3	4	5	Mar 13	Change Clocks/Check Batteries
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Mar 03	Fire Chiefs Association Monthly Meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Mar 06	Fire Police Association Meeting
27	28	29	30	31			Mar 10	LEPC Meeting
							Mar 10	Communications & Technical Committee Meeting
							Mar 23	Police Chiefs Association Monthly Meeting
							Mar 23	Basic Fire Police Class
							Mar 26	LE – NRA Patrol Rifle Instructor Course
							Mar 29	EMA Quarterly Training

Chester County DES Supports Country Spirit USA Concert

Chester County Department of Emergency Services (DES) supported the Country Spirit USA concert from August 27-29 in West Vincent Township. Since the first event in 2018, DES has provided incident support to the local first responder agencies with communications, incident support assistance, equipment, and personnel.

This three-day preplanned event requires months of planning by local, regional, state, and federal partners to ensure a safe event for all attendees.



For the three day event:

- Estimated over 12,000 attendees
- 17 First Responder Agencies supported the event
- 30 DES Employees assisted at the event

First Responder Command Post



Country Spirit USA Concert attendees