



Public Safety News

Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

JANUARY 31, 2023

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Department of Public Safety

610-631-6500

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Director

Public Safety Training Campus

610-278-3500

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610-278-2666

Website:

www.dps.montcopa.org

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Montgomery County Commissioners

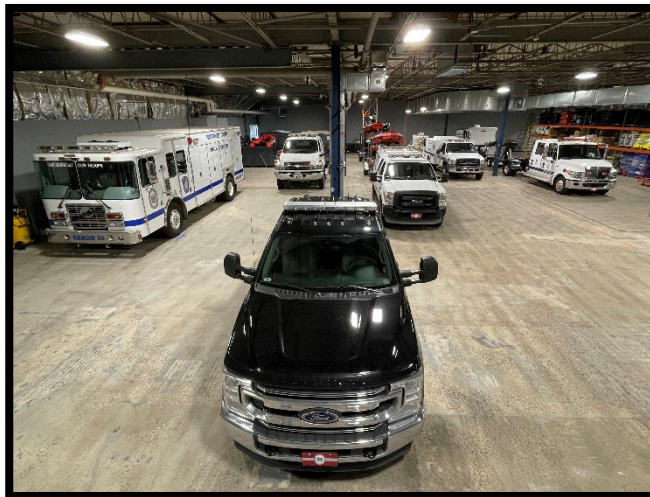
Valerie Arkoosh,
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Kenneth Lawrence, Jr.

Joseph Gale

Special Operations Substation and Logistics Warehouse Nears Completion

The Department of Public Safety's Special Operations Substation and Logistics Warehouse, located at 500 Virginia Drive in Upper Dublin Township, is now operational as it nears final completion.

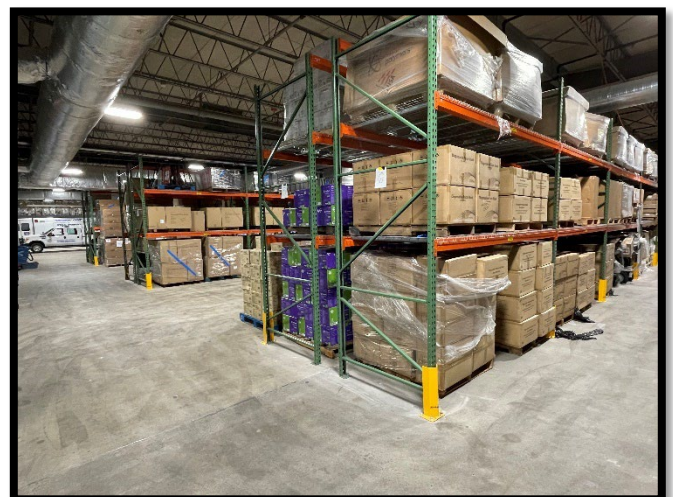


The facility was designed with three distinct but connected areas to support and improve Department of Public Safety and municipal emergency response operations. First, it features 11,000 square feet of apparatus floor space to house vehicles from the Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Team, Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT), and Division of Emergency Management (**left**). Second, it contains 7,700 square feet of warehouse space for the storage of various emergency management, public health, mass care, technology, and special operations-

related equipment and supplies (**below**). Finally, it has 2,800 square feet of finished office, conference, and classroom space for logistics coordination, meetings, and trainings.

Currently, the following special operations units are housed at and will respond from the substation:

- US&R: Rescue 20; Special Service 20-1; Utility 20-1; Trench Pod 1; Swiftwater 20-1, 20-2, 20-3, and 20-4; Boat 20-5 and 20-6; and Highwater 20 & 20-1
- HMRT: SS81 and Foam Trailer 81-1



In addition to the above, the warehouse will carry a cache of spill supplies (i.e., oil dry, booms, and pads) staged and ready for large spill incidents, as well as numerous training props used by both special operations teams.

With questions or to schedule a tour of the facility, email publicsafety@montgomerycountypa.gov.

Fire Academy Announces Change to Firefighter I Age Policy

On November 3, 2022, Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 155 of 2022 into law, amending the PA Child Labor Act. Previously, firefighters under the age of 18 were not permitted to "enter a burning structure under any circumstance [including a training exercise]." With the new law, an exception was added to this provision:

"except when engaged in a training session for an interior firefighting module with live burns and all of the following apply:

(i) The minor is 17 years of age or older.

(ii) The minor has permission to engage in the training from a fire chief and a parent or guardian of the minor.

(iii) The minor is under the supervision of a credentialed Pennsylvania State Fire Academy instructor."

In accordance with this change in state law, the Montgomery County Fire Academy has enacted two policy changes, effective immediately:

- 1) The minimum age to register for Introduction to the Fire Service has been reduced from 17 to 16. Thus, junior firefighters aged 16 or older may now begin the PA Entry Level Training Program.
- 2) The minimum age to register for Interior Firefighter has been reduced from 18 to 17, as long as parent/guardian AND fire chief consent is received. The parent/guardian and fire chief consent forms will be required at time of registration. Without proper consent forms, the minimum age will remain at 18.

The PA Entry Level Firefighter program includes four modules: Introduction to the Fire Service, Fire Ground Support, Exterior Firefighter, and Interior Firefighter. To view the Fire Academy's Spring 2023 training schedule and register for classes, visit <https://www.montcopa.org/1006/Training-Schedule>.

The consent forms are currently pending from the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy and should be available in mid-February. When available, they will be posted to the Montgomery County Fire Academy's [website](#).

Changes Implemented in Montgomery County Email Addresses

Montgomery County is in the process of making two significant changes to all employee email addresses:

- Instead of starting with the employee's first initial and then either the first seven letters of their last name or full last name (depending on when the employee started with the County), new emails will utilize the following naming convention: **firstname.lastname**
- Instead of ending with @montcopa.org, emails will end with **@montgomerycountypa.gov**

When changes are implemented in each County department, the new format will look like this: **firstname.lastname@montgomerycountypa.gov**. The Department of Public Safety was transitioned on Friday, December 16th, so please utilize these new email addresses to contact Department staff. However, the old @montcopa.org emails will still be able to receive incoming messages for the foreseeable future.



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Bryn Athyn Ambulance Recognized for Pediatric Care

On January 12th, the Bryn Athyn Fire Company Ambulance was recognized for achieving the Master level in the Pennsylvania Department of Health Emergency Medical Services for Children Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program (PVRP). The PVRP was implemented in an effort to ensure that all children in the Commonwealth receive the best possible prehospital emergency medical care.



EMS agencies are recognized under this program for showing significant dedication to providing excellence in pediatric EMS. The program has five levels, each of which builds on previous levels and adds additional requirements: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Master, and Expert.

Montgomery County now has 13 9-1-1 EMS agencies recognized as part of the PVRP:

Expert

Community Ambulance Assoc. of Ambler
Gilbertsville Community Ambulance Service
Horsham Fire Company No. 1
Plymouth Community Ambulance Assoc.
Upper Merion Township EMS
Upper Perkiomen Valley Ambulance
VMSC of Lansdale

Master

Bryn Athyn Fire Company
Second Alarmer's Rescue Squad
Upper Gwynedd Township Fire Department

Intermediate

Lower Providence Community Center
Ambulance

Basic

Cheltenham Township EMS
Freedom Valley Medical Rescue

Any agency interested in becoming part of the program should reach out to Duane Spencer, Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Manager, at dspencer@pehsc.org.

Electronic Naloxone Request Form Now Available

Utilizing grant funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety distributes Narcan® (naloxone) nasal spray for use in response to opioid overdoses. First responders and other pre-approved organizations can receive Narcan® through this grant.



To request a supply of Narcan®, approved organizations can click on the link below or use the QR code to the right. After the Department of Public Safety approves or rejects the request, the requestor will receive an email.

[Request Narcan® Here](#)



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HazMat Starts 2023 with a Full Team Response and Hospital Drill



At 1:28 PM on January 12th, the Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) was dispatched to its first full-team deployment of 2023. HM81, SS81, SS81-1, and SS81-2 responded with a crew of 12 HazMat technicians to assist Upper Gwynedd Township police and fire departments with the identification of an unknown substance.

Just over a week later, on Saturday, January 21st, the HMRT partnered with Main Line Health to stage a multi-

agency exercise at Bryn Mawr Hospital. The scenario involved a simulated accidental release of Ethylene Oxide, a flammable and toxic chemical used in the sterilization of medical equipment. HazMat technicians made entry to a break room (taking the place of the actual lab) and used specialized meters to assess the extent of the leak.

After the exercise wrapped up, the HazMat Team met with hospital and health system staff to discuss procedures, roles and responsibilities, and incident communications. Representatives from the Delaware and Chester County HazMat Teams attended as observers to prepare for similar upcoming exercises at MLH facilities within their jurisdictions. Thanks to Main Line Health for a great exercise!



Fire Academy Adds Officer I to the Spring Schedule

This month, the Montgomery County Fire Academy added Fire Officer I to its training schedule for the Spring 2023 semester. Students who successfully complete the class and pass written and skills testing will receive the IFSAC-Pro Board Fire Officer I certification. The class will meet on the following days:

- Saturday, March 11th, 8:15am
- Wednesday, March 15th, 6:45pm
- Saturday, March 18th, 8:15am
- Wednesday, March 22nd, 6:45pm
- Saturday, March 25th, 8:15am
- Saturday, April 8th, 8:15am
- Wednesday, April 12th, 6:45pm

Prerequisites include: Firefighter II certification, Hazardous Materials Operations or refresher dated within one year of the test date, ICS (16 hours) or IS 100 and 200, and Instructor I certification. To register, visit <https://www.montcopa.org/1006/Training-Schedule>.



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Department of Public Safety Personnel Changes

John Weed became the Department of Public Safety's new First Deputy Director of Public Safety - PSTC in December 2022 with direct responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the EMS, fire, and law enforcement training programs and the training campus. John spent 42 years in law enforcement, starting as a dispatcher and progressing through the ranks to Deputy Chief of Police. He is also a life member of the Independent Fire Company and the Ogontz Fire Company. John has worked as an EVOIC instructor for Temple University, Montgomery County Community College, the Fire Academy, and the Law Enforcement Division for the past 20 years. He has a master's degree in Public Safety from Saint Joseph's University, a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Temple University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Session 229.

John.Weed@montgomerycountypa.gov

Public Safety Training Campus
(610) 278-3500 ext. 6606



The Department of Public Safety congratulates **Jesse Stemple**, Deputy Director for Law Enforcement, on his retirement on January 6th.

Jesse's final day marked the conclusion of a long and successful career in the emergency services in Montgomery County, at both the municipal and county levels.

Have a safe, happy, and healthy retirement, Jesse!

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.montcopa.org/jobs or click on the links below.

- The **[EMS Training Assistant](#)** is responsible for coordinating training resources; scheduling and teaching both credential-producing as well as continuing education for Paramedics, AEMT, EMTs, EMRs, and laypersons from the community. Duties include assisting in completing required paperwork and filing with the PA Department of Health, Bureau of EMS to ensure compliance with all PA DOH Educational SOP requirements; coordinating and taking an active role in Quality Improvement and Quality Assurance programs; and overseeing the Field Training Program.
- Utilizing multiple data sources, methods, and analytical platforms, the **[Senior Intelligence Analyst](#)** will assist in the collection, analysis, cataloging, and reporting of data related to intelligence and surveillance projects. This position will research and identify trends in the data, develop insight, and collaborate with others within the area of operation. This individual is also responsible for supporting the development of intelligence analysis programs to analyze information lawfully collected by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, internal County departments or agencies, other data sources, and the



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intelligence community for the benefit of the County of Montgomery.

To learn about the many benefits of working for Montgomery County, visit www.montcopa.org/benefits. With questions, email publicsafety@montgomerycountypa.gov at any time or call (610) 631-6500 during business hours.

Fit Testing Machine Available for First Responder Agencies

As part of the Department of Public Safety's Health and Safety Development program, police, fire, and EMS agencies are reminded of the availability of the Department's quantitative fit testing machine. The device is capable of quantitative fit testing soft N-95 or similar respirators, as well as half- and full-face respirators. Quantitative fit testing can provide more accurate results than qualitative fit testing.

In addition, the device is capable of connecting with an agency-supplied laptop to help maintain automated fit-testing records and track respirator pass/fail status. For more information about the device's capabilities, please visit: <https://accutec.com/accufit-9000/>. To borrow the device at no-cost, please contact Madison Sehn, Health and Safety Specialist, at madison.sehn@montgomerycountypa.gov for an orientation session.



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