

GET THE MOST FROM THE
WEATHER ALERT MESSAGES...

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NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017

The Responder

An informational source for the Emergency Responders of Chester County

A Cop's Perspective on CISM

By, Chaplain Jerry Schwartz

By way of introduction, I have been a police officer for 32 years, serving in the patrol division for 28 years. The first twelve of those years were as a Patrolman and the last sixteen as a Sergeant. I then retired from that department and have been employed as a Lieutenant by a neighboring department for the past four years. I have been assigned to a SWAT team for 30 of those years in the roles of sniper and deputy commander. Both on patrol and SWAT I have seen my share of the carnage that is part of our lives in law enforcement.

Many years ago, while assigned to patrol and performing the duties of the officer in charge of my squad, I was faced with a situation which required me to employ deadly force with my issued handgun. It was a split second decision and was necessary to save both my partner and myself from serious injury or death. In this incident the actor was struck by the one round I fired but did survive. Most importantly though is that he stopped his assault due to my actions.

I had been to Street Survival and similar training programs but was still not prepared mentally for the aftermath of being involved in an on duty shooting. The time spent in the emergency room while being treated for injuries to my eye, subsequent interviews by county detectives, and questions from well-intentioned friends and colleagues left my head spinning and my emotions raw. I continued to receive calls over the next several days from fellow officers and repeatedly recounted the events of that night as part of the conversations. Sleep did not come easily but I was blessed with a strong family structure and an understanding wife and they were there for me when I needed it most.

I received a call from a detective from my department who had gotten involved with a new program called Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and she asked if I would participate in a debriefing of the incident. By this time I was in a much more emotionally stable state but agreed to go. I wish I could say that the debriefing was the solution to the situation I was in but in all honesty I can't. CISM was in its infancy in our county and I believe I was one of the first to go through a debriefing. The debriefing dredged up emotions that I had already gone through and carefully put away.

CISM continued on pg. 3



Chester County Board of Commissioners: Michelle Kichline | Kathi Cozzone | Terence Farrell
Robert J. Kagel, Director

FROM THE DIRECTOR...



Bobby Kagel

Project Updates & Monthly Stats

Computer-Aided-Dispatch System (CADS):

- An estimate of effort is being developed by Intergraph for additional changes that have been requested in MPS, but not yet completed.

Voice Radio Project:

- We continue working with AT&T to resolve a tower space issue before moving forward with the Wayne enhancement site. We are finalizing the contract with Harris for the West Chester Borough expansion and hope to have it finalized by the end of August.

Training Facility:

- Last month we hosted 387 people at 69 events in the Academic Building.
- We hosted eight training sessions in the Tactical Village.

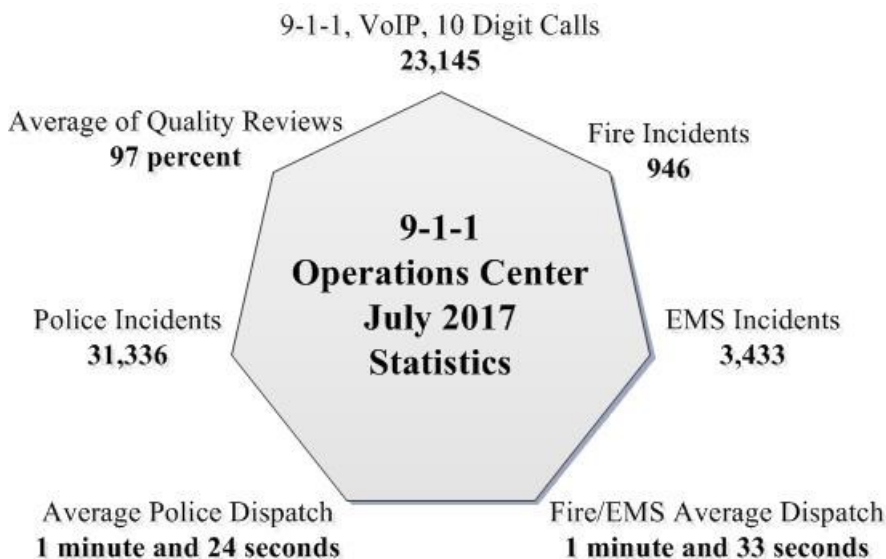


COME TRAIN WITH US

HAVE YOU SCHEDULED A TRAINING

For assistance, call John Gillespie,
Assistant Director of Chester County
Public Safety Training Campus at:

610-344-4241



**MPS
TRAINING
OPPORTUNITY**

SAVE THE DATE

August 22nd, 2017

Regular classes held on the 2nd and 4th
Tuesdays of each month at 0900 at the GSC.

For more information, visit:
<http://destraining.chesco.org/>

CISM continued from front page

There were people from all emergency services disciplines present and I was hesitant to speak freely, especially since the preliminary hearing hadn't even taken place yet. I did see that the other participants; i.e. dispatchers, ambulance personnel, etc... seemed to gain comfort from the interaction of the group and I was glad for that. To wrap things up for the reader, the defendant was found guilty and sentenced to a lengthy state prison term and I went on with my life and career.

Fast forward many years and I decided to give back to my profession and become involved in CISM as a facilitator. From the perspective of one of the first people to go through a debriefing in Chester County and now someone who serves as part of CISM, I cannot impress upon you enough the tremendous strides that this program has achieved. The debriefing now takes place much closer in time to the actual incident. I have seen police officers arrive at debriefings guarded, apprehensive, and generally "not wanting to be there" and seen them depart confident and in a much better frame of mind. The facilitators who will be there for you should you be involved in a critical incident have indeed been there, done that. They have been involved in similar critical incidents and know exactly what you are feeling and they have all gone through extensive training to help you through it. The debriefing process is an extremely beneficial way to get the perspectives of all participants in the critical incident out in the open. Sometimes personnel who weren't even on-scene can be extremely impacted and the debriefing serves as a relief valve for them and a reminder to those directly involved that there are many people out there that deeply care about us and our welfare. As a final thought, even though my personal example involved an on-duty shooting, please do not minimize the potential of other types of critical incidents to impact your life and emotions. For example, any type of critical incident involving children has the potential to impact you, especially when you have children of your own. In closing, please take care of each other. Be watchful of your co-workers and if you see signs of distress or changes in behavior, talk to them and if appropriate, your supervisor. Utilizing the services of CISM no longer carries any negative stigma and its' use is strongly encouraged by upper management as a tool to retain and protect their most significant asset, You!

Need to talk?

Contact us:

Facebook: "Chester County CISM Peer Support Team"

E-mail: cism@chesco.org

Phone: 9-1-1 Center Supervisor 610-344-5100

**CONSTRUCTION
UPDATE**



Chester County Law Enforcement Firing Range

- The roofing has been completed, all concrete has been poured, the ventilation duct work has been hung and the wall studding is well underway. The Action Target roof units were delivered and are being scheduled to be set in place. The main "range components" are scheduled to be shipped August 8th.

CHESTER COUNTY JULY 2017 STATS

FIRE MARSHAL



| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| July 2017 | | 11 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 1 |
| Have you checked your batteries in all smoke alarms? | | NOTIFICATIONS YTD 89 | UNDETERMINED YTD 30 | UNINTENTIONAL YTD 69 | INTENTIONAL YTD 8 | NATURAL YTD 6 |
| ASSEMBLY 0 Fires \$-- Loss Reported YTD: 9 Fires \$2,500 Loss Reported | EDUCATIONAL 0 Fires \$-- Loss Reported YTD: 2 Fires \$-- Loss Reported | INSTITUTIONAL 1 Fire \$-- Loss Reported YTD: 8 Fires \$-- Loss Reported | RESIDENTIAL 14 Fires \$697,000 Loss Reported YTD: 115 Fires \$7,811,975 Loss Reported | BUSINESS 0 Fires \$ -- Loss Reported YTD: 10 Fires \$1,970,000 Loss Reported | | |
| INDUSTRIAL 0 Fires \$-- Loss Reported YTD: 6 Fires \$29,000 Loss Reported | MANUFACTURING 1 Fire \$10,000 Loss Reported YTD: 3 Fires \$310,000 Loss Reported | STORAGE 3 Fires \$123,500 Loss Reported YTD: 19 Fires \$819,500 Loss Reported | OUTSIDE 1 Fire \$105,000 Loss Reported YTD: 18 Fires \$139,750 Loss Reported | OTHER 6 Fires \$-- Loss Reported YTD: 13 Fires \$-- Loss Reported | | |
| RESPONDER INJURIES 0 YTD 12 | RESPONDER DEATHS 0 YTD 0 | CIVILIAN INJURIES 4 YTD 36 | CIVILIAN DEATHS 0 YTD 2 | | | |
| 0 | 23 | 0 | 5 | 17 | | |
| ACTIVE ARSON CASES YTD 10 | FIRE INSPECTIONS YTD 92 | YOUTHFUL FIRE SETTERS PROGRAMS YTD 2 | REPORTS SENT TO ASSESSMENT YTD 96 | FOLLOW-UP WITH INSURANCE COMPANIES & INVESTIGATORS YTD 83 | | |



RECENT CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS



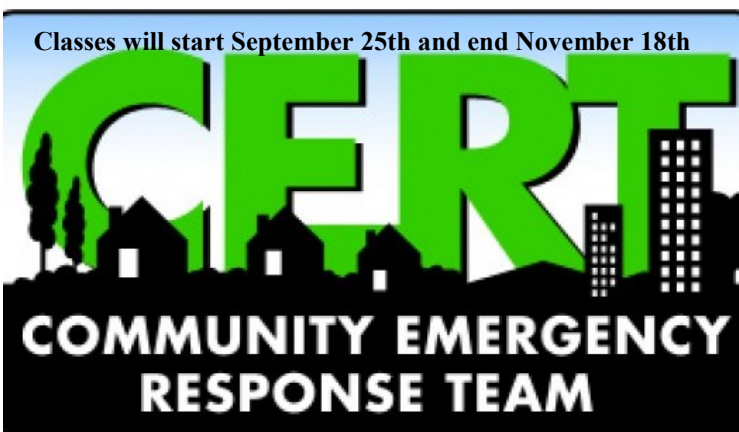
Recently, the following folks have earned PEMA Certificates.
Congratulations to all and keep up the good work.



| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Scott Nicely | PEMA “Basic” Certification |
| Koren Van Voorst | PEMA “Professional” Certification |
| Chenoa Ballantine | PEMA “Advanced” Certification |
| Todd Zigler | PEMA “Advanced” Certification |
| Duane J. Brady, Sr. | PEMA “Basic” Certification |



CERT Basic Training is designed to prepare you to help yourself and to help others in the event of a catastrophic disaster. In this event, emergency services personnel will not be able to help everyone immediately, you can make a difference by using your CERT training to save lives and protect property.



This class is open to anyone who wants to learn how to be better prepared before, during, and after an emergency. Students must be 16 or older to attend. If students are between 16-18 years old a parent or guardian must accompany them.

To sign up, visit destraining.chesco.org/ema/CERTFALL2017

Weather Alerts

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides alert and warning information through official dissemination sources, including NOAA Weather Radio, NOAA Weather Wire Service and Weather.gov to the public, and the iNWS service for partners such as emergency management. The National Weather services does not provide direct email/text alerts to the general public.

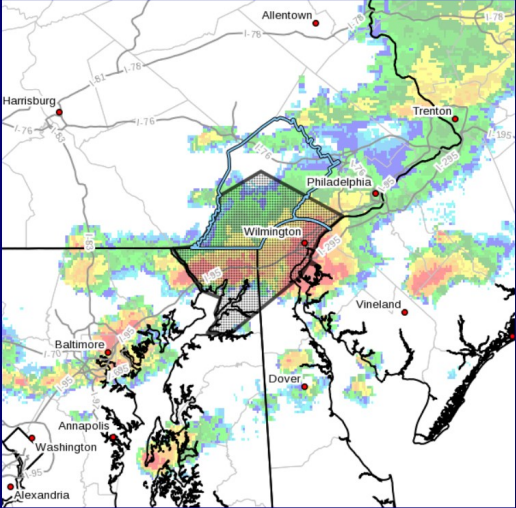
Because the NWS does not provide direct alerts to the public, Chester County Department of Emergency Services uses the link that is provided to us and pushes this information out to those who have opted to receive weather messages from ReadyChesCo and to those in the ChescoAlert system.

Chester County DES wants to make sure you are aware that the information in the alerts you receive is very important about a weather event happening or is approaching your area. Each alert that you receive has a different message about the weather event – it may be the track of the storm; the intensity of the storm has changed; or other vital information about the storm has changed from the previous message. Clicking on the link in the alert and reading the message from the NWS is essential to staying informed. Severe weather events for the most part move quickly through Chester County; so when the NWS starts sending multiple alerts it's important to read each one as it arrives to your cell phone or email. Reading the links in the alert will keep you and your family informed so that you can prepare for whatever the storm impact may have.

| Organization | Website |
|---------------------------|---|
| National Weather Service | https://www.weather.gov/phi |
| NOAA Weather Radio | http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/ |
| NOAA Weather Wire Service | http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwws/ |
| ReadyChesCo | www.readychesco.org |

NOAA Interactive NWS Alert

New event: Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Chester, PA
Sent via email and SMS at 2:31 pm EDT, Jul 14th 2017



The National Weather Service provides an interactive map which enables you to visually see the scale of the weather event they are tracking. This interactive map is included in the weather briefing emails/texts that you receive if you are signed up for ReadyChesCo.

TECH

Did you know?

The Enroute... button on the Dispatch Popup will take you to a form to enter vehicle mileage. Mileage should be entered into the 'Mileage' field in all status change forms, instead of event remarks.

Dispatch
MEDICAL / BABDPN
11/22 14:33:38
Ack. Enroute... Arrive
Address: 600 MONTGOMERY AVE
Loc. Info: 55AFD
X-Streets: BLS 55A ACCESS RD and MAPLE AVE
Mun: WGOSHN
Cnty/ST: CHEST/PA
Priority: 5 ESZ: 5202 LOI: None
Units: AMB551 DP 14:33

Questions regarding this or the CAD System?

Contact

Justin McClure, CAD Systems Administrator

Phone: 610-344-5070 Email: jmclure@chesco.org

Smart911 IS NOW LIVE IN CHESTER COUNTY

Ask us how Smart911
could save your life!

SIGN UP NOW

Learn more at  Smart911.com

Already signed up? Encourage others to sign up too!

Government Service Center
601 Westtown Road | Suite 012,
West Chester, PA 19380

Public Safety Training Campus
137 Modena Road,
Coatesville, PA 19320

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017

The Mission of the Department of Emergency Services is to promote and assist in providing safety and security to Chester County citizens so they can work, live and grow in a healthy and safe community.

The Responder



Questions, Comments, Concerns?
Contact us at : eoc-pio@chesco.org

facebook.com/CCDES/

twitter.com/ccdes

readychesco.org/