

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



The Responder

An informational source for the Emergency Responders of Chester County

February 2016

Public Safety Training Campus
137 Modena Road
Coatesville, PA 19320

Voice Radio Cutover

On January 4, 2016, Chester County Commissioners Terence Farrell, Kathi Cozzone and Michelle Kichline (pictured top right), joined Chester County Department of Emergency Services, Director Robert Kagel in the ceremonial “switch over” from the EF Johnson radio equipment to the new Harris \$42.1 million emergency voice radio system. Commissioner Farrell and Director Kagel, pictured bottom right are seen making the first radio transmission over the Harris radio system.

“It’s been almost three years since we formally began this project, with a long period of consultation time with our first responder community prior to that,” said Director Kagel. As Final System Acceptance (April 21st 2016) approaches, DES along with ACD Telecom representatives and Harris employees will continue the installation of the vehicle-mounted radios.



Pictured Left (left to right):
CCFCA President, Neil Vaughn, CCATO President, Ernie Holling, FOP Lodge #11 President, Butch Dutter, CCPCA President, Tony Giaimo and CCEMS Council Member, Leo Scaccia

**Additional
Photos Page 6**



From the Director....

Project Updates & Monthly Stats

January 2016 Stats

22,315	9-1-1, VoIP, 10 Digit Calls
966	Fire Incidents
3,332	EMS Incidents
1 minute and 35 seconds	Fire/EMS Average Dispatch
29,517	Police Incidents
1 minute and 34 seconds	Average Police Dispatch
98%	Average of Quality Reviews

Computer-Aided-Dispatch System (CADS):

- Work is focused on response plan updates for fire departments.
- Installations have begun on the Mobile Data project. So far, 235 of 800 (29%) have been installed. Network configuration is ongoing.
- CAD and Mobile Data Cutover is targeted for 28 August 2016.

Voice Radio Project:

- Cutover took place on 4 January 2016.
- Harris has completed 22% of mobile installs and 25% of control station installs. All installation work is scheduled to be completed by 21 April 2016.
- We are 35 months (92%) into the 38 month Implementation Phase. About 93% of the project implementation tasks have been completed. So far, we have spent \$32,460,451 (72%) of the \$45,000,000 total project budget.



Elizabeth Schew promoted to Assistant Chief Fire Marshal.

Details on page 3.

Training Facility:

- Last month we hosted 1,240 people at 70 events in the Academic Building.
- Final construction documents are being reviewed by Facilities and Procurement in preparation for the Law Enforcement Firing Range bid package to be released.



Check out page 7 for the Prop of the Month

Chester County Emergency Services has promoted Elizabeth Schew as the new full-time Assistant Chief Fire Marshal.

Fire Marshal Schew is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of University of New Haven with a Bachelor's degree in Fire/Arson Investigation, a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Service Administration, and a minor in Criminal



Justice. Her Degree Programs at the University of New Haven included: extensive education and training in Fire Chemistry, Fire Prevention, Building Construction, Hazardous Materials, Fire and Life Safety Codes, Fire Investigation, Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, Emergency Scene Operations, and Fire Research. Fire Marshal Schew completed an internship with the Chester County Fire Marshal's Office in 2013 as part of her degree program. She has completed numerous hours of independent research on Juvenile Fire Setters and through that research has worked

with the National Fire Protection Association to develop changes to NFPA 921 Standard on Fire and Explosion Investigation. At the University of New Haven, Fire Marshal Schew organized and attended multiple trainings from Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives on fire investigation and fire research.

She is currently certified as a Fire Investigator through the State of Connecticut, holds a certificate in Fire Investigation through the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, and is certified as a Fire Inspector through the International Code Council. She also holds Firefighter I and II Pro-Board certifications, and is a certified EMT-B in Pennsylvania.

Fire Marshal Schew was an active volunteer firefighter and EMT for the Berwyn Fire Company in Chester County, and the Trumbull Volunteer Fire Company in Trumbull, Connecticut. At the Trumbull Volunteer Fire Company, she served on the Board of Directors and was involved with the "Volunteer Workforce Solutions" program, a federally funded program through the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, for recruitment and retention. She is a recipient of many awards, having received the University of New Haven Distinguished Service Award, Presidential Scholarship Award, and Joseph O'Dowd Memorial Scholarship Award. She was also a recipient of the Thomas J. Hays Memorial Scholarship Award from the Main Line Chamber Foundation, and now assists the Foundation with fundraising.

Prior to her promotion Fire Marshal Schew held the position of Training Systems Specialist at DES. She has prior work history as an emergency dispatcher in Connecticut with the Milford Fire Department, South West Regional Communications Center, and American Medical Response.

CONGRATULATIONS



OPERATION 6ABC SAVE A LIFE FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN 2016

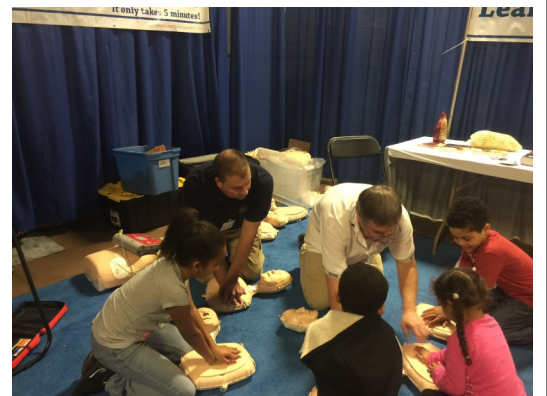
The Chester County Fire Marshal’s Office attended the 24th annual 6 ABC: Operation Save a Life campaign event on January 15th at the Philadelphia Fire Academy. This event, sponsored by Kidde, The Home Depot, American Water Resources, and the Tri-State Toyota Dealers, aims to team up with fire companies to raise awareness of fire safety and CO safety in the tri-state area. An estimated 10,000 smoke and CO alarms were given to over 200 fire companies and organizations for distribution to the community. Each alarm has a ten year sealed in power cell. Early warning is critical for home fires and CO incidents.

Don’t wait until it’s too late.

Pictured Above: Philadelphia Fire Department Deputy Chief Charles Lepre with Chester County Chief Fire Marshal John Weer.

Stayin’ Alive at the PA Farm Show

The PA Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services highlighted hands-only CPR as their primary information component for PA Farm Show attendees to watch, learn, and participate. The 14 EMS regions in the Commonwealth were asked to participate and Fred Wurster, III from our Field Services/EMS division offered to assist.



On Sunday, January 9th, Fred traveled to Harrisburg to staff the booth along with another regional EMS employee from another part of the Commonwealth. In the seven hours of teaching hands-only CPR Fred assisted almost 400 attendees to learn life-saving hands-only CPR. The ages of participants varied greatly, and some of the older attendees even required assistance getting up from the floor.

The program consisted of teaching 3 simple components:

- Does the person need our help, by making sure they do not have signs of life.
- Call 911 and look or ask for an AED.
- Push hard and fast with the heel of the hand in the center of the person’s chest as close to one-hundred times per minute.

Every attendee participated in at least 5 minutes of hands-only CPR. To make it a little more memorable, the song “Stayin Alive” from the BeeGee’s was played to assist in the helping the participants to remember an appropriate pace. The beat of the song coincides to a pace of 100 compressions per minute.

For additional hands-only CPR information please contact Fred Wurster at fwurster@chesco.org.

Intermediate Advanced Life Support Comes to Chester County

Recent editions of the Responder have included articles that referenced the new Intermediate Advanced Life Support (IALS) EMS agency licensure level and the new Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) personnel certification level. While we have had AEMTs certified in the County for over a year, all of the pieces were not in place at the State level to allow an EMS agency to begin operating at the IALS level. Those last remaining pieces were finalized recently, and in October CCDES Field Services staff performed the first IALS agency inspection in Pennsylvania for Good Fellowship Ambulance Club (GFAC). Having successfully completed the application and inspection process, GFAC became the first BLS level EMS agency in Pennsylvania to be licensed at the IALS level. Their amended license was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health-Bureau of EMS on November 10, 2015. GFAC is now capable of providing either BLS or IALS level of care, depending on their staffing. This remarkable accomplishment is the culmination of a significant undertaking and investment of resources on the part of GFAC; in an area where they have led the way in Pennsylvania. GFAC had previously conducted the first AEMT class in Pennsylvania, and the CCDES Field Services staff administered the first AEMT psychomotor examination in Pennsylvania for GFAC's graduates.

There are two additional EMS agencies in Chester County who are also able to provide IALS level services: Malvern Fire Company and Uwchlan Ambulance Corps. As both agencies are currently licensed at the ALS level, which supersedes the IALS level, the process to begin offering IALS level care was a bit less cumbersome for them, and focused more on personnel requirements. In addition to their requirement to offer ALS level care 24/7/365, these two agencies may now offer (BLS or) IALS level care as well, depending on their staffing. It is important to keep in mind that IALS is not meant to replace ALS care, IALS is designed to augment BLS care.

CCDES will continue to dispatch EMS emergencies as either BLS or ALS. ALS agencies dispatched for an ALS emergency must respond at the ALS level, however, an ALS agency that chooses to offer IALS service may respond to a BLS emergency at either the BLS or IALS level. BLS agencies licensed to provide IALS service may respond at either the BLS or IALS level. At least as a temporary measure, IALS level responses will be utilizing the "70" series radio identifiers, while a more permanent solution is finalized.

Some of the more common clinical skills performed by AEMTs at the IALS level in Pennsylvania include: extra-glottic airway insertion; end-tidal carbon dioxide monitoring, 12 lead ECG acquisition and transmission; intra-venous catheter and intra-osseous needle insertion; blood glucose assessment; and an expanded list of medications and routes of administration.

Find the Fighter in You

BECOME A FIRST RESPONDER

If you have a desire to help your community, your neighbors, and possibly your own family, than let us help you become a first responder.

www.chesco.org/des

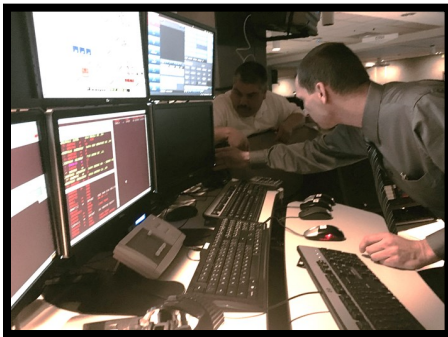
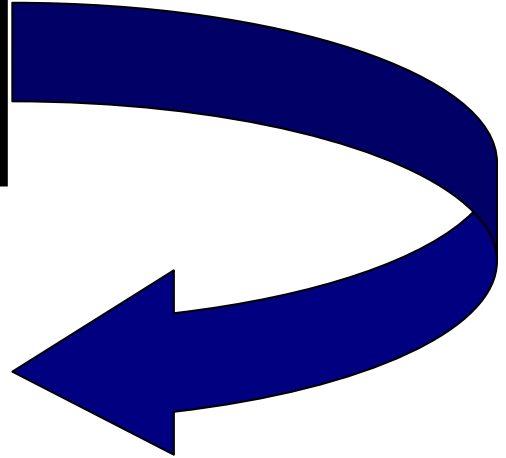
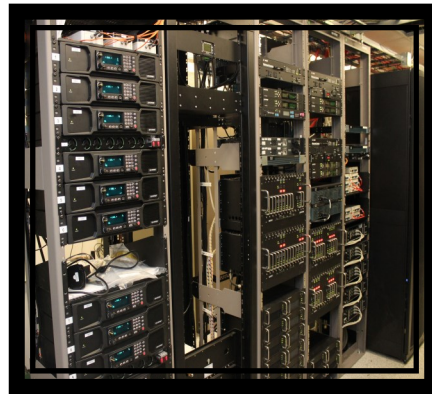
Voice Radio Cutover Pictures Continued...



EF Johnson Equipment
(as pictured left)

Harris Radio Equipment
(pictured right)

The Harris equipment will save a significant amount of space in our radio communication rooms.



Along with the commissioners and various first responder organization representatives on-hand for the cutover event, representatives from ACD Telecom plugged away during the day to set up each radio communication console for the new radio system (pictured top left). Additional staffing for the 9-1-1 Communication Center were brought in and briefed on what to expect during the day and how to respond to critical issues (picture top center). Harris representatives were seen throughout the day working in tight spaces to ensure proper wiring for the new Harris Radio System (pictured top right.)

Prop of the Month

The Public Safety Training Campus consists of an Academic Building and the Tactical Village. The Tactical Village includes a number of training props, an administrative pavilion, Burn Building, and Drill Tower/Scenario Building.

Prop of the Month is the **Academic Building**:

The Academic Building features four classrooms including two classrooms that can be combined into one large classroom area that can hold up to 100 people. Each classroom is equipped with a computer, DVD/VCR player, LCD projector, projection screen, and sound system. A driving simulator is also available for training with a fire engine and ladder truck, or police car.

The Academic Building also houses the alternate 9-1-1 center and the administrative offices for the PSTC's staff. Workstations are also available for DES staff visiting the PSTC. In the rear of the building is a Garage/Warehouse area that stores the PSTC's fire apparatus, utility vehicles, and provides an area for operational training indoors. It is currently being used to install mobile radios in some law enforcement vehicles.



The Academic Building also has a partial kitchen with an attached dining area which seats close to 40 people. We are able to easily accommodate catered meals for your group.

If you are interested in booking a classroom, please visit chesco.org/des and select the Public Safety Training Campus tab to access the Request Form and our Fee Schedule.

DES Receives Commendation from District Attorney

District Attorney Tom Hogan presented the Commendation to Bobby Kagel, Director of Emergency Services along with Safe Schools Coordinator, Chrissy DePaolantonio and Patrick Davis, Deputy Director of Law Enforcement at the Sunshine Meeting held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016. DES received the award for their planning and leadership in preparing Chester County for a mass casualty event, like an active shooter scenario within a school setting. DES ran a full-scale exercise at Collegium Charter School. Police, Fire, EMTs, hospital personnel, students and parents participated in the activity.




Pictured left to right: Pat Davis, Deputy Director of Law Enforcement, District Attorney Tom Hogan, Director of Emergency Services, Robert Kagel and Safe Schools Coordinator, Chrissy DePaolantonio

ARE YOU UP TO DATE ON YOUR CARBON MONOXIDE KNOWLEDGE?

Take a moment and read the Carbon Monoxide Safety flyer provided below.
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Elizabeth Schew, Assistant Chief Fire Marshal at: eschew@chesco.org.



Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. It has no odor. CO gas is poisonous. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

CO ALARMS

- CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. It is best to use interconnected alarms. When one sounds, all CO alarms in the home sound.
- Follow the instructions on the package to properly install the CO alarm.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- Replace CO alarms according to the instructions on the package.
- Know the sounds the CO alarm makes. It will sound if CO is detected. It will make a different sound if the battery is low or if it is time to get a new CO alarm.
- If the battery is low, replace it.
- If the CO alarm sounds, you must get fresh air. Move outdoors, by an open window or near an open door. Make sure everyone in the home gets to fresh air. Call the fire department from a fresh air location. Stay there until help arrives.


PREVENT CO POISONING

- When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Do not run a fueled engine indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked. Clear snow away.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Clear all debris from dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace vents.
- A generator should be used outdoors. Use in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors, and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- Open the damper when using a fireplace for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

FACT!

CO is called the invisible killer because the gas cannot be seen or smelled. Take action to stay safe from CO poisoning.

Contact Information
Chester County DES
chesco.org/des

 **Your Source for SAFETY Information**
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269