

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

Public Safety Training Campus

137 Modena Road  
Coatesville, PA 19320



# The Responder

An informational source for the Emergency Responders of Chester County

November 2015

## Coatesville Homeland Security and Protective Services Program Finds a Home at the Public Safety Training Campus



This program prepares students to apply technical knowledge and skills required to perform entry-level duties in law enforcement, firefighting, EMT and other safety services.

Students participating in this program can earn 3 credits. They meet at the training campus 2-3 hours per day and take part in a program that focuses on building entry-level skills for law enforcement, firefighting, EMT and other safety services.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will have the opportunity to take the applicable tests and earn the PA Skills Certificate. Co-op and internship openings are available in most programs during senior year.

**Additional Photos on Pages 4 & 5**



# From the Director....

## Project Updates & Monthly Stats

### October 2015 Stats

24,207	9-1-1, VoIP, 10 Digit Calls
1,056	Fire Incidents
3,460	EMS Incidents
1 minute 31 seconds	Fire/EMS Average Dispatch
30,455	Police Incidents
1 min 31 seconds	Average Police Dispatch
97 percent	Average of Quality Reviews

### Computer-Aided-Dispatch System (CADS):

- The CAD has been fully configured and is ready for system freeze. Configuration work continues on open items in Mobile for Public Safety—the majority related to NCIC and PennDOT work.
- Installations have begun on the Mobile Data project. Network configuration is ongoing.
- The schedule for CAD and Mobile Data is awaiting a finalized project schedule with AT&T. Once a schedule for Mobile Data is finalized we will work with Intergraph to revise the CAD schedule.

### Voice Radio Project:

- The 60-day burn-in period continues with only one minor microwave issue reported at the Chadds Ford tower site.
- Cutover is scheduled for 4 January 2016 with all emergency responders operational on the system scheduled for 21 April 2016.
- We are 32 months (84%) into the 38 month Implementation Phase. About 87% of the project implementation tasks have been completed. So far we have spent \$30,860,802 (69%) of the \$45,000,000 total project budget.

**Does ReadyChesCo Alert You?**

Sign up for Chester County's Notification System

**Your Source For Emergency Information**

By opting in to the Chester County notification system, you will be informed before, during and after incidents that could impact your safety.

**READY ChesCo .org**

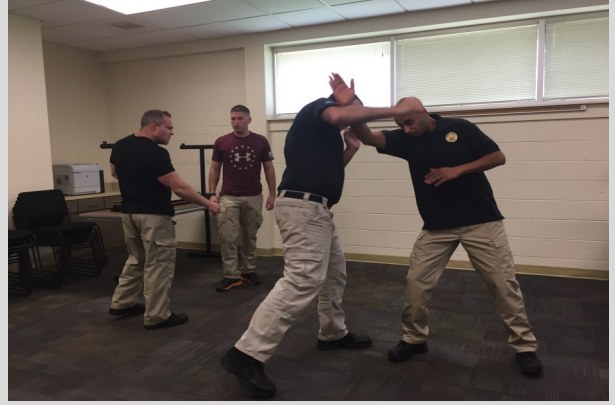
### Training Facility:

- Last month we hosted 2,461 people at 101 events in the Academic Building. Last month we hosted 16 training sessions in the Tactical Village for a YTD total of 66.
- Final construction documents are being reviewed by Facilities, DES, and Procurement in preparation to be released for bid.

## Law Enforcement Training at the PSTC:

*Pictured Right:* Instructor Bernard teaches students from the Sheriff's Office, West Goshen PD, and Phoenixville PD strategies for hand-to-hand combat.

*Pictured Below:* Willistown PD conducted low speed EVOC, building approach, and **Simunitions** training in the Tactical Village.



**BOOK NOW!**

TRAINING ROOMS AVAILABLE  
PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CAMPUS

VISIT: [WWW.CHESCO.ORG/DES](http://WWW.CHESCO.ORG/DES)

SCHEDULE TODAY!

## Upcoming Limerick Generating Station Biennial Exercise

Over the last several weeks and upcoming weeks in November our Radiological Coordinator Tony Przychodzien has been working hard getting ready for the upcoming federally evaluated Limerick Generating Station (LGS) full scale exercise. The municipalities; emergency responder organizations; school districts within the LGS Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) and the DES Emergency Management Division receive refresher training by Tony reviewing their plans and the roles they play during the exercise.

This year the exercise will be held in three segments. During the morning of November 17<sup>th</sup> the school districts will be exercised. Later that afternoon and evening the municipalities and County Emergency Operation's Center (EOC) will be exercised through the various Emergency Alert Levels as they receive information from LGS through the State EOC. On the evening of November 18<sup>th</sup> a demonstration of monitoring and decontamination for emergency workers and reception center will occur. The Chester County Hazmat Team will conduct this operation for federal evaluators. As the EPZ spans over three counties; Montgomery and Berks County will be exercising their municipalities, teams and EOCs as well.

These exercises are held every two years to test the offsite response operation should an accident occur at each nuclear power plant. In April of 2016 an exercise will occur for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station (PBAPS).

# Octorara HS at the PSTC



# Octorara Continued...



## Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES)

In August the Chester County Department of Emergency Services took possession of the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System or MILES, for use as a tool in its Law Enforcement Training program at the Public Safety Training Campus. This is a weapons training system used by the U.S. military and other armed forces around the world for training purposes. It uses lasers and blank cartridges to simulate actual battle.

Individual officers carry small laser receivers worn on body vests, which detect when the officer has been illuminated by a firearm's laser. Each laser transmitter is set to mimic the effective range of the weapon on which it is used.

Different versions of MILES systems are available to both military and law enforcement for training purposes. The capabilities of the individual systems can vary significantly but in general all modern systems carry information about the shooter, weapon and ammunition in the laser.

Officers often wear a vest or harness with sensors as well as a 'halo' of sensors on their helmets. MILES systems can be coupled with a real-time data link allowing position and event data to be transmitted back to a central site for data collection and display.

Circa 1980, MILES was introduced to the U.S. Army for direct-fire, force-on-force training capability at training centers. It uses a laser module which is mounted to the barrel of a real weapon, a blank-firing adaptor for the weapon, and an integrated receiver consisting of sensors on the helmet and load-bearing vests of the officer. When a blank shot is fired by a weapon, it causes the laser to fire a coded burst in the direction that the weapon was aimed. If that burst was sensed by the receiver of another officer, the "hit" officer's gear beacon makes a beeping noise to let them know they are immobilized.

Funding for the purchase of the MILES was made possible through a grant provide by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force, using Federal Homeland Security Funds.



# Active Shooter Exercise at Collegium Charter School

On October 24, 2015 the Department of Emergency Services conducted an Active Shooter Exercise at Collegium Charter School in West Whiteland Township which in return the school requested a Parent Child Reunification Site. In total, 300 people participated to successfully test Chester County and local agency plans.

Around 9:30 the exercise kicked off with a man walking into the main entrance of the high school building insisting to see a teacher. The man became agitated and pushed his way into the school and started firing a simulated weapon. The school called 911 and in less than 1 minute West Whiteland Township Police were dispatched and responded to the school. Other law enforcement players who responded were Uwchlan Police, Upper Uwchlan Police, East Pikeland Police, Downingtown Police, Westtown/East Goshen Police and West Goshen Police Departments. All worked together to coordinate a response that was beneficial in making sure they located the intruder quickly. Great dramatic role playing from the 120 student actors helped the exercise seem realistic with their screaming, yelling, and simulated injuries. With students identified as "injured" local EMS was dispatched to assist. Uwchlan Ambulance was first on-scene to assess the nature of injuries and it became apparent they needed back-up. Between Uwchlan Ambulance and Good Fellowship Ambulance, they were able to transport 38 injured students to a simulated hospital on Collegium's Campus.



During all the initial chaos, Collegium Charter simulated placing all their other buildings on lockdown and activated their school emergency operations center (EOC). Administrative staff reported to the EOC and took action making immediate decisions. Considering what just happened, a parent child reunification site was requested through the 911 center and notifications were sent via ChescoAlert to the Reunification Deployment Team and Chester County Sheriff's Office. The reunification team is comprised of Chester County Intermediate Units Crisis Response Team and other CCIU employees who volunteered to be a part of this team.

Parent actors came from different volunteer organizations, such as CERT and MRC. During this part, we exercised the process of reuniting children with their parents along with identifying the parents whose children were taken to the hospital and how to get the parents to see them.

In addition to both larger portions of the exercise, a mock press conference was held to release information to the media. We had 'media' actors asking questions to the school and law enforcement representatives. This was extremely informative for those involved with the Public Information side of such an event.

This exercise was the first for Chester County to simulate an active shooter at a school and reunifying families. It allowed first responders and the school to practice coordination of policies and procedures during such an event. We cannot thank everyone who took time out of their schedules to help Chester County Schools and First Responders work together as a team during a difficult time. Another thank you to all who helped plan this exercise. We could not have done this without all of your help!



## **Tactical EMS vs. EMS Response to an Active Shooter Incident**

Do you know the difference? The two terms are commonly used interchangeably, but in reality represent two very different responses. Tactical EMS (TEMS) typically refers to a scenario where an EMS provider with appropriate training is considered part of the law enforcement tactical response team, with the specific purpose of providing EMS support for the tactical team, and a potential perpetrator. Generally speaking, events where TEMS is utilized are pre-planned events, such as serving a warrant on a wanted person. Additionally, TEMS may be requested as part of a response to a barricaded subject or hostage situation. TEMS personnel are highly trained and routinely train with their fellow law enforcement team members to ensure consistent and seamless operations at a TEMS scene. They are also typically provided with ballistic gear to include at least a vest and helmet. The TEMS clinical focus for short term operations is on the greatest life threats: hemorrhage control, airway management, and safe immediate evacuation. For more long term operations, the TEMS team member may be asked to assist with general health needs, nutrition, and immunizations.

Under Pennsylvania's new EMS Regulations, TEMS is a licensed EMS agency level. In order to be licensed as a TEMS agency, the agency must show proof of having: an agreement/affiliation with a law enforcement agency; six EMS personnel above the level of AEMT who are over the age of 21, have at least 2 years experience at that level, and have completed a Department of Health approved course in TEMS. For each individual TEMS operation, the TEMS agency must provide at least 2 TEMS staff. Chester County has previously had several EMS personnel who have served in this role for area law enforcement agencies. As the TEMS licensure process is more clearly defined, those agencies and personnel will need to transition into the new Regulatory requirements.

EMS response to an active shooter/active threat incident takes on a much different approach. In the wake of the multitude of recent mass shooting events nationwide, the paradigm for EMS response to these incidents is changing. All EMS personnel have been taught from day 1 of any EMS provider class the following mantra: scene safety, BSI, # of patients, MOI/NOI, need for additional resources – or some variation of that. In this new environment, EMS is being, and will be asked to function a bit outside that scene safety box. Old school mentality is for EMS to wait in a safe location in the cold zone for law enforcement to bring victims to them. The new philosophy is for EMS to make entry with law enforcement, once law enforcement has made a reasonable determination that the on-going threat has been neutralized. This would happen long before the building is “clear” and considered truly safe under the old mentality. Under the cover and protection of law enforcement, EMS personnel would enter the warm zone to perform the following priorities: initial triage; basic airway maneuvers (opening, not oxygen therapy), and control of life threatening hemorrhage (typically via tourniquet). The initial triage process needs to be done quickly, with EMS personnel ideally spending no more than one minute with each victim. Remember that in our START triage flow chart, any victim who can walk is automatically deemed a Green/low priority – at least initially. Once initial triage of all patients is complete, EMS will work with law enforcement to rapidly evacuate the highest priority victims first. Additionally, once a casualty collection point (CCP) is established in the cold zone, law enforcement can render valuable assistance in assisting with moving the green/low priority patients to the CCP. Once at the CCP, patients can be re-triaged for treatment purposes. This type of EMS response would not require specific TEMS training and ballistic equipment, but obviously, if EMS had the opportunity to exercise this with their law enforcement partners prior to an actual event, it would be best for all involved.

One of the projects of the EMS sub-committee of the Southeastern Regional Task Force is to secure funding to provide a basic level of tactical type training to EMS personnel, and once properly trained, to potentially also provide some type of ballistic equipment as well.



## Prop of the Month

The Public Safety Training Campus consists of an Academic Building and the Tactical Village.

The Tactical Village is comprised of a number of training props, an Administrative Pavilion, Burn Building, and Drill Tower/Scenario Building.



### Outside Live-Fire Training Props:

Currently, the PSTC has five outside live-fire training props.

- Car Fire Simulator
- Tank Fire Simulator
- Flange Fire Simulator
- Flammable Liquid Fire Simulator
- Industrial Tank Fire Simulator

These props are all propane fired and most can be used almost anywhere in the tactical village.

For more information, or to request space for your next training, please visit the “Public Safety Training Campus” page on the DES website at [www.chesco.org/des](http://www.chesco.org/des). Check back next month for our featured “Prop of the Month.”

*Pictured Left:* Firefighters in the Firefighter II (Advanced Firefighting) Class practice fire control on gas fires with instructor Pelna.

*Pictured Below:* Firefighters in the Firefighter II (Advanced Firefighting) Class observe use of the foam trailer. The foam trailer is stationed at East Whiteland Fire Company.



## **FIRE PREVENTION TRAINING with Keystone Valley Fire Department**

It was a busy shift at Station #15 (08) on October 31st, they had 15 calls between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm. KVFD had the opportunity to conduct scenario-based training at the Chester County Public Training Campus. Firefighters were stationed at the training campus station for the day and responded to 15 real life scenarios in the tactical village based on our response protocols and riding assignments.

Examples of assignments that day included:

Call	# Location
1	Readiness Exercise
2	Assist EMS at 205 Courage Drive
3	Car Fire at Optimism/ Courage Drive
4	Odor of Gas A/O 301 Discovery Drive



## **Keystone Valley Fire Department and CCDES Conducted Fire Extinguisher Training with Victory Brewing Company in Parkesburg**

KVFD along with assistance from CCDES staff completed extinguisher training for Victory Brewing of Parkesburg.

Victory Brewing has been working with KVFD in a partnership to get its employees trained and ready for the opening in West Sadsbury Township. Earlier in the year, KVFD completed CPR and First Aid training for Victory employees.

Thanks to Victory Brewing for calling upon its local fire department to help educate their employees.

***Please contact your local fire department for more details on how to schedule trainings for your employees.***



# **-Congratulations-**

## **John Weer Named Chief Fire Marshal**

The Chester County Department of Emergency Services is pleased to announce that John "Jack" Weer has been named Chester County Chief Fire Marshal.

Since 2008, John has served as the Assistant Chief Fire Marshal for the CCDES. His responsibilities have included assisting Chester County fire and police departments, along with the Chester County District Attorney's Office and Pennsylvania State Police with fire scene investigations. John also supervises and administered the Chester County Juvenile Fire Setters program .



# **WELCOME TO DES**

## **Tim Hubbard (FM 102), P/T Assistant Fire Marshal**

Tim will be serving as a Part Time Fire Marshal. As a lifelong County resident he is thrilled to have the opportunity to continue serving the citizens of Chester County.

In 1997 Tim began working as a police officer for the Westtown East Goshen Regional Police Dept. While with the PD Tim rose to the rank of Corporal and served as a member of the ERT team. Tim holds a Bachelors degree in Legal Studies and also works for Charlestown Twp as their Fire Marshal and EMC as well as being the Chief Security Officer for the Downingtown School District.

Tim is looking forward to using his background in investigations while serving in the Fire Marshal's Office.



## **Brad Reinert, Assistant Deputy Director for 911 Operations**

Brad will be serving the position of Assistant Deputy Director for 911 Operations. Brad is joining Chester County after working in Public Safety Communications in neighboring Montgomery County for over 15 years. Most recently he held the position of 911 Supervisor and coordinated the Tactical I Communications Team for Montgomery County DPS.

He is a graduate of West-Mont Christian Academy in North Coventry and attended the Montgomery County Police Academy in 2003. Brad also volunteers with the North End Fire Company in Pottstown where he lives and has held several fire officer positions there, including Chief.



He is excited to join Chester County's Department of Emergency Services at a time when so many new technologies, systems and projects are being implemented.

# Attention First Responders: Radio Demonstration

Harris Corporation will be on-site to demonstrate the new



radios and to discuss the Radio Trade-In Program which could reduce the purchase price.



**November 9, 2015**

10:00 am to 8:00 pm

Public Safety Training Campus  
Coatesville

