

**PROCLAMATIONS
AND CITATIONS**

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**FIRE MARSHAL
SEPTEMBER
STATS**

pg. 5



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016

The Responder

An informational source for the Emergency Responders of Chester County

Photo caption: (From left to right, front row) Robert Kagel, Director, Chester County Department of Emergency Services; Chester County Commissioner Terence Farrell; County Commissioner Kathi Cozzone; Jack Law, West Bradford Fire Chief and Chester County Fire Chiefs Association; John Sly, John Sly Grant Writing; John Weer, Chester County Fire Marshal; B.J. Meadowcroft, Union Fire Company of Oxford; County Commissioner Michelle Kichline, Beau Crowding, Deputy Director of Fire Services, Chester County Department of Emergency Services; Congressman Ryan Costello; (from left to right, back row) Mike Holmes, Chief, Lionville Fire Company; Dave Jones, West Whiteland Fire Company; Ron Miller, President, Chester County Fire Police Association; and Steve Nuse, Chief, Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company

Chester County Firefighters Receive \$500,000 Federal Grant for Radio Purchases

WEST CHESTER, PA_ Lionville Fire Company and Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company, of Unionville hosted two grant applications which resulted in the combined acquisition of \$500,000 of Federal grant money, which in turn will benefit twelve fire companies here in Chester County. Both grants were obtained through the Federal Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grant Program which issues grants to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to the fire and fire related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments.

These awards come on the tail end of the completion of the new \$42.1 million digital radio system which replaced the analog equipment from the early 1990s. As of January 2016, first responder organizations within Chester County now operate on the new Harris APCO P25 Phase 2 Digital Voice Radio System. Along with the purchase of the new Voice Radio System, the Commissioners included the purchase of a significant number of radios for firefighters, emergency medical responders and law enforcement. Organizations who will be receiving a portion of the grant award will be able to purchase additional radios that will enhance their operational experience on the new digital system.

Federal Grant Continued on page 3

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Project Updates & Monthly Stats



Bobby Kagel

Computer-Aided-Dispatch System (CADS):

- The CADS 30-day reliability test was completed with no issues.
- Reassessment for Fire and EMS will take place in October and Police in November. Working with the different organizations we have a comprehensive list of items to examine.

September 2016 Stats

23,522	9-1-1, VoIP, 10 Digit Calls
915	Fire Incidents
3,275	EMS Incidents
1 minute 17 seconds	Fire/EMS Average Dispatch
30,959	Police Incidents
1 minute 30 seconds	Average Police Dispatch
99%	Average of Quality Reviews

Voice Radio Project:

- Harris is working on clean-up items related to radio programming and install work. Second touch programming is expected to resume the end of October. Final System Acceptance is expected by the end of the year. We are working with Harris to finalize the deployment plan for the new Fire/EMS speaker microphones.
- We are working with AT&T to resolve a tower space issue before moving forward with the Wayne enhancement site. Harris is working on a preliminary design and cost for West Chester Borough Police.
- We are 43 months (94%) into the 46 month Implementation Phase. About 99% of the project implementation schedule has been completed. So far we have spent \$37,420,402 (87%) of the \$45,000,000 total project budget.

Training Facility:

- Last month we hosted 3,239 people at 137 events in the Academic Building. Last month we hosted 39 training sessions in the Tactical Village for a YTD total of 180.
- All building permits have been issued for the Firing Range. The General Contractor plans to begin earth movement activities the first week of October.

Hazmat Team Check-In



So far this year, the hazmat team has been out to a number of propane calls involving large quantity of propane. Propane is a colorless gas, which is heavier than air. Naturally, propane is odorless but an odorant is added prior to the gas being put into delivery/storage tanks.

Propane from a leaking tank tends to collect in low lying areas, so air monitoring should be conducted accordingly. If propane tanks are involved in a fire, be on the lookout for tank explosions. Don't forget many people store propane tanks for grills in their sheds and garages, especially over the winter. The hazmat team is able to assist in sealing leaks in large tanks and performing wide area air monitoring.

In addition to propane tanks at residential buildings, industrial buildings may have fixed propane tanks as well as use propane to power forklifts at loading docks and in warehouses.

PROPANE EMERGENCIES

Pictured Above: HM Technician, Cullan Davis mitigating a leaking underground propane tank. 6/30/2016

Federal Grant continued

John Sly, a local Chester County volunteer firefighter who owns a professional grant writing firm, penned each grant application. "I personally know the struggles we as volunteers face in order to raise money for the equipment we need to do our jobs," Sly said. "These grants are a tremendous help and relief to ensure for our own safety - I'm very proud to have helped to bring this Federal money to a local level. This is a great example of our Federal, County, and local officials working together for the benefit of our communities," Sly added.

Commissioner Terence Farrell, Commissioner Kathi Cozzone and Commissioner Michelle Kichline as well as Congressman Ryan Costello of PA's 6th District celebrated the awards with first responder organization representatives who would be receiving a portion of the awarded money. Recipients are listed below.

Lionville Fire Company

84 New Portable Radios

Paoli Fire Company • Malvern Fire Company • Radnor Fire Company • East Whiteland Fire Company • West Whiteland Fire Company

Po-Mar-Lin Fire Company

116 New Portable Radios

Union Fire Company of Oxford • West Grove Fire Company • Avondale Fire Company • Kennett Fire Company • Longwood Fire Company

SAFETY

TIPS

HEATER REMINDERS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW¹

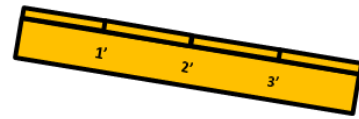
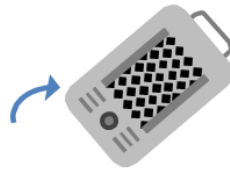
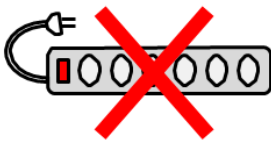
Heating fires are the 1st leading cause of fire related casualties in offices.



Heating fires are the 3rd leading cause of fires in offices.



WHAT YOU SHOULD DO



Don't Extend Yourself

Do not use an extension cord or power strip. Plug directly into an outlet.

Automatic Shut Off

Only use heaters that have a tip over automatic shut off feature.

3 Feet Rule

Ensure the space heater is at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.

OFF



Don't Leave it Running

Never leave a space heater on when you leave.

Safety Certifications

Only use heaters that have safety certifications from Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).



CHESTER COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
601 Westtown Rd, Suite 012 • West Chester, PA 19390
(610) 344-4338 • www.chesco.org/des

¹NFPA Report on US Structure Fires in Office Properties. Richard Campbell.



Fire Marshal's Report September 2016



Investigations	September	YTD:
Intentional	1	9
Unintentional	10	80
Natural	0	8
Undetermined	5	30
Notifications	9	74
TOTAL:	25	201
Miscellaneous		
Active Arson Cases	1	9
Solved Arson Cases	0	3
Fire Inspections Completed	5	117
Youthful Fire Setter Programs	1	13
Reports Sent to Assessment Office	3	56
Follow-Up with Insurance Companies and Investigators	8	154
Casualties		
Emergency Services Casualties		
Fatal	0	0
Injuries	1	11
Civilian Casualties		
Fatal	0	1
Injuries	3	31

Property Type	September Totals	September Property Loss	YTD	YTD Property Loss
Assembly	1	\$7,000.00	8	\$182,000.00
Educational	0	\$0	1	\$150.00
Health Care, Detention, Correction	3	\$55,000.00	17	\$101,000.00
Residential	7	\$561,000.00	100	\$8,945,560.00
Mercantile, Business	2	\$210,000.00	14	\$718,510.00
Industrial, Utility Defense, Agricultural, Mining	0	\$0	7	\$294,500.00
Manufacturing and Processing	0	\$0	2	\$0
Storage	1	\$1,000.00	16	\$1,502,700.00
Outside or Special Property	8	\$50,000.00	28	\$505,700.00
Other	3	\$0	8	\$20,525.00
TOTAL:	25	\$884,000.00	201	\$12,270,645.00

Fire Prevention Week Proclamation

During the Board of Commissioners Sunshine Meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, the Board proclaimed the week of October 10-15, 2016 as Fire Prevention Week. Members representing Chester County fire services attended the meeting to accept the proclamation.

Beau Crowding stated, Although during fire prevention week we increase the awareness of fire prevention, during the whole month of October dedicated volunteers are out pushing fire prevention.

Neil Vaughn stated, Fire Prevention needs to be a constant duty of all fire service partners. Smoke alarms are the front line of fire prevention. This year's theme "Don't Wait; Check the Date" highlights the importance of having working smoke alarms.



Josh Schrieber receives Citation from County Commissioners

At the Board of Commissioners Sunshine Meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, Josh was presented a Citation honoring him for his service as an EMT in Pennsylvania and Chester County. Josh was recently awarded the PA Basic Life Support (BLS) Practitioner of the Year presented to him at the awards ceremony held on September 22nd. Josh also was awarded the Chester County BLS Practitioner of the Year at the Annual EMS Awards Banquet held this past May.

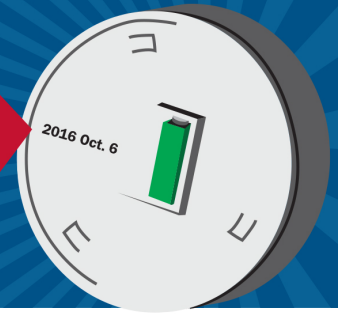
Josh has been an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) since 2003. He serves as a Division Captain for the



Elverson-Honey Brook Area EMS Service. He also serves our country as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army National Guard. His leadership ability combined with fairness and constant willingness to assist anyone who needs it has become a huge credit to himself and the EMS organization he represents. His quick thinking, leadership and knowledge have been instrumental in helping countless individuals over the years and he continues to strive to pass this on to new providers.

Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years

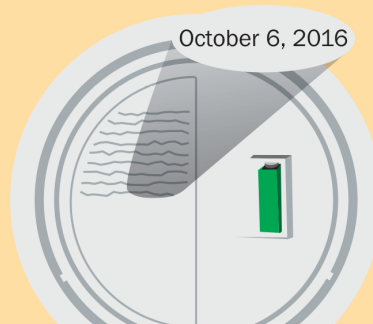
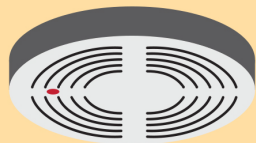


**Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 9-15, 2016**

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

1

Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.

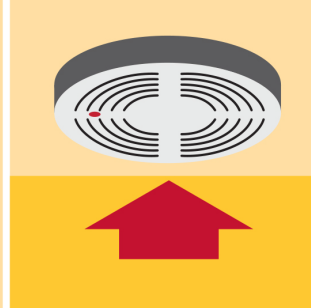


2

Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



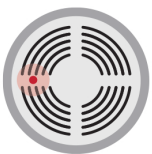
A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit usfa.fema.gov and firepreventionweek.org.

U.S. Fire Administration



NFPA is the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since 1922.

Prop of the Month



Roof Simulator

Fire Departments are consistently challenged to conduct realistic training on vertical ventilation techniques, but acquired structures are few and far between. The roof prop available for training at the PSTC is the solution to your problem! The simulator can be adjusted to a number of roof pitches, but is close enough to the ground to make it easy to observe operations or to observe demonstrations of new saws or techniques.

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.

Check back next month for our featured "Prop of the Month."



NEWSLETTER October 2016

The Responder

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