

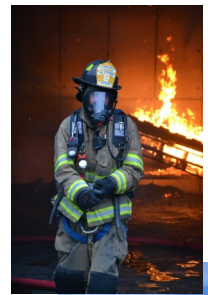


the Responder

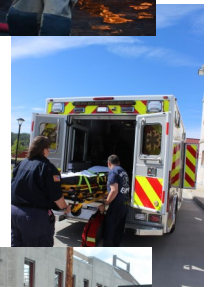
*An informational resource for
the responders of
Chester County.*

Chester County Fire & EMS Strategic Plan Update

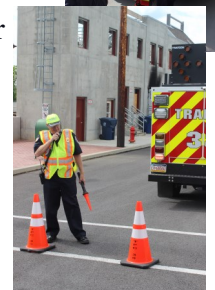
Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI) was engaged by the Chester County responder associations in cooperation with Chester County to develop a comprehensive strategic plan, a series of workshops and a responder tool kit that addresses the future county-wide fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS) concerns as a planning guide for fire chiefs, EMS chiefs, municipal managers and elected officials. This study was performed in partnership with the Chester County Fire Chiefs Association, Chester County Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc., Chester County Fire Police Association, supported by the Chester County Department of Emergency Services and funded through a regional homeland security grant. MRI's analysis included but was not limited to: standards of response cover, response districts and deployment models, staffing levels and needs, volunteer recruitment and retention, apparatus, equipment, fire and EMS standardization, funding, training, fire prevention, integration of fire and EMS operations, regional planning and automatic/mutual aid pertaining to the fire and EMS services throughout the County.



After the study was completed an implementation guide containing 139 recommendations and a stakeholder "Tool Kit" that will assist Chester County, municipal leaders and governing bodies, and emergency services providers, both fire and EMS, to set a clear course of action for future service improvements and delivery throughout Chester County.



In September, the Chester County Fire & EMS Strategic Plan was presented to stakeholders in three separate virtual sessions to complete Phase I of this lengthy effort. The Strategic Plan itself is a 392-page document that speaks to many aspects of Fire & EMS services in Chester County. The associated implementation guide provides a timeline of recommendations for consideration as Chester County Public Safety Leaders begin to shape Fire & EMS systems' future into the next two decades.



As the next step, representatives from each responder association, the Chester County Association of Township Officials, the Chester County Municipal Managers Consortium and the Department of Emergency Services will meet in November to form the Strategic Plan Steering Committee to assist in prioritizing considerations as Phase II commences.

Emergency Management Team Members Spotlight

Emergency Management had three new additions just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. They have been very active during the pandemic response and the planning for the 2020 General Election.

Melissa Brown de Gerena



Melissa serves as the Health and Human Services Planning Coordinator in the Emergency Management Division. In this position, she is responsible for maintaining the Chester County Mass Care and Sheltering annex, as well as developing comprehensive operational plans for a variety of health and human services related issues, ensuring that emergency services are accessible to all individuals in the county. She works to build relationships with Chester County departments, organizations, and groups to ensure disability integration as well as confirming that access and functional

needs are met to serve the county constituents.

Prior to joining Chester County, Melissa has held careers in forensic science, most notably working with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in New York City from 1996-2006 on unidentified remains within the five boroughs. She is also an educator, where she has taught biology, forensics and anthropology to students ranging from middle school to college in Chester and Montgomery counties, as well as at the University of Delaware. She holds a Pennsylvania Coroner certification, along with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology, and a Master's degree in Forensic Science. She is currently finishing her PhD dissertation in Disaster Science and Emergency Management. Her PhD focus supports the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Disaster Victim Identification subcommittee's identified need for data surrounding mass fatality events in the United States.

Gabrielle Ratliff



Gabby serves as Community Resilience Coordinator within the Emergency Management Division. Her responsibilities include acting as the main point of contact for community organizations, providing support for the Long Term Recovery Committee, County Animal Response Team and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) agencies. She is also involved with FEMA Public Assistance and Individual Assistance grant programs and maintains damage assessment procedures and guides. Gabby started out in the department as an Emergency Planning Coordinator.

Prior to joining our team, Gabby worked as a planner in South Central Pennsylvania, focusing mainly on transportation planning and review of land development plans. Gabby holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology with a minor in Geography from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. She is involved in the Kennett community and volunteers with her church.

Cameron Zettlemyer



Cameron serves as an Emergency Planning Coordinator, primarily focusing on the county's Emergency Operations and Continuity of Operations Plans, pipeline preparedness, and coordinating with Chester County's 73 municipal Emergency Management Coordinators.

Prior to working with DES, Cameron interned with Delta Development Group in Mechanicsburg, PA where he assisted the Disaster Preparedness Solutions consultants with a variety of projects. Cameron was a part of the planning team for multiple state-level exercises and training programs. Cameron has deep family roots in the emergency services field and serves as an EMT in various capacities, and as a volunteer firefighter. He is attending the Pennsylvania College of Technology where he is seeking his Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management Technology.

EMS Mass Casualty Bus

Chester County DES recently received a multi-use EMS mass casualty bus built by Farber Industries. Secured through Southeast Pennsylvania Task Force funding, this bus provides Chester County with a valuable resource in the event of a mass casualty incident or need to evacuate a hospital or nursing facility. The bus will be housed, maintained, and operated by Tower Health; in partnership with the Chester County EMS Task Force. The bus will be placed into service following the installation of communications equipment, lettering, and additional local up-fitting. An article in a future edition of the Responder Newsletter will provide more details on the capabilities, requests and activations of this resource.



New Hazmat 15-1



Chester County DES is proud to have recently placed into service a 2020 Pierce Enforcer Hazardous Materials Response Unit known as “Hazmat 15-1.”

This unit replaces the 2000 Pierce International response unit. It is equipped with seating for six personnel, and it carries an extensive amount of hazard detection and mitigation equipment for an emergency response to incident scenes within the region.



Get information when you need it and how you want it.

Register today at www.readychesco.org - an emergency alert and notification system that allows you to receive alerts and information by text, email, or phone .

Does ReadyChesCo Alert You?

Congratulations to Leo Scaccia



In a virtual presentation held on October 13th, the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) recognized the recipients of the 2020 Statewide EMS Awards. These awards are presented annually to recognize the Commonwealth's outstanding EMS providers, agencies, and system partners. Multiple Chester County providers and agencies have received PEHSC awards throughout the years. This year Chester County added another recipient to that list, as Leo Scaccia was honored with the Dr. George Moerkirk Memorial Outstanding Contribution to EMS Award. This award is in memory of George E. Moerkirk, M.D., Past President of PEHSC who was instrumental in the development and growth of Pennsylvania's EMS system. This award honors an individual or organization who has provided a significant contribution to the Pennsylvania EMS system in any of the following areas: statewide, regional, or local-level system development or administration; EMS agency development or administration; advancement in clinical care; education/professional development; medical direction; research; advancement in safety or illness/injury prevention; or vehicle and/or technical rescue.

Since his arrival in 1982 as one of the original staff members of Brandywine Hospital's Medic 93, Leo had been a pillar of the Chester County EMS system for 38 years. He has served as a clinician, manager, educator, advocate, mentor, leader, and friend to many throughout his career. Leo is a past President of the Chester County EMS Council, Inc. and previous recipient of their Margaret Hoover Brigham award. Known for his unique ability to lead from the head and the heart, Leo exudes a spirit that facilitates collaboration, innovation, and excellence. Leo has always been admired and respected for his compassion, commitment to excellence, integrity, and quality care; and for being there as a resource whenever needed. Leo recently retired as Director of Medic 93.



Simple Ask:
Wear a Mask



CHESTER COUNTY

Operations Communications Group

DES is in the process of creating a new team - Operations Communications Group (OpsComm). OpsComm will work closely with the 9-1-1 Center and Emergency Operations Center to monitor resources and gather information for situational awareness.

The OpsComm Specialists will monitor multiple resources (Computer-Aided Dispatch system, media outlets, social media, and other public and private sources), to collect and validate emergency and non-emergency threats and hazards so that real-time public notifications can be made.

The Specialists will disseminate timely information through social media, ReadyChesCo and other resources so our emergency responders and residents are better informed to protect themselves and their families.

Operations Communications Specialists:

Andrew Volz



Andrew has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. Bonaventure University and a Master of Arts in Homeland Security from Rider University. He has a background in multiple facets of domestic security including analysis techniques and disaster mitigation through working with both private and public sector clients. Andrew has also completed the Skywarn Spotter training program through the National Weather Service.

Nick Melchiorre



Nick is currently enrolled at the University of Delaware to obtain his Health Behavioral Science Degree, with an Organizational and Community Leadership Minor. He has an extensive background in Emergency Medical Services, which he has proven through various roles he has held during his career. Nick has a strong working knowledge of emergency services in Chester County which he is eager to apply to his new position.

Kyle McCorkle



Kyle has earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a minor in Spanish. He recently worked as a police officer at West Chester University and serves as a volunteer firefighter at Good Will Fire Company. He looks forward to applying his knowledge as a first responder to the Operations Communications team and continues to serve his community and citizens of Chester County.

Damien Mossman



Damien holds a strong aptitude for languages, including fluency in German along with proficiency in both Spanish and Mandarin. Coupled with his language skills, he has a commitment to customer service and believes in fostering positive interactions between people / co-workers.

BFF's should be in the profile together.

Update your Smart 911 profile today.



Smart911™



Public Information Officer Credentialing

A group of skilled and experienced public information officers (PIOs) from various disciplines and geographical areas recently formed a focus group to pursue a host organization for a professional credentialing/designation process for the PIO role.

This group is chaired by Ashley McDonald, President, of the National Information Officers Association (NIOA). Other members included master public information officer program graduates and FEMA public information officer instructors.

Amy Amer, Community Outreach Coordinator, and recent Master Public Information Officer graduate represented Chester County on this committee.

Now more than ever, we see the importance of bringing this concept to fruition. 2020 has proven to be the "Year of the PIO." The need to get the right information to the right people in a timely matter is vital to the public. Some view this position as merely a spokesperson for the organization/agency; this could not be further from the truth. Rarely, a PIO will even appear on camera now. We are strategic advisors, visual storytellers, social media managers, media liaisons, and more. The list of roles and responsibilities is virtually endless, and our work often occurs behind-the-scenes.

After much discussion, this focus group decided to explore the possibility of partnering with the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) for this endeavor. Because PIOs are in search of a process for our profession like CPSE's Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) designations, this seemed like the obvious starting point. This group, like CPSE, recognizes that both academic and practical knowledge and experience are important, as is a fair and credible review process.

Therefore, the focus group contacted CPSE to assess the potential for a partnership. The group was pleased to discover that CPSE was interested, and our group was then tasked with two homework assignments: finding national standards that can be related to technical competencies for this designation and defining both the imaginable and more achievable market among our colleagues.

The group is currently awaiting to see if the proposal has been accepted by CPSE.

Emergency Responders Recognized In CPR Save

On January 30, 2020, Telecommunicator Cate Patterson received a 9-1-1 call for an accident in a home driveway in Westtown Township. The male victim was driving and went through the shed on the property and the car stopped in the yard behind the shed. When the car came to a halt, the victim's wife called 9-1-1; Cate proceeded to give the wife instructions on starting CPR.

Assistant Chief Gerry DiNunzio, from Goshen Fire Company and Paramedic Justin Robbins, from Good Fellowship Ambulance were in the area of the residence when the first responders were dispatched, and were first on the scene. Both took over medical care from the wife, applied AED and continued treatment. Officer Ryan Herman, from Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department escorted the wife into the home and stayed with her until her son arrived.

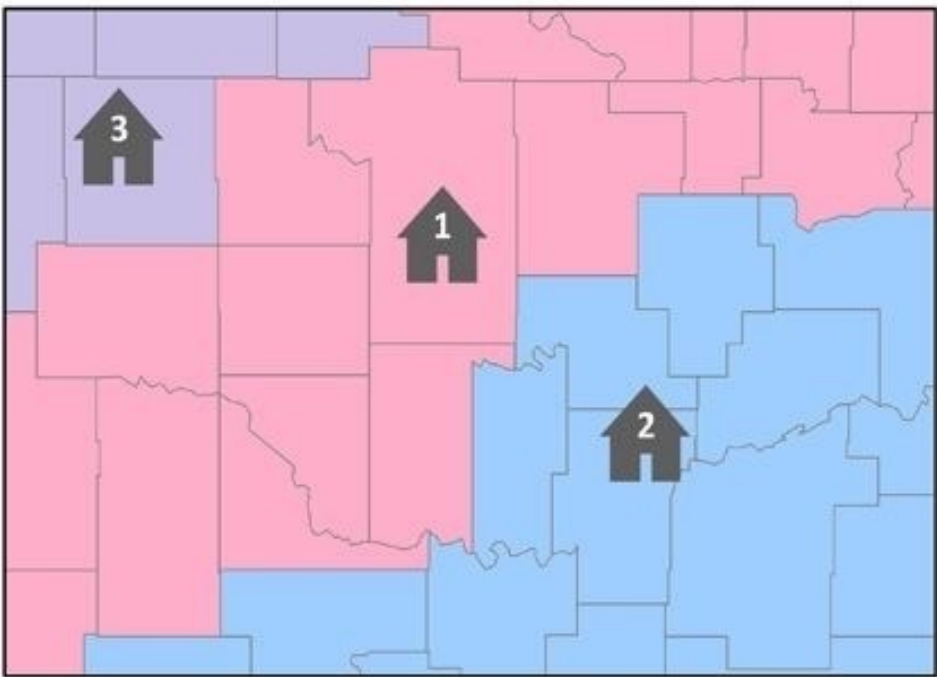
Goshen Fire Company EMS and Good Fellowship Paramedics transported the victim to the hospital where he was treated and survived.

On Wednesday, September 23, Chaplain Jerry Schwartz hosted a zoom call with the victim, his wife and son and the first responders that were on the incident that evening.

The victim and his wife expressed their deepest gratitude for the dedication and quick response of the first responders. They praised their appreciation for Cate's soothing and calm demeanor when giving the instructions on CPR. The incident was sent to dispatch within 20 seconds and dispatch to arrival at the hospital was 28 minutes.

Officer Herman commented, "The wife was a 'rock star.' It all started with you (speaking to the wife). You were very calm."

The victim's son stated, "We appreciate that Officer Herman explained in a clear and calm manner what was going on and what the next steps were. (To all the responders) I am thankful for all of you. You gave me more time with my father."



Winter Storm Products

- 1 Winter Storm Warning**
Snow, sleet, or ice expected! Take Action!
Confidence is high that a winter storm will produce heavy snow, sleet or freezing rain and cause significant impacts.
- 2 Winter Storm Watch**
Snow, sleet, or ice possible! Be prepared.
Confidence is medium that a winter storm could produce heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain and cause significant impacts.
- 3 Winter Weather Advisory**
Wintry weather expected. Exercise caution.
Light amounts of wintry precipitation or patchy blowing snow will cause slick conditions and could affect travel if precautions are not taken.

NOAA

BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.



FEMA

FEMA V-1014/September 2017

Winter storms and blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds.



Greater risk



Can last a few hours or several days



Can knock out heat, power, and communication services

IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Stay off roads.



Use generators outside only.

Stay indoors and dress warmly.



Listen for emergency information and alerts.

Prepare for power outages.



Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.



Check on neighbors.