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NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

The Responder

An informational source for the Emergency Responders of Chester County

APCO awards DES Platoon B "Team of the Year" Award

(Pictured Above: Left to right: Ron Linville, PA APCO President, Telecommunicator Jon Kromer, Assistant Supervisor Todd Ziegler, Telecommunicator Mark Bynum, Telecommunicator Heather Lindner, JJ McFarlen, APCO Executive Board member)

WEST CHESTER_ Members of the B Platoon of the Chester County Department of Emergency Services were named the 2016 Team of the Year by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (PA APCO).

B Platoon members are telecommunicators and supervisors from Chester County's Department of Emergency Services. PA APCO presents annual awards to public safety communications personnel

recognizing those who have demonstrated the highest levels of performance.

On March 1, 2016, B Platoon was on duty when a call to the Chester County 9-1-1 Center reported suspicious vehicle activity in Tredyffrin Township. Tredyffrin Township police arrived at the reported location and the incident rapidly escalated into an extensive vehicle pursuit, travelling on Route 202 and the Schuylkill Expressway.

B Platoon was called in to coordinate information

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WE ARE NOW HIRING
DETAILS ON PAGE 3





Bobby Kagel

Computer-Aided-Dispatch System (CADS):

- All fire department response planning has been completed. The Computer Aided Dispatch System (CADS) has been placed in system freeze. Mobile for Public Safety expected to be placed in system freeze on 6 May 2016.
- Installations for the Mobile Data project are ongoing. So far 424 of 655 (65%) have been installed. Network configuration is ongoing.
- CAD and Mobile Data Cutover is targeted for 23 August 2016.

April 2016 Stats

22,814	9-1-1, VoIP, 10 Digit Calls
955	Fire Incidents
3,376	EMS Incidents
1 minute and 40 seconds	Fire/EMS Average Dispatch
34,134	Police Incidents
1 minute and 36 seconds	Average Police Dispatch
98%	Average of Quality Reviews

Voice Radio Project:

- Harris has completed 76% of mobile installs and 45% of control station installs. Harris will have all installation efforts completed by 30 June.
- EF Johnson decommissioning will begin after all Knox box-equipped apparatus have their mobiles installed.
- We are 38 months (93%) into the 41 month Implementation Phase. About 97% of the project implementation tasks have been completed. So far we have spent \$32,765,052 (73%) of the \$45,000,000 total project budget.

Training Facility:

- Last month we hosted 2,792 people at 93 events in the Academic Building and hosted 32 training sessions in the Tactical Village.
- Final construction bid for the Firing Range was released on 1 April 2016. Responses are due on 18 May.
- DES, Facilities and Manns Woodward met with new members of South Coatesville Borough Council to review the Firing Range design; they are excited to see this final phase completed.

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

APCO Continued from page 1

among law enforcement agencies including the Pennsylvania State Police Belmont Barracks, Pennsylvania State Police Aviation Unit and PennDOT Traffic Control Center, and the team's actions assisted in the apprehension of seven suspected members of the nationally known Felony Lane Gang. The suspects were arrested after a chase that took place on Route 202 and the Schuylkill Expressway.

The incident traversed two counties, several major state roadways, more than 12 miles and lasted nearly 30 minutes.

John Haynes, Deputy Director for Chester County 9-1-1 Operations said, "This incident is an example of the high level of service provided by this well trained, highly motivated team of telecommunicators and the teamwork among all of Chester County's emergency providers. We are pleased that PA APCO chose to recognize their efforts by naming them 2016 Team of the Year."

**ARE YOU OR
SOMEONE YOU
KNOW**

**INTERESTED IN AN EXCITING CAREER
OPPORTUNITY?**

We are currently looking to recruit training candidates for our upcoming 9-1-1 Call Taker Training Class.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES INCLUDE:

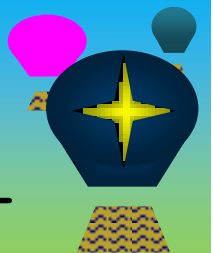
- Handle and process emergency and non-emergency calls in a timely and professional manner.
- Input emergency calls for dispatch to the appropriate responders.
- Provide emergency medical instructions.
- Review and submit caller location data corrections.

For more details and eligibility requirements, please visit: www.chesco.org/jobs

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

2016 CHESTER COUNTY BALLOON FESTIVAL

June 24th, 25th and 26th



For the second straight year the **Chester County Hero Fund** will be one of the benefactors of the Chester County Balloon Festival.

**TO GET INVOLVED PLEASE CONTACT
Debbie Harding at
deb@air-ventures.com**

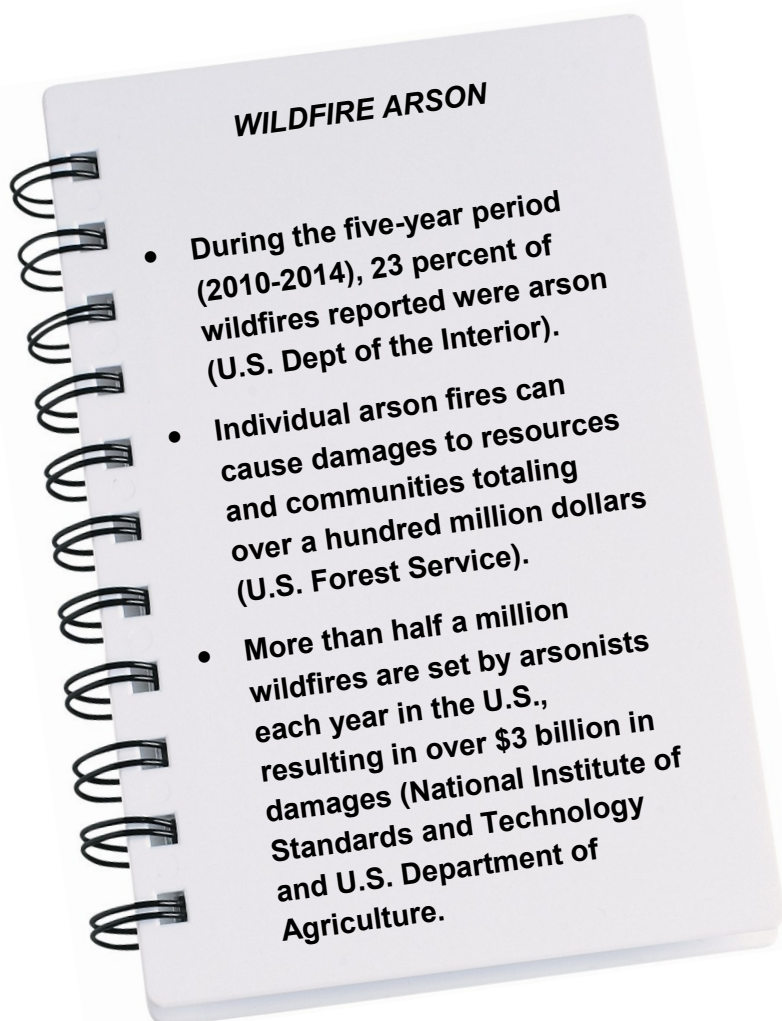
Listing of Volunteer opportunities
<http://ccbaloontfest.com>

PREVENT WILDFIRE ARSON

Wildland arson fires are usually set on the fringes of where wildland is accessible providing the arsonist a quick escape coupled with an area less frequently traveled reducing their chances of being detected. It is nearly impossible to predict where an arsonist will strike.

What can homeowners and business owners who live in areas susceptible to this type of event:

- Install a residential fire sprinkler system in your home and frequently check that smoke alarms are in working order.
- Support adoption of local wildland-urban interface building codes and weed abatement ordinances for structures built near wooded areas.
- Use fire-resistant materials when building, renovating, or retrofitting structures.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, particularly near and in sleeping areas.
- Create a safety zone or defensible space to separate the home from combustible plants and vegetation.
- "If You See Something, Say Something."TM It takes a community to protect a community.
 - Be prepared, build a disaster emergency kit.
 - Make evacuation plans from your home and from work and plan several routes in case the fire blocks an escape route.



Information gathered from the Insurance Committee for Arson Control (ICAC)



DID YOU KNOW...

WILDFIRES
often begin unnoticed.
Call 9-1-1 if you see a wildfire!
www.ready.gov/wildfires

Ready  

Fire Marshal's Report April 2016



Investigations	April	YTD:
Intentional	1	4
Unintentional	9	38
Natural	0	1
Undetermined	3	8
Notifications	12	29
TOTAL:	25	80
Miscellaneous		
Active Arson Cases	1	4
Fire Inspections Completed	6	37
Youthful Fire Setter Programs	4	4
Reports Sent to Assessment Office	13	13
Follow-Up with Insurance Companies and Investigators	44	44
Casualties		
Emergency Services Casualties		
Fatal	0	0
Injuries	0	1
Civilian Casualties		
Fatal	0	0
Injuries	3	16

Property Type	April Totals	April Property Loss	YTD	YTD Property Loss
Assembly	1	\$0	1	\$0
Educational	0	\$0	0	\$0
Health Care, Detention,	0	\$0	3	\$45,000.00
Residential	13	\$358,500.00	48	\$3,748,500.00
Mercantile, Business	1	\$0	6	\$217,000.00
Industrial, Utility Defense, Agricultural, Mining	1	\$1,000.00	2	\$1,000.00
Manufacturing and	1	\$0	1	\$0
Storage	5	\$550,500.00	8	\$1,310,500.00
Outside or Special Property	3	\$0	9	\$3,050.00
Other	0	\$0	2	\$10,025.00
TOTAL:	25	\$910,000.00	80	\$5,305,075.00

Emergency Medical Services Week **2016**

May 15– 21, 2016 is National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. National EMS Week is sponsored annually by the American College of Emergency Physicians in order to recognize and celebrate the value and achievements of the EMS system. While EMS Week only officially happens once a year, the significant value and many achievements of Chester County's EMS system should be celebrated far more often than annually.

This year's EMS Week theme is- "EMS Strong: Called To Care." As an EMS provider you were likely not drawn to the EMS field because of the high earning potential; the work schedule that's loaded with nights, weekends, and Holidays; or the prospect of being properly thanked for a job well done after every difficult call. More likely you saw EMS as a calling; as an opportunity to help support your local community; or as an effective way

to make a difference in someone's life. However you care to describe it, many do see EMS as a calling, and it takes a special person to answer that call. The fact that you've stepped up and answered that call speaks volumes about your character, commitment, and dedication.

Many of us will once again gather at the Red Clay Room in Kennett Square on Thursday May 19th to celebrate some of the many success stories where the Chester County EMS system had a positive impact on a negative situation; and to honor our friends and colleagues who have made significant personal contributions to our EMS system. Please take some time during this EMS Week to reflect on the truly good work that you and your colleagues do to ensure that our EMS system continues to provide quality and compassionate care to those in need.

So in celebration of EMS Week, and for all the times that it isn't said the other 51 weeks of the year – "Thank You" for what you do, and "Thank You" for answering the Call To Care.

ATTENTION FIRST RESPONDER AGENCIES

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT POLICY UPDATES

PLEASE VISIT

CHESCO.ORG/DES

AND CLICK ON

"FIRST RESPONDER" 

TO VIEW THE MOST CURRENT *BEST PRACTICES*

AND *POLICES* REGARDING

TECHINICAL SUPPORT

AND

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT



Junior Public Safety Camp June 20-24, 2016

Public Safety Training Campus

Course Tuition: \$50.00 (Registration Required) Register at destraining.chesco.org

The Junior Public Safety day camp provides classroom and practical training to further the participant's knowledge, skills, and abilities in all aspects of Public Safety: 9-1-1 Communications, Fire, Law Enforcement and EMS.

This week long camp will cover such topics as: fire safety, law enforcement, courtroom operations, K-9 handling, basic fire ground operations, hands only CPR, fire extinguisher training, hazardous materials, emergency equipment display and much more!!



FIND YOUR SEAT AT THE TABLE



MONTHLY MEETING REMINDER

**Police Chief's Technical Meeting
Every 2nd Thursday of each month**

Asset Highlight: COMM 1

On Thursday, April 21, 2016 members of the DES team traveled to Hershey, PA to participate in the 2016 Pennsylvania Command and Communications Rally. The rally attendees consisted of staff from local 911 Communications, Emergency Management, Auxiliary Communications, and various State and Federal agencies.

Members from participating agencies were provided the opportunity to explore the technologies, vehicles, and best practices employed by the regional Emergency response agencies throughout the day. During the event there was the opportunity for several communications exercises in the form of “roll calls” on various communications frequencies common in the public safety field.

These exercises demonstrated the abilities of the various communications units to unite on common channels and communicate together, as would occur in a disaster or emergency scenario where distant mutual aid would be requested.



Above – Various Mobile Communications Vehicles from the region on display at the Rally, Chester County COMM 1 is pictured (second from the left)

In addition to participating in the “roll calls”, the staff from Chester County was able to leverage remote Internet Protocol connections with CAD and the radio system to “take control” and effectively dispatch Police/Fire/EMS agencies from their position in Hershey. The Harris V^{IP} Software allowed full radio console functionality outside of the traditional RF coverage footprint of the P25 Network. This entire “remote dispatch” function was performed without any visible effect to the field users.



Above – Chester County COMM1 set up and operational at the 2016 Pennsylvania Command and Communications Rally in Hershey, PA.



Above – Corey Hostetler, Assistant Supervisor uses remote connections to CAD and Harris radio systems to remotely dispatch Chester County Field agencies from the parking lot in Hershey PA.



NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

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