

Tips for Texting 9-1-1

If you have an emergency where it might be risky to make a phone call, such as when hiding in your home from an intruder, you now can send a text message to 9-1-1 if you are in Chester County! Texting should only be used when calling is not an option.

Whenever possible, emergency services ask that you please call 9-1-1; it helps them to pinpoint your location more quickly.

Already, the texting service has resulted in the arrest of a fugitive. On April 19, 2015, someone in the company of an outlaw texted 9-1-1, and the Pennsylvania State Police were able to promptly and safely make an arrest.

A few key things to remember if you ever need to text 9-1-1:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep it short, but do not use abbreviations or texting language.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text messages cannot be pinpointed as precisely as calls. Give an exact address and municipality, not a postal city.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are at the border of the county, your text may bounce back or be sent to another 9-1-1 center. Consequently, you may need to call in such circumstances. Chester County is the only county in southeastern Pennsylvania currently allowing texts to 9-1-1.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your phone will need to have a texting plan in order to text 9-1-1. However, there is no charge for texting 9-1-1.