

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

June 2015

## Does ReadyChesCo Alert You?

Chester County Department of Emergency Services releases its new mass notification system: ReadyChesCo. ReadyChesCo replaces ReadyNotifyPA. ReadyChesCo is powered by Everbridge. This upgrade is part of a Southeast PA region-wide change in software that has powered the system. Some of the enhancements include:

- The ability to specify how you want to be contacted. Do you prefer a telephone call before being text messaged? You control the order in which you are notified.
- Automated weather alerts based on the addresses you provide. If the National Weather Service issues a flood watch for the Brandywine River but you don't live anywhere near the Brandywine, you won't be notified. If a Severe Thunderstorm is going to affect Tredyffrin but you live in Oxford, you won't be warned. We will alert based on the US National Weather Service Philadelphia/Mount Holly defined areas that will be affected. You can also set "Quiet Hours" so you won't be alerted about non-life threatening weather when you're sleeping or at work. But, don't worry, we'll still wake you up if it's could to save your life.
- Better reliability in alerting. With the new system you'll receive true SMS text messages. If you change carriers you'll still be alerted. You'll only need to update the system if your phone number changes. You can also save the address as a contact in your phone so you'll know it's important.

We will be working with municipalities and other Chester County departments so they can deliver non-emergency information about services and opportunities. This system will really become an information hub for Chester County!

**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.

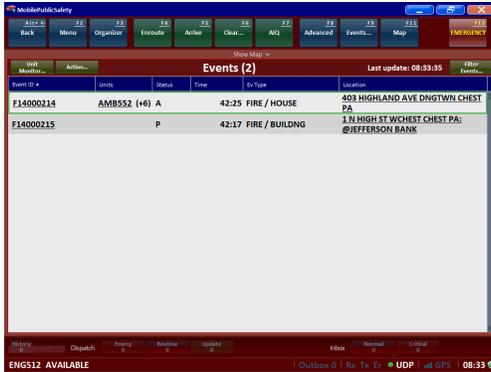
**READY ChesCo .org**

The advertisement features a background image of a snowy, wooded area. The text is overlaid on this image. A red banner contains the text "Your Source For Emergency Information". At the bottom, there is a red stamp-like graphic with the text "READY ChesCo .org".



# From the Director....

## Project Updates & Monthly Stats



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

- Preliminary acceptance testing has begun on all applications, including Mobile for Public Safety. The majority of Service requests have been closed out.
- Knowledge Center interface and Push-to-Talk interface will be completed post-cutover so there is no schedule impact.
- The new agreed upon cutover date is September 2015 with final project completion estimated for May 2016.

### Training Facility:

- More than 250 people attended the Tactical Village grand opening on 15 May. The only outstanding construction-related item in the Tactical Village is the control panels for the propane pumps, expected to be installed in July.
- DES, Facilities, and Manns Woodward presented the proposed change in building design for the firing range to South Coatesville Borough Council on 12 May. The Borough Council responded favorably and advised we did not have to go through a formal land development process. Manns Woodward continues to develop construction drawings, which are expected to be complete by August. Once drawings are complete, Facilities will be able to bid construction.

### May 2015 Stats

794 Per Day	9-1-1, VoIP, 10 Digit Calls
966	Fire Incidents
3,327	EMS Incidents
1 Minute 30Seconds	Fire/EMS Average Dispatch
29,981	Police Incidents
1 Minute 35 Seconds	Average Police Dispatch
98%	Average of Quality Reviews

### Voice Radio Project:

- Of the 27 tower sites we will be using, we have completed the legal and financial process at 26 sites and have released the sites to Harris for their work. Nineteen of the 27 sites have been fully installed and brought online.
- The first delivery of radios from Harris was received. More than 25 pallets of mobile radios have arrived and are in storage at the warehouse. More deliveries are expected throughout the next several months.
- Cutover is scheduled for 1 January 2016 with Final System Acceptance 21 April 2016.



# New Background Clearances/Act 153 Information

Protecting Pennsylvania's children from abuse and neglect is a shared responsibility. It requires collaboration from the formal child protective services system, community partners and our citizens to provide local safety nets for children and families that are facing challenges within our communities and neighborhoods.

Recently, 23 pieces of legislation were enacted, changing how Pennsylvania responds to child abuse. These changes significantly impact the reporting, investigation, assessment, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

Certain individuals, in order to work or volunteer with children, are required to obtain clearances which may include the following:

- Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance;
- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check; and
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Check.

Who needs child abuse clearances?

Employees having contact with children

Foster/Adoptive parents

School employees governed by the Public School Code

School employees not governed by the Public School Code

## Volunteers

How do you obtain these clearances?

All clearances for child abuse are a three step process. You need to do the below checks in order to complete the requirement for Act 153.

## ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Child Abuse History Clearance Online: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS>

Creating an account and submitting your clearance application online will give you immediate access to your results or the status of

your results if your results cannot be processed immediately.

Organizations who want to set up business accounts must first register for a Business Partner User account using the "Organization Account Access" link on the Child Welfare Portal. Organization accounts will allow businesses and organizations to purchase child abuse history clearance payment codes and distribute those codes to applicants. When an applicant uses a code given to them by an organization, the organization will have access to the applicant's child abuse history clearance results once those results are processed. **This is how we here at DES are handling our employees and volunteers.**

## **PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK INSTRUCTIONS**

Below is the link to the Pennsylvania Criminal Record Check form (SP4-164):  
Pennsylvania State Police Request for Criminal record Check Form (SP4-164)

Applicants can also go to the Pennsylvania Access To Criminal History website and apply for their criminal record check online with the Pennsylvania State Police at: <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>

If you have questions about the Pennsylvania State Police Request for Criminal Record Checks form (SP4 164), please call: (717) 783-9973 or toll free 1-888-783-7972.

## **FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK INSTRUCTIONS**

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services is utilizing Cogent Systems to process fingerprint-based FBI criminal background checks. The fingerprint based background check is a multiple step process. For more information and to begin the registration process, go to [www.pa.cogentid.com/index\\_dpw.htm](http://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpw.htm). For question about your FBI Clearance, please contact the FBI/Adam Walsh Unit at 717-783-6211 or 1-877-371-5422.

# Limerick Generating Station's Community Information Night



Ever wonder how a nuclear power plant operates? Join us for Limerick Generating Station's Community Information Night on June 25, 2015, and you'll see firsthand how Limerick operators safely harness the power of the atom to provide electricity to two million homes and businesses. The free event will be held at Limerick's Learning Center from 4-7 p.m. Station employees will be on hand to educate visitors on station operations; engineering practices; environmental stewardship; industrial safety; radiological safety; site security; emergency preparedness; and much more. Visitors can also tour the plant's main control room simulator, which is used to train reactor operators. Chester County Department of Emergency Services will be present and meeting with you and providing material for emergency preparedness not only for the nuclear power plant, but for all-hazards preparedness.

## Chester County Safe Schools Meeting

On May 20<sup>th</sup> we held our biannual Chester County Safe Schools Meeting. This meeting brings together public and non-public k-12 schools. During this meeting, we give updates from Department of Emergency Services based on county-wide projects we are working on, for example Family Reunification. This meeting helps develop partnerships with agencies associated with school safety and security and we assist all public schools with meeting Chapter 10 safe schools regulatory compliance.

It's a great way to share information between all the schools that are represented and to discuss future programs or products that help with school safety and keeping our students safe.

## Staff Attends National VOAD Conference

With the 10 year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina rapidly approaching, the Louisiana VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) hosted the National VOAD Conference in New Orleans. It was an opportunity not only for reflection but also to celebrate how far the area has come thanks largely to the volunteers who came not only during the response phase, but also for the next 5 years of recovery. Speakers included Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate.



Southeastern Pennsylvania was well represented with participants from Chester, Montgomery, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties. We were joined by local VOAD partners from Team Rubicon, UMCOR, Lutheran Disaster Response, SEPA 2-1-1, ACS, and Mennonite Disaster Service.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Continuity and Disaster Preparedness Summit

On Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Chester County Department of Emergency Services (CCDES) was pleased to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Continuity and Disaster Preparedness Summit in conjunction with our partners from the United Way of Chester County and Chester County FIRST.

More than 40 agencies came to learn about the emergency response system in the region by participating in a panel discussion, and received information on ways to build and strengthen their agency's Business Continuity Plan. The audience was asked: "In an emergency, will your clients look to you for services?" For all of the organizations, the answer was "yes."

Business Continuity Planning allows agencies to identify and prioritize their critical functions and determine how to keep those functions operating even during an emergency. Chester County FIRST is a collaboration of Private Sector businesses which coordinate business continuity initiatives and best practices. Thank you to the Business Continuity/ Risk Management teams of Vanguard and Cerner for their expertise on May 20<sup>th</sup>, and for being a part of this effort for the past 3 years.

CCDES is committed to working together with Community-based and Faith-based organizations to develop the coordination and communication avenues to assist all Chester County citizens in case of an emergency. It is our goal to provide organizations the tools to help them stay open whether the emergency is local or County-wide. We will follow up with a Table-top Exercise in November to allow organizations to test elements of their plan.

If you would like to participate in this summit in the future - please contact Robyn Slater - [rslater@chesco.org](mailto:rslater@chesco.org)

## Regional Hazardous Materials Exercise

The Chester County HazMat team participated in a regional exercise at the Aqua water treatment plant in Media. The team worked with other hazmat teams from SEPA to exercise on handling a chlorine incident. Aqua was kind enough to allow the hazmat teams to train on their chlorine cylinder props. Aqua also gave the teams a chance to tour the water treatment plant to learn about the other chemicals and hazards that are onsite other than chlorine. The exercise helped the Chester County team prepare if there were ever an incident at either of the two Aqua facilities in Chester County



## DES Staff member to Join Immaculata as Program Advisor

Heather Morgan, the Training and Exercise Coordinator, will join Immaculata University as an Advisor on their *Emergency Planning and Management* program board. Immaculata University is graduating their first students of the bachelor degree program and they are taking the opportunity to review their 3 year old program. Service on their board is pro bono, however, will have a tremendous impact helping to shape the education and careers of emerging professionals in an important and growing field.



# Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc. EMS Awards Banquet

In celebration of National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, the Chester County EMS Council, Inc. held their annual EMS Awards Banquet on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Red Clay Room in Kennett Square. Emergency Services personnel from throughout the County once again gathered 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.

Following an always popular social hour, the 250 plus attendees were welcomed by Council President Keith Johnson. Department of Emergency Services Director Kagel offered his remarks, and introduced Chester County Commissioners Terence Farrell, Kathi Cozzone, and Michelle Kichline who also offered remarks and presented President Johnson with an EMS Week Proclamation.

With appetites satisfied by the usual delicious meal, the Council, Inc. proceeded to recognize 120 award recipients. An impressive 93 Clinical Save Commendations were awarded for cardiac arrest saves. In addition, 6 Life Saving Clinical Excellence Commendations and 13 Pre-hospital Delivery commendations were also awarded. Individual awards were presented to:

Ethan Healey – BLS Provider of the Year

Alex Christ – ALS Provider of the Year

Steven Bacharach – Telecommunicator of the Year

Muthuramanan Rameswaran – EMS Educator of the Year

Judith Kaplan – Distinguished Provider Award

Keystone Valley Fire Department – Distinguished Service Award

Catherine Rawlings – Nicholas H.S. Campbell Meritorious Service – EMS Leadership Award

Stephen S. Webb – Margaret Hoover Brigham Award



## Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Group

As many of you are aware, the Chester County Department of Emergency Services (CCDES) operates as the Regional EMS Council under a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health-Bureau of EMS (Bureau). Currently, most of our EMS system stakeholder's contacts with CCDES's Field Services Division relate directly to their function as the regional EMS council for items such as; EMS certification exams, EMS agency licensure, EMS continuing education processing, and EMS certification re-registration. Based on recommendations from House Resolution 315 of 2012, the Bureau has recently directed the Commissioners and CCDES to study the potential consolidation of our Regional EMS Council.

In order to be best positioned to have some control over our own destiny, we have established an EMS Advisory Group to provide strategic guidance in studying this issue. The EMS Advisory Group was established as a multi-disciplinary group in a similar manner as many other advisory groups that have provided vital input to CCDES on important projects such as the new Computer Aided Dispatch system and the new Voice Radio system. The EMS Advisory Group is comprised of representatives from the following groups: EMS Council, Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, Fire Police, FOP, CCATO, and CCDES. The EMS Council members cover all levels of EMS system stakeholder including: BLS, ALS, QRS, Physician, Education, Hospital, and former Presidents. It is important to remember that all the members of the EMS Advisory Group play an important role in EMS and as such all have representatives appointed to the EMS Council, Inc.

The group held their first meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Government Services Center. After a welcome and introductions, Director Kagel laid out the objective for the group – which is to determine what the best option is moving forward for providing Regional EMS Council services to Chester County. Several options are possible, including: being absorbed by an existing neighboring Regional EMS Council, forming a new Regional EMS Council, or remaining our own Regional EMS Council. The group will meet again in June to better define specific information needed to

make an informed decision regarding the potential options. The group has been tasked to have a final recommendation by December or January. The end goal is to ensure that people continue to receive help when they need it most, and that customer service to EMS agencies remains high.

If you have thoughts or questions regarding the direction of the EMS Council Inc., we encourage you to reach out to your discipline representative. The members of the EMS Advisory Group include:

Chester County EMS Council, Inc.: Keith Johnson / John Applegate

Chester County EMS Council, Inc. Past Presidents: Bill Wohl / Bob Hotchkiss

QRS: Frank Piscitello

BLS: Gary Vinnacombe / Nick Sawyers

ALS: Leo Scaccia / Rich Constantine

Physician / Medical Command: Dr. Steve Parrillo

EMS Educational Institute: Emily McCarthy / Tammy Johnson

Hospitals: Doug Hughes / Kerry Larkin

Fire Chiefs: Rob Linnenbaugh / Neil Vaughn

Police Chiefs: Bob Clarke / Tom Nelling

Fire Police: Ron Miller / Jack Smith

FOP: Mike Spirito / John Freas

CCATO: Rich Hicks / Charles Fleischmann

LEPC: Bob Fleming

CCDES: John Haynes / Harry Moore

In the interim, it remains business as usual for CCDES in regards to EMS. The Field Services Division will continue to provide all of the services that you have previously received from them. Anyone with questions regarding this project may contact Harry Moore – Deputy Director for Field Services – [hemoore@chesco.org](mailto:hemoore@chesco.org)

## Chester County Fire Training Fire Graduation

Chester County Fire Training held its graduation ceremony for the Spring Basic Fire Academy class on May 28th, 2015 at Wagontown Fire Company. The graduation ceremony recognized those who successfully completed the Spring Chester County Basic Fire Training Academy class. The evening began with the flag presentation by the First West Chester Fire Company Honor Guard and music by Chester County Emerald Society Pipe Band. The procession of the graduates was followed by the flag salute which was led by Fire and Rescue Training Coordinator, Jeff Groves, followed by his opening remarks. Coordinator Groves congratulated all of the graduates and commended them on their hard work and dedication.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Director of Emergency Services Robert Kagel. Robert became Director of Chester County Emergency Services in 2014. Prior to this position, Director Kagel served as Deputy Director of Emergency Management, Assistant Director for Quality, and as a Quality Analyst for the Department of Emergency Services. Director Kagel congratulated the



graduates on completing this milestone in their training and encouraged the class to work hard to achieve the goals in the fire services such as continuing their education.

Following the remarks of Director Kagel, Lead Instructor John DeMarco shared a few comments and introduced the class speaker for the Firefighter I class. The Class' spokesperson is chosen by secret ballot by their fellow class members. Cadet William Gondy was chosen for this honor.

Next was the presentation of the "Class Cadet Award". This award is also chosen by secret ballot

by the graduating class to a cadet that the classmates thought excelled in the spirit of the class and exemplified the hard work and dedication put forth throughout the 10 week class. Deputy Director of Fire Services, George "Beau" Crowding presented the Class Cadet Awards. Because of a tie in the voting, two cadets received Class Cadet Awards; they were Aaron Heller of the Kimberton Fire Company and Geoffrey Miller of the Phoenixville Fire Department.

Following a few comments by Lead Instructor DeMarco, the graduates of the Firefighter I class were presented their certificates.

Those graduating in the Spring 2015 Chester County Basic Fire Academy Class were:

Richard Bernard; Honeybrook Fire Company, Mason Burt; Ludwigs Corner Fire Company, Scott Carter; Union Fire Company of Oxford, Daniel Curran; West Grove Fire Company, Justin Degnan; Goshen Fire Company, Robert Galvin; Kimberton Fire Company, William Gondy; Ludwigs Corner Fire Company, Kyle Griffin; Union Fire Company of Oxford, Aaron Heller; Kimberton Fire Company, Jennifer Holmes; Keystone Valley Fire Company, Robert Johnson; 1st West Chester Fire Company, DeShone Jones; Washington Hose Fire Company of Coatesville, Kyle Kern; Honeybrook Fire

## Chester County Fire Training Fire Graduation Continued...

Company, Nicholas Kuhn; West Grove Fire Company, Eric Lowry; Christiana Fire Company Lancaster County, Ryan Markland; West Grove Fire Company, Morgan Meeks; Christiana Fire Company Lancaster County, Eric Millard; Kimberton Fire Company, Geoffrey Miller; Phoenixville Fire Department, Catherine Osborne; Robert Fulton Fire Company Lancaster County, Anthony Pontillo; West Grove Fire Company, Garrett Reid; Radnor Fire Company Delaware County, Adam Simpkins; 1st West Chester Fire Company, Jacob Smith; Christiana Fire Company Lancaster County, Frank Sofranek 1st West Chester Fire Company, Thomas Valko; Phoenixville Fire Department, Zachary Vandebosch; Christiana Fire Company Lancaster County, Nicholas Wassam; West Grove Fire Company.



The graduates were then led in the Firefighter Oath by Lead Instructor DeMarco and his introduction of the graduates to those in attendance. He also welcomed them all into the fire service.

### Public Safety Training Campus Hosts Tour

On Friday, May 22 Chester County Department of Emergency Services at the Public Safety Training Campus hosted a visit of Argentinian firefighters who are currently planning on building an academy in Buenos Aires in the near future.



### Telecommunicator Openings

Chester County 9-1-1 has an opening for a Telecommunicator I who receives 9-1-1 emergency and non-emergency calls from the public and initiates the appropriate police, ambulance or fire response with the use of a computer aided dispatch (CAD) system. The ideal candidate has the ability to make quick decisions, coordinate multiple tasks at one time, and the ability to maintain control of a call; have the ability to remain calm, remain professional and even-tempered during emergency situations.

**More Information and  
How To Apply:**  
<http://www.chesco.org/jobs>

# Chester County Emergency Services Fire Training Class Notice Firefighter II

(Advanced Fire Fighter)

Course Description: This is an intensive firefighter program designed to introduce seasoned firefighters to advanced fire ground operations and prepare students for the PA State and National Firefighter II Certification Test. Topics in this program include: FFII Test Preparation, Advanced Ventilation Principle & Techniques, Fire ground Rescue Techniques, Fire ground Rescue Techniques, Large Area and Residential Search & Rescue Techniques, Victim Removal, Functioning as a member of a RIT Team, Fire Safety Surveys/Fire and Life Presentation, Technical Rescue, Fire Protection Systems, Combustible Gas and Liquid Fire Control, Foam Firefighting.

This program is a blend of lectures, hands on practical training, individual presentations, and a Live Fire Scenario Day.

Successful completion of this program earns students the following certifications: ProBoard FFII, and PA State Fire Academy certification: Advanced Firefighter (ELAF), Rapid Intervention Teams (RITC), Ventilation Practices (TRVP), Structural Fire Rescue (SFR).

*Equipment Required:* NFPA Compliant PPE, SCBA and spare cylinder.

### *Mandatory Prerequisites:*

National Fire I, PA State Interior Firefighter or SBS, NIMS ICS 100 and 200, and Basic Vehicle Rescue Operations Level. (All mandatory to test for National Fire II Certification)

### Class dates:

*August:* 22, 23, 26, 29, 30 *September:* 2, 9, 12, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 27

**To register go to :  
[destraining.chesco.org](http://destraining.chesco.org)**



*Registration Deadline:  
8/08/2015*

### **Course #**

# **15160048**

***Course Cost: \$425.00  
Includes certification  
testing.***

**For more information  
or questions about**





## Chester County Fire Training Academy

### ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

Course Description: This course is designed to provide overall incident management skills rather than tactical expertise. The course will cover the implementation of the incident management process on expanding incidents, define incident types, and the development of an Incident Action Plan. Determining capabilities to match incident complexity will be discussed. When and how to add appropriate ICS positions to match the complexity of the will be explored. The use of Incident Management Teams will be discussed.

Prerequisites: ICS 200 A or NIMS ICS for the Fire Service NFA (NICS-FS) or Incident Command System NFA (ICS) plus NIMS An Introduction (IS-700) or an equivalent course(s) accredited by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), National Fire Academy (NFA).

Friday evening July 24, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26

Week night: 6 pm to 10 pm

Weekend: 8 am to 5 pm

Cost: \$150.00 per student

**To register go to :  
destraining.chesco.org**

**For more information or questions about  
the class, Please contact Jeff Groves at  
610-344-5017**



**REGISTER:** <http://destraining.chesco.org>



### **CERT Course**

**September 24—November 7, 2015**

CERT Basic Training is designed to prepare you to help yourself and to help others in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Because emergency services personnel will not be able to help everyone immediately, you can make a difference by using your CERT training to save lives and protect property.

There is no cost for attendance at this course. You must attend all days and participate in all modules to receive your certificate.

**Registration ends on September 15, 2015**

Class is limited to 30 participants.

More Information: Heather Morgan [hmorgan@chesco.org](mailto:hmorgan@chesco.org) or  
(610) 344-5540

# PLEASE JOIN US



## **PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CAMPUS TACTICAL VILLAGE FIRST RESPONDER OPEN HOUSE**

**MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015  
FROM 6 PM–9 PM**

**COMMUNITY, FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**RAIN DATE -**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2015 6 PM - 9 PM**

**CHECK [CHESCO.ORG/DES](http://CHESCO.ORG/DES) FOR INFORMATION**

**137 MODENA ROAD  
COATESVILLE, PA 19320**