The Responder

An informational resource for the responders of Chester County.

January—February 2025

Chester County Department of Emergency Services
601 Westtown Road, Suite 012, West Chester, PA 19380

Commissioners: Josh Maxwell | Marian Moskowitz | Eric Roe
Director: Warren W. Messerschmidt

Foundations of Emergency Management Training



On January 27, 2025 Chester County Department of Emergency Services (CCDES) hosted L0101: Foundations of Emergency Management (5-day session) at the Chester County Government Services Center in West Chester, PA. L0101 Foundations of Emergency Management is part of the National Emergency Management Basic Academy (NEMBA) certification program. This program serves as a gateway for individuals who are pursuing a career in emergency management. The goal of the Basic Academy is to support early careers of emergency managers through training experience combining knowledge of all fundamental systems, concepts, and practices of cutting-edge emergency management.

In attendance were many CCDES staff, regional emergency management partners from the five-county region, as well as staff from Delaware and Maryland. Instructors were flown in from across the country to deliver the session material. The diverse backgrounds of all attendees and instructors supported lengthy discussions, often times going beyond the instructional material. The inclusion of regional stakeholders is just another example of how the surrounding counties in the southeastern region of Pennsylvania strive to provide equitable training and exercise opportunities to each other year after year. This session helped to solidify the great partnerships in place already and forged new relationships that will extend beyond the classroom experience.



The session ended with a Capstone Exercise in which participants organized themselves into two teams. Each team had a designated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Manager and Assistant EOC Manager who then assigned additional EOC roles. Collectively, each team worked through exercise injects that were designed to demonstrate the common team building, discussions, and people management skills that are often found in the EOC setting.

For more information on NEMBA, please visit: https://training.fema.gov/programs/emergency-management-professional/basic/

For more information regarding county emergency management training resources, please visit: https://www.chesco.org/4870/Training-Exercise

Welcome to the Team!



Martin “Marty” Deighan
Law Enforcement Instructor I



Geoffrey “Todd” Burkhart
Law Enforcement Instructor I



Clifford “Cliff” Cordani
Law Enforcement Instructor III



Patrick Fyock
Law Enforcement Instructor III

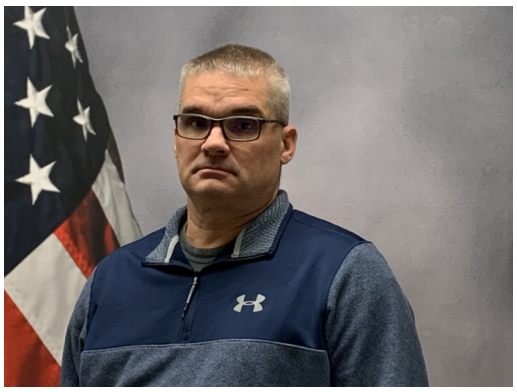


Tom Jones
Law Enforcement Instructor 1



Robert Schurr
Law Enforcement Instructor III

Welcome to the Team!



Scott Yoder
Fire Instructor II



Gina Slobogin
Fire Instructor I



William Cummings
Fire Instructor III



Mike Kopp
Fire Instructor II



Dylan Kane
Fire Instructor I



Ken Battin
Fire Instructor III

Welcome to the Team!



Jan-Patrice “JP” Bennett
Fire Instructor I



Rob Linnenbaugh
Fire Instructor II



Christopher Young
Fire Instructor II



Daniel Donnachiie
Fire Instructor I

Welcome to the Team!



William Campbell
Telecommunicator Trainee



Patrick Cunningham
Telecommunicator Trainee



Emily Tyson
Telecommunicator Trainee



Melinda Rickards
Telecommunicator Trainee

Promotions



Dakota Jennings
Telecommunicator I



Tabitha Bechtel
Telecommunicator II



Anton Bilski
Telecommunicator II



Karly Thomas
Telecommunicator II



Jonathan Samsel
Safety & Security Supervisor

Stork Pin Presentation

On January 17, 2025, Telecommunicator Lee Dillender provided instructions for an impending birth.

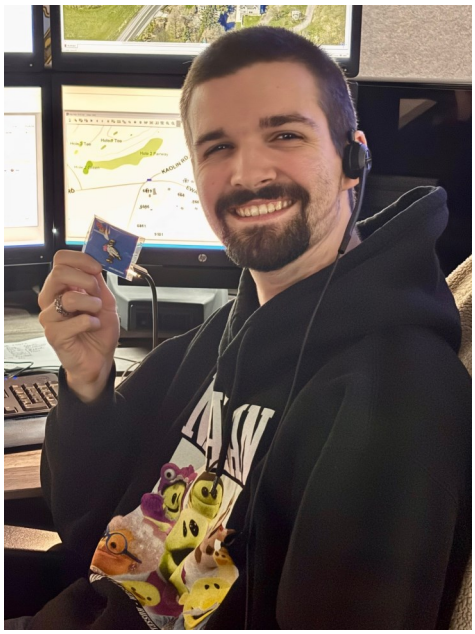
Lee describes what happened during call that evening:

“As soon as I picked the call up, I was speaking to her husband, who told me that she was giving birth.

“My first step was location verification; so I looked at my resources to find out that they were driving. They said they were heading to where their current road intersected a major route – this was a large interchange, so I told them to stop at the next intersection they approach instead to make verifying the location easier, and to make the area to find them less complicated for responders.

“At this point, I had already pulled up my childbirth EMD (emergency medical dispatch) card and sent the incident type and location to dispatch. My next step was to figure out the actual stage of childbirth at the moment. With a bit further questioning on contractions, I asked if he could see the baby, and he said yes. A few moments later, he tells me that the baby has been delivered. I continued to post-delivery instructions and check that both the baby and the mother are okay. By the time all is settled – Mom is okay and baby is breathing. EMS confirmed the newborn was a girl.

“All things considered, I’m thankful that my first Stork Pin call was so straightforward.”



Lee Dillender
Telecommunicator I

Chester County Highway Safety Project News



Students at St. James Preschool-Downingtown learn all about being safe in cars by always riding in the back seat, staying away from frontal airbags, and buckling up. The Chester County Highway Safety Project team partners up with law enforcement to deliver “The Back Is Where It’s At” program to schools throughout the county.



In December, the Highway Safety Project team trained and certified 18 new child passenger safety technicians. This was an eager and hardworking group with representation from areas such as local law enforcement, state police, fire, EMTs, health care and student transportation. Their efforts will ensure safe travels for many children on our roads this year.

Portable Radio Testing and Evaluation Project

The Department of Emergency Services is undertaking a large scale project to refresh law enforcement radios. The radios currently in use were received in 2015 as part of the Countywide P25 radio system deployment.

To assist in evaluation and selection of the new radios, we have acquired demonstration portable radios from several manufacturers. These radios are being circulated with Chester County law enforcement agencies for on-street field use and evaluation. This real world feedback will be an important aspect of evaluating each Vendor's responses to a competitive RFP for a large batch of new portable and mobile radios.

Radios being circulated and evaluated include models from L3Harris, JVC Kenwood, Motorola, and Tait.

Police Departments interested in testing radios should contact Jon Kromer at jkromer@chesco.org

Testing is expected to be completed around May 1, 2025.



Safety and Security Reports

January Report:

Incidents Reported—140

Visitor Screenings—814

February Report

Incidents Reported—130

Visitor Screenings—842



The Safety & Security Division would like to recognize Mark DeStefano for his extra effort in assisting with training new operators at Pocopson Home.



Have you signed up for *ReadyChesCo*? Chester County uses *ReadyChesCo* to notify you during a major crisis or emergency and provides important emergency alerts; such as weather, road closures, health and community notifications.

ReadyChesCo can send notifications to all your devices; email accounts, cell phones, and home landline phones.

Registration only takes a few minutes. You can choose to receive alerts by county, municipality or by topic.

You can register by visiting www.readychesco.org

It is free to sign up for ReadyChesCo, and you can choose the types of alerts you receive. Your wireless carrier may charge you to get messages on your device, so check your plan to see what is covered. You can choose to stop receiving these messages at anytime.

KEEP YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE

Smart911 can provide emergency personnel with lifesaving information they need to help you and the ones you love.

You can create a profile for the people living in your household, any medical conditions and allergies, property details, layout and utility information. And don't forget to add your pets to your profile.

Registering your profile in *Smart911* only takes a few minutes. Visit www.smart911.com