



**Cumberland County
Department of Public Safety**
"Public Safety, Your Expectation, Our Commitment"

The Communiqué

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Department of
Public Safety**

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Cumberland County
SERT Team

Summerfair 2008 a Huge Success

By: Megan Moriarty

Summerfair 2008 saw a new location, but proved to be the same great experience for all who attended. This years Summerfair Open House was held on July 2nd at 310 Allen Road. The morning started with the Landing of Pennsylvania State Police's Helicopter, Trooper 4. Shortly after the landing of Trooper 4, Life Lion landed while West End Fire and Rescue began their vehicle extrication demonstration. The patient from the extrication was then loaded into Life Lion. At this time visitors were welcome to look around Life Lion and Trooper 4. Later in the day another extrication took place. Stat MedEvac landed and the extrication team demonstrated a "hot load" into the waiting helicopter. In the K-9 Demo Area visitors got to see demonstrations by the K-9 units from Carlisle Police Department and the East Pennsboro Police Department. These demonstrations allowed visitors to learn more about the important job these dogs perform including drug searches and criminal apprehension. The dogs skills were put on display for all to see by "apprehending" an individual in a bite suit. Summit Search and Rescue (SSAR) also did a demonstration with their two Bloodhounds. SSAR demonstrated the dogs' ability to

track a human's scent through virtually any terrain. Also throughout the day visitors were able to see fire extinguisher demonstrations, receive Child ID services from the Sheriff's Office, tour the 9-1-1 Mobile Communications Unit, and see equipment utilized by the County Special Response Team. There were also booths set up for visitors to learn about home preparedness, disposal of home chemicals, career opportunities in the emergency services, blood pressure screenings, County Animal Rescue Team, Search and Rescue Team, and the Mass Casualty Incident Response Team. Participants and visitors were also able to show their support for our brave men and woman serving in Iraq. Thank you cards were available for all in attendance to sign. These cards were sent to Armed Services fire departments in Iraq. With over 750 participants and attendees, this years Summerfair was a huge success. Thank you from the DPS staff and Summerfair Committee to all of those who participated and attended! Without you this event would not be possible. Next years event is tentatively scheduled for June 26th. We hope to see you there!



Tour of PA Bicycle Race

By Bob Shively



The Cumberland County Emergency Operations Center activated for 2 consecutive days to provide coordination and support for the six day, 450 miles Tour of PA Bicycle Race that traversed the



Commonwealth from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh June 24th through June 29th. The tour featured 20 teams of six riders each (ages 18 to 24) from around the world. The race was sanctioned by the International Cycling Union (UCI) and featured future stars of the Olympics and Tour de France. The race offers a cash prize list of \$150,000. The Tour of Pennsylvania was sponsored by American Eagle Outfitters and presented by Highmark Healthy High 5® a five-year, \$100 million children's health promotion

initiative of the Highmark Foundation.

Stages 2 and 3 were highlighted by racing through Cumberland County. On June 25th, Stage 2 started in Downingtown and entered the County crossing the Susquehanna River on the Market Street Bridge. They continued on Market Street through Lemoyne and Camp Hill to 32nd and Market making a quick left and then right onto Trindle Road following Trindle Road



through Mechanicsburg and into Carlisle to the finish line at the intersection of High and West Streets in Carlisle Borough. The following day saw the race start at the Highmark Building on Center Street in East Pennsboro Township and follow much of

the same route but continuing through Carlisle and traveling west on Ritner Highway through Shippensburg (ending in Bedford). The event required a great deal of participation from local Municipal Police and Highway services,



Pennsylvania State Police, PennDOT, Special Police Emergency Response Team, and Emergency Management Personnel. The EOC coordinated with PSP Command to maintain the location of the rolling caravan and relay via 2-way radio to local entities so the streets and highways could be closed to vehicle traffic allowing the race to pass through without delay.

DPS Participates in Mass Casualty School Drill

By Megan Moriarty

On May 31st DPS participated in a Mass Casualty Drill held at Shippensburg Senior High School. The drill, which took nearly 4 months to plan, and involved approximately 100 participants, began at 10:00 am with the fire department (FD) being dispatched to the Shippensburg Senior High School for reports of smoke in the building. While responding to the incident the FD and EMS were advised that county was receiving reports of shots fired within the school. These units staged at the middle school. At this time the Police Department (PD) was dispatched and responded. PD made entry into the school where they encountered heavy smoke conditions, several burn, smoke inhalation and shooting victims. PD apprehended the shooter and cleared the building for the FD to enter. The FD entered at this time to find 2 rooms charged with smoke. The fire department "extinguished" the fire and ventilated the building. During this stage of the drill, victims were evacuated by EMS, PD and the FD and triaged. During the drill the school district was tasked with assisting in the iden-

tification of victims, creating a reunification point for parents and uninjured students, and releasing statements to the press. A total of 21 moulaged Shippensburg School District students and staff served as victims for the day with injuries ranging from small lacerations to gun shot wounds.

The purpose of this drill was to test the ability of the PD, FD, EMS and the School District to work together in a unified command system. Also being tested was EMS's ability to effectively respond to a mass casualty incident and triage patients, PD's ability to apprehend an active shooter and secure the building, FD's ability to effectively respond to a fire at a local school, and the school districts ability to respond and meet the requests of the emergency services during a mass casualty incident at one of their facilities. The drill was a great learning experience for all involved and allowed participants to identify areas that may need improvement. The Mobile Communications Unit along with 7 DPS staff members were on hand serving as evaluators, facilitators, and participants.



DPS Welcomes New EOC Staffer

By: Michele Parsons

DPS is pleased to announce that Skip Powell has agreed to serve on the Cumberland County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff as one of the subject matter experts for the ESF #8 (Health/Medical) position. Robert "Skip" Powell, Jr., was born and raised in Altoona, Pennsylvania. A high school graduate of the Altoona Area High School in 1971 and student at Penn State University – Altoona Campus, Skip joined the Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department in 1974. In October of 1974, Skip had experienced his first ambulance 'call' and went on to complete his Emergency Medical Technician certification in 1976. In 1977,

Skip had responded as a BLS provider to an auto accident that involved two teenagers in an MG sports car that had broadsided a large tree stump. The driver was ejected and the passenger remained entrapped. Advanced Life Support services were not yet developed in this area, so Skip provided BLS care to the passenger. Partially because there were no ALS capabilities, the patient had succumbed to his injuries on the scene. As most of us have felt at some point in this profession, Skip never wanted to experience the helplessness of such a situation again. With that motivation, Skip, with his fire department, approached the Southern Allegheny EMS Council

and pushed for a paramedic training program. This program began in 1979 and Skip graduated in the first class in 1980. The next 4 years saw Skip employed by Polyclinic Medical Center, Medic 5. Skip remained there until 1985 when the newly-formed West Shore ALS began providing service. Along with Skip was H. Larry Roberts, Steve Poffenberger, Carole Brandt (Poffenberger), and Karen Thomas. These individuals had all worked together at Medic 5 and had become known as the 'elite' paramedic providers in the South Central Pennsylvania area. During Skip's career at West Shore ALS / West Shore EMS, he has served as a staff paramedic, shift supervisor, ALS Coordinator, Chief

and QA/Staff Development Coordinator. Skip has also served in many other capacities within the Cumberland County EMS System including, The South Central Task Force and the EMS Council. Skip has recently resigned from these positions but will still be a great asset to this County as an EOC staffer. On behalf of the Cumberland County Department of Public Safety, I wish to thank Skip for all of the years of service, dedication and commitment to our citizens and visitors and I am looking forward to working with Skip as he continue serving within Cumberland County.

Storm Spotter Training

By: Eric Hoerner

On Wednesday, June 11th 50 people attended a Storm Spotter training session instructed by Dave Ondrejik from the National Weather Service. The session was hosted by Carlisle Barracks in conjunction with the Cumberland County Department of Public Safety. The group was comprised of folks

from Carlisle Barracks, The South Mountain Repeater Association (Amateur Radio Club), Local Emergency Management Coordinators, PEMA Central Area office personnel as well as staff from the Department of Public Safety. Skywarn Spotters assist the weather service by reporting observations of specific severe

weather conditions when occurring, direct to the National Weather Service office in State College. Carlisle Barracks is working to complete "Storm Ready" certification for the Barracks installation. Sky-Warn storm spotters on the installation are a part of the certification. Thank you to Carlisle Barracks for hosting this event.

DPS Gearing Up for National Preparedness Month

By: Megan Moriarty

Every year thousands of Americans are adversely affected by natural or man made disasters. Most Americans do not realize there are steps they can take to prepare for these disasters that could drastically alter the impact they have on their lives. Do you know what steps to take to be prepared? DPS will be participating in National Preparedness Month this year and will be doing so as National Preparedness Month Coalition Members. DPS will be offering programs throughout the county on home and business preparedness. This year DPS is proud to be adding a new tool to its preparedness program. This tool

comes courtesy of The Council for Excellence in Government. This non profit organization has created the "Readiness Quotient" or RQ to help citizens and communities determine their level of preparedness. The RQ will help gauge the preparedness of Cumberland County's citizens and businesses through a series of calculated questions. If you are interested in hosting or attending a DPS preparedness presentation or completing the RQ test please contact Megan Moriarty at mmoriarty@ccpa.net or by phone at 717-240-6400. For a list of DPS events visit <http://ready.adcouncil.org/EventCalendar.asp>

September is...
National Preparedness Month

"Preparing Makes Sense!"
Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed, Get Involved.

To learn more about how you and your family can prepare for emergencies and get involved, visit: ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY

Homeland Security Ready citizenCorps A1

AT LEAST ONE IN FOUR BUSINESSES NEVER REOPEN AFTER A DISASTER.

MAKE A PLAN. ready.gov

A1 Ready Business



THE COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

By: Doug Glass



Replacement Portable Radios/ Sprint/Nextel Rebanding: All of us are anxiously awaiting the replacement portable radios to be provided as part of the Sprint/Nextel nationwide re-banding effort. Operating software is currently in the hands of the Commonwealth for Factory Acceptance Testing. M/A Com has also provided our office with the same software for our independent testing. A successful FAT is the critical part of the start of the distribution process. M/A Com anticipates successful passing of the FAT in mid-September. Following the notification of certification of the software by the Commonwealth – the end user training on the new radios will be finalized with HACC. This training is about 80% complete awaiting the features in the final release version of the software. Once this is completed a training schedule and agency visit schedule for the purpose of physical swap out of portables and accessories will be developed. It is anticipated this replacement will take upwards of six months to complete. Updates will be provided in the form of emails and the County 800 MHz website.

Mobile Radio Re-booting Problem: The mobile radio re-booting problem that has plagued our system since August of last year is nearing the end. M/A Com has had difficulty finding the specific bug in software. The current versions of software in the field (9.36 and 9.39) contain the bug that causes the radio to re-boot frequently and in certain situations where there is a lot of radio traffic – more often. While the bug has not been completely eradicated, M/A Com has an interim release (version 9.42) that has been tested in our office. This version delays the re-boot to days rather than hours or less. Our test radios are control stations and mobile radios that sit in a high radio traffic location. Based on this experience and knowing most public safety radios are not on continuously for more than eight hours we don't think this problem will be seen once the code version is rolled out. The rollout schedule is in development and could already be in progress by receipt of this newsletter. The software will be loaded over the air and will require coordination with the agencies to insure mobile radios are available and turned on to receive the download. It will require the radio to be selected to a quiet talk group and scan disabled. The download time for individual radios will be dependant on available radio coverage and multiple radios can be done at one time. M/A Com will have technicians available in the event a radio fails to successfully download the software. The download schedule will be emailed to the agencies.

Reminder: The County maintains a website for the 800 MHz radio system and can be accessed at <http://www.ccpa.net/index.asp?NID=81>. This website contains important updates, FAQ's and operational tips.

Remembering Earl Moser 7/30/1926 - 7/13/2008

By: Ted Wise

On July 13th, DPS was sad to learn of the passing of Earl Moser. Earl Moser was appointed as the County Training Coordinator in the early 70's and worked tirelessly in conjunction with the Cumberland County Volunteer Firemen's Association to develop a countywide training program that included the design and construction of the Training Academy. For many years the Cumberland County Fire Services and the County Firefighter's Association

were recognized for their innovative county-wide approach and the effective development and delivery of a county level training program for the Fire, EMS services of the county and region.

The training concepts that were pioneered 30 years ago set a precedent that continues to this day. Through Earl's efforts he fostered a cadre of local talent to be used as instructors with many eventually obtaining State certification. The Association, represented by

Earl and his diligent efforts was able to solicit sponsorship to build his vision of a quality training facility for the emergency services of the county. Earl spent many hours conducting training sessions and performing public presentations to emergency, public and private services. He was constantly promoting the development of the training programs. He solicited funds from various community organizations which enabled the Association and Earl to build the Training Academy

drill tower and flammable liquid burn pits. His efforts also allowed the office to accumulate considerable training materials that were frequently used for regional delivery of state and national training programs. While many of the volunteers trained in the 70's may not be as active as they once were, their remembrance of Earl Moser and his influence on the Emergency Services of Cumberland County will continue for many years to come.

Legislative Update- HB 377

By: Megan Moriarty

On July 10th Governor Ed Rendell signed HB 377 into law. This bill creates a tax credit for active volunteer firefighters and EMS workers. Active volunteers are entitled to a \$100 rebate under this bill. To be considered an active volunteer you must be "a volunteer

for a volunteer EMS company, volunteer fire or rescue company and certified as meeting the criteria of this act...". The criteria set forth looks at number of emergency responses, level of training, time spent on administrative and support activities, and involvement in activities

that directly benefit an organizations operation. This bill was created to provide a retention incentive for Pennsylvania's invaluable volunteer firefighters and EMTs. This is a pilot program and only applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007 and before January 1, 2009.

The Safety Net

If you have any important health & safety information you would like to see in the newsletter, email it to Megan Moriarty at mmoriarty@ccpa.net!

Where's the Engine?!?!?!?

By: William E. Hutcherson, III

Proper apparatus placement is about as fundamental as starting the apparatus. When you arrive on the scene you need to place or park the apparatus as to maximize its usage while maintaining scene safety. When going through a drivers training course, you are taught many things, how to maneuver the rig around, how to operate its equipment, etc.! In addition to these concepts you are also taught how and where to position the apparatus. Proper distance from the incident, which side of the building, and what direction the rig should be facing are all a part

of this portion of becoming a driver. Proper placement of apparatus at the beginning will be one less thing hindering your operation later on in an incident. Improper placement can cause chaos with other incoming apparatus. Whether it be on 1st, 2nd, or 3rd alarm, if the first in rigs are not placed correctly no other rigs will be either! Think safety! Do not park on top of the car accident, or directly next to the fire building if the flames are visibly shooting out the window in your direction. These could hinder your operation and also endanger personnel. Con-

sult with your fire companies SOGs/SOPs to see what your own company's regulation is on apparatus placement. If there isn't one, perhaps you may want to discuss with your chief about adopting a standard that your company can agree on and follow. Again proper apparatus placement is as fundamental as, "Puttin the wet stuff on the red stuff." But without proper training and practice, improper placement can destroy an incident.

Meth Lab Awareness

By: Megan Moriarty

What is Meth?

Meth is a highly addictive drug that is cooked in illegal labs. It can be found in pill, powder, and chunk form. It can be smoked, snorted, injected, or swallowed. Meth use can lead to seizures, strokes and even death.

Dangers of Labs

First responders are in the highest risk category for being exposed to these labs. They often do not know the labs are present until it is too late. Toxic gases, explosive and volatile chemicals and fires are can occur in these labs causing severe burns, collapsed lungs, and

other serious injuries and sometimes death. Common less serious symptoms often suffered include shortness of breath, dizziness, eye irritation and nausea. These labs are also often booby trapped, increasing to the dangers associated with these labs. Another danger associated with these labs are meth users who often display extreme aggression, hallucinations and paranoia.

Common Lab Locations

Rental Homes, storage sheds, vacant buildings, apartments, rest areas, RVs and motel rooms.

Items Found in a Lab

Common Cold Pills, Drain Cleaner, Salt, Anhydrous Ammonia, Sodium Metal, Iodine, Aluminum Foil, Rubber Tubing, Funnels, Hot Plates, Coffee Filters, Clamps, Propane Tanks, Cheese Cloth, and much more.

Signs of a Meth Lab

- Strong odors (ammonia like)
- Blacked out windows
- Excessive traffic in and out at odd times
- Stained coffee filters, drain cleaner, lantern fuel cans
- Large amounts of clean glass containers going into house

- Excessive security
- Large amounts of cigarette butts at the end of drive way (unsafe to smoke in or near house)
- Little or no mail, furniture or newspaper delivery

What to Do if You Encounter a Lab During a Response

Create and maintain a safe distance and perimeter from the structure. Immediately contact law enforcement officials to handle the situation/crime scene.

SEATBELT SAFETY INITIATIVE REMINDER!

5 Firefighters have been killed this year as a result of not wearing their seatbelts. Don't become a statistic. Sign the Seatbelt Safety Initiative and return it to DPS today! www.trainingdivision.com/SeatBeltPledge.asp

Be Aware of West Nile Threat

By: Megan Moriarty



So far this summer 8 Pennsylvania Counties, including Dauphin County and Franklin County have reported positive test results for West Nile in adult mosquito samples. Emergency workers are especially susceptible to exposure of these infected mosquitoes as they are often out in the elements for extended periods of time in locations where mosquitoes lurk. While there

have been no positive test results in Cumberland County to date, the possibility can never be ruled out. While it may be impossible to avoid mosquitoes when you are out responding to incidents, you can reduce your risk of encounter at home. One easy way to reduce exposure to mosquitoes is to remove items that provide a breeding habitat. Dispose of any items that may collect water such as ceramic pots, tin

cans, wheelbarrows, etc. Also drain bird baths and clear out clogged roof gutters that may hold water. Pools and home ponds can become problems too if they are not properly treated or are allowed to become stagnant. If you do happen to become exposed to mosquitoes be aware of the symptoms of West Nile Fever and Severe West Nile Diseases (effects neurological system).

West Nile Fever

Fever, headache, tired, body aches, rash, and swollen lymph glands.

Severe West Nile Disease

Headache, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, coma, tremors, muscle weakness.

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GARY DRESSLER-New Staff Development Manager

By: Megan Moriarty

The Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce that Gary Dressler will be serving as the new Staff Development Manager for the 9-1-1 Communications Center. Gary has been with DPS as a dispatcher since 1994. In 1996 he was promoted to shift leader, and in 2001 he was part of the original "Super Six", shift supervisors.

In his new position Gary

will be working to revamp the Quality Assurance Program's policies and procedures. Gary will also oversee the training and continuing education program. Gary is also the contact person for 9-1-1 recording requests. Gary officially started his position on July 6th and is very excited and committed to working to ensure that Cumberland County 9-1-1 Center continues to deliver the quality service the

citizens of Cumberland County have come to know and expect.

In his free time, Gary volunteers with West Enola Fire Company, where he been chief since 2001. Gary lives in Enola with his wife and three children. Feel free to stop by and officially congratulate Gary on his new position. Gary can be contacted by phone at 240-6400 and by email at gdressler@ccpa.net.



PUBLIC SAFETY SPECIAL FEATURE



Cumberland County Special Response Team & Sgt. Mike Guido

By: Michele Parsons

The Cumberland County Special Response Team (SRT) is a specialized unit capable of handling unusual and dangerous situations not usually encountered by patrol officers within their normal scope of duty. With these situations come the undeniable chance of failure or catastrophe, but the SRT members do not think of it this way; they mentally erase failure and plan for success, thinking of the mission in terms of a positive outcome.

As tactical first responders, the SRT members must maintain a state of readiness both on and off-duty, with their main focus to effectively resolve a situation while reducing the risk of death or serious bodily injury. They maintain a strong physical standard, must pass a physical efficiency battery test yearly, and must maintain a high level of proficiency with all firearms. As a multi-faceted team, they must further be ready for specialty missions, such as dignitary protec-

tion, close quarters combat, participation in a mobile field force and serves as a precision marksman observer. Additional tasks include, but are not limited to, felony warrant service, evidence search and recovery, high-risk warrants, barricaded subjects and hostage takers. The skills required for these types of details require continuous training to maintain them. The 20 plus members of the SRT, who volunteer to become members, typically train during time off from local departments to maintain their skills. It is the SRT's desire to provide the most effective and efficient services possible to its community and citizens.

Carlisle Police Department Sgt. Michael Guido has been a member of the SRT since 1984 and was promoted as the SRT Training Officer in 1993. Since that time, Guido has conducted countless training programs, including several full scale exercises— not only for the SRT members, but for Law Enforcement Officers across the state.

At a recent full scale exercise in which the SRT members participated, Guido was missing. This was the first SRT training exercise he had ever missed. His reason for missing this one? He remained behind to 'cover the shift' so that another member of the SRT would be able to attend the training. Unfortunately Sgt. Guido's absence will become a normal occurrence. Guido's retirement from the Carlisle Police Department and the Cumberland County SRT was effective on August 15, 2008. Sgt. Guido's presence on this elite team will be missed, but the affects of his training and exercise program will be ever present in the men and women who continue to support our community by serving in such a dangerous capacity. Sgt. Guido... members of the SRT... we say THANK YOU for all you have done and continue to do, to keep us safe.