



2010

Cumberland County  
Department of Public Safety

# The Communiqué

Editor-Megan Silverstrim

## DPS Completes First Phase of FCC Frequency Reconfiguration

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With the completion of portable exchanges on June 18th and 5 sites rebanded during the week of June 28th, DPS completed Phase I of its FCC mandated frequency rebanding project. The project, which officially got it's start on February 1, involved many important players. HACC provided training for users over the last 6 months and also assisted with the delivery of the "Super User" program. L.R. Kimball was contracted by DPS to manage logistics to include warehouse operations, equipment exchanges, tracking of exchanges and the equipment discrepancy list. Harris and subcontractor SSC were responsible for quality assurance for mobile/control station upgrades, charger in-

stalls and equipment malfunctions as well as the site rebanding. B. Moyer Communications was tasked with completing equipment upgrades and installations. DPS staff also served in multiple roles throughout the project! Ten DPS staffers were assigned to assist with quality assurance checks on all new issued equipment. This quality assurance team conducted testing on each portable and mobile to make sure each were functioning properly. During the exchange process DPS staffers were also hard at work in the office, as it was their job to enter the new portables



into the system and remove the old portables. DPS is working towards the next and final stage in the FCC mandated frequency reconfiguration project. This final step will involve several different steps, including further returning of tower sites, revisiting agencies to remove old channel list from new portables and the distribution of the eligible discrepancy items from the original exchange process. DPS will be in contact with the agencies once dates are set for this next stage. This next stage will not effect the function of the radios or their use and will cause minimal disruption to field users.

## Dispatchers Recognized

This Spring Cumberland County had five 9-1-1 Dispatchers recognized for their life saving efforts by the Cumberland County Commissioner's and the Emergency Health Services Federation (EHSF). Dispatcher Scott Disbrow offered CPR instructions for a 50 year old male in cardiac arrest. Upon arrival of EMS the victim was resuscitated. Dispatcher Ben Hoerner saved two lives within hours of each other when he offered pre-arrival instructions for a 10 year old female choking victim and for a 2 year old child in Fulton County. Dispatcher Chris Beecher provided pre-arrival instructions which assisted in the successful resuscitation of a female in Hampden Township in cardiac arrest.

All three of these dispatchers were presented with Life Saver Pins for their efforts. Two dispatchers didn't save lives but rather helped to bring life into the world and were recognized with stork pins, given to dispatchers who provide pre-arrival instructions that result in the delivery of a healthy baby. Dispatcher Duane Ruth provided child birth instructions for the successful delivery of a baby girl. Dispatcher Scott Keener provided child birth instructions to a father in the Borough of Carlisle. EMS crews arrived to find a healthy baby girl wrapped in blankets for warmth and the father was tying off the umbilical chord per Keener's instructions.

Dispatchers were also featured in a news story for their efforts in locating two accident victims who had gone off the road and did not know their location. Dispatchers utilized many tools at their disposal including a little creativity, to determine their location and send help. The cell phone provider was able to provide a general location, and dispatchers listened for the sound of sirens through the caller's phone. They were able to alert responders as to when they could hear their sirens, which helped them locate the vehicle and successfully assist two patients in the vehicle. Both patients were transported by helicopter to Hershey Medical Center.

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## DPS Partners with Red Cross for National Preparedness Month

The Cumberland County Department of Public Safety once again participated in National Preparedness Month and this time DPS partnered with the Cumberland County American Red Cross (CCARC). This year, DPS is focused on making sure local businesses prepare themselves for all types of disasters. The large majority of businesses do not have plans in place to survive and continue to operate in the event of a disaster. Experts say 1



in 4 businesses do not return to operation after being effected by a disaster. These disasters can include, but are certainly not limited to fires, floods, severe storms and even communicable illnesses!

DPS and the Red Cross worked with local fire and EMS departments to hit the streets of Cumberland County and visit a sampling of businesses. Each business is given a packet of information on how they can prepare



and protect their business. Businesses also receive information on providing CPR/First Aid/AED training for staff and information is collected so that fire companies can schedule a day to pre-plan the facility.

DPS reached out to over 150 businesses during September. DPS hopes to offer this program again. If your agency is interested in assisting, please contact our department!

## Shively and Hamilton Recognized for 20 Years of Service

On August 23rd, Cumberland County Commissioners recognized Bob Shively and Linda Hamilton for their twenty years of dedicated service to the county. Shively got his start with Cumberland County as a part time dispatcher in March of 1990 and was hired as a full time dispatcher shortly after that. In 1992 Shively was promoted to Shift Supervisor in the Communications Center where he served until 2006. In the fall of 2006 Bob became one of two Deputy Directors. As a Deputy Director, Shively oversees the Emergency Manage-

ment Division of Public Safety.

Linda Hamilton also started with the county in 1990. Hamilton started out in a temporary position in the Tax Administration Office. She then moved to DPS as a Department Clerk. In 1993 Hamilton became the Hazardous Materials Planner and still serves in the position today. Thanks to Linda and Bob for their hard work and dedication to the Cumberland County Department of Public Safety mission over the last 20 years!



## Silverstrim Recognized for Work with Red Cross

During the August 23rd Board of Commissioner's meeting, Megan Silverstrim, of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), was recognized by the Board of Commissioners and the Cumberland County American Red Cross (CCARC), by accepting the Red Cross's Emergency Services Partner of the Year Award. This award is presented to an agency or a person who has become a partner in the disaster relief mission for the American Red Cross. This mission includes but is not limited to public education, assisting families after fires

and providing general disaster relief services.

Silverstrim was selected for this award because of her work with the CCARC during the H1N1 pandemic. Silverstrim, along with Stacy Yurko, CCARC Emergency Services and Volunteer Director, provided public education programs last fall and winter to audiences all over the county. Over 1,500 Cumberland County citizens attended programs offered at schools, businesses, civic clubs and the CCARC office. The programs focused on what citizens

can do at home and in the work place to prepare and protect themselves during a pandemic.

DPS and CCARC continue to work together to provide programs throughout Cumberland County. These programs educate citizens on how to prepare and protect their families and businesses from a wide array of emergencies and disasters that we potentially face in Cumberland County.



## Cumberland County Wills For Heroes Program

Cumberland County and The Penn State Dickinson School of Law (DSL) are pleased to announce the inception of the Cumberland County Wills for Heroes Program. The Wills for Heroes Program is a nationwide program, providing essential legal documents free of charge to our na-

tion's first responders, including wills, living wills, and powers of attorney.

DPS will be assisting DSL on November 13th to provide the first Cumberland County Wills for Heroes Event. This event is being held at the Cumberland County EOC. Online registration was

required and the 50 spots available are already filled. DPS and DSL, plan on hosting several more events in the coming year, to ensure all first responders have the opportunity to take advantage of this beneficial program.



[Check out Cumberland County Wills For Heroes on Facebook!](#)

## A Hurricane is Born - Wide Vigilance III Exercise

By Michele Parsons

In late August, several dust devils developed in West Africa. These dust devils eventually merged and moved across the Western Sahara toward the Atlantic Ocean seeking strength. As they cleared the coast, the result became a visible low pressure via satellite. This low pressure quickly developed into Tropical Depression #11 and as it moved closer to the Atlantic coastline of the U.S. it gained strength to become a category 4 hurricane named Sam. Hurricane Sam was initially predicted to make landfall near Nags Head, North Carolina, but the direction changed and it slammed into Virginia Beach on September 23 causing widespread devastation. Sam's 135 mph winds virtually destroyed every structure in Piney Point, Maryland. As the eye of the storm traveled over Lancaster County on September 24, it was downgraded to a category 2 and provided 10-14" of rainfall across all of South Central

Pennsylvania. Tornado watches and warnings were issued and major flooding was predicted along the Potomac and Susquehanna Rivers for no less than a 3 day period.



If you're wondering how you missed this massive storm, you didn't! This was the scenario played out during the Wide Vigilance III exercise in which the 8 counties in the South Central Task Force (SCTF) participated in this past September. For a

year before the exercise 12 primary planners from the SCTF worked together from the concept phase of the exercise to the after action review (AAR). The exercise encompassed events in 35 separate locations around the 8 counties and saw 1800 individual participants and 120 participating affiliated agencies. DPS was the longest running participant,

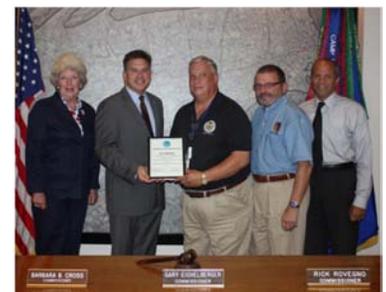
by exercising the entire month. DPS conducted weekly and bi-weekly training, drills and table top sessions in which our career and volunteer staff participated in. A total of 106 participants worked diligently during the EOC portion of the exercise. EOC staffers were joined by representatives from the Carlisle Barracks, Dunham Army Health Clinic, SPERT, PEMA and MCIRT. DPS and it's affiliates were also active in the field with CART, County Search and Rescue, SRT, Decon Strike Teams, TROT, the EMS Task Force, Mobile Field Force, Mobile Communications Unit, DCORT, Carlisle Regional Medical Center and Holy Spirit Hospital. DPS would like to thank all of the participants and planners for their hard work during Wide Vigilance III and we look forward to Wide Vigilance IV!

## Hoerner Recognized by PASART

The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners and the Pennsylvania State Animal Rescue Team (PASART) recently recognized Eric Hoerner during a Commissioners meeting for his work with the Cumberland County Animal Rescue Team (CART). Hoerner has been a member of the team since it's inception and remains a significant element. Cumberland County's CART team was formed in 2004 through the collaborative efforts of Eric Hoerner and Laura Watts.

PASART and the Cumberland County Team

work together towards prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for emergencies effecting animals. Joel Hersh, Executive Director for PASART was on hand to present Hoerner with an appreciation certificate. Hersh spoke of Hoerner's work by stating that "Eric has been an incredible asset to the Cumberland CART and also as an advisor to me in regard to PASART and EMA interface."



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### Check us out on Facebook!

Cumberland County Department of Public Safety has taken the leap into the Facebook world, so check us out! What can you expect to see on our page? Educational information, tips on disaster preparedness, and updates on special DPS events. We will also use Facebook during major events to keep you updated on road closures, shelter locations, weather forecasts and so much more! So log on and "LIKE" us today!

### **FEMA Snow Reimbursement**

By Bob Shively

Its hard to believe it has been almost 8 months since those snowy days back in February. Many of the municipalities that applied for FEMA reimbursement are finally receiving their money. With the recent economy, this money has been critical to tightening budgets and requests for additional services at both the County and Municipal level. The following is a short recap on the number of applicants and the amount of

reimbursement approved by FEMA. After numerous kickoff and application instruction meetings facilitated by the Cumberland County Department of Public Safety, PEMA and FEMA distributed application packets to municipalities and non-profit interested in applying for reimbursement for eligible costs incurred with the major snowstorms from February 5, 2010 through February 14, 2010. Applicants then worked through many hours of documen-

tation and verification of costs to complete the application which would eventually be submitted to FEMA for review and approval. While this process is somewhat lengthy and at times can be difficult, the end result of return money is usually very beneficial. All in all we ended with 56 applicants and \$791,123.09 eligible reimbursement costs.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY** **SPECIAL FEATURE**

### **THE FUTURE HOME OF THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

The future home of the Department of Public Safety is under roof and on schedule. The building is slated to be completed in the Spring of 2011, with the DPS occupying the building by Summer of 2011.

