

NEWS



NEWS

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
CAMILLE CATES BARNETT, PH.D., MANAGING DIRECTOR

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
MARYANN E. TIERNEY, DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

Contact: Joan Przybylowicz, 215-260-4262
January 26, 2010

For Immediate Release:

Equipped for Emergencies:

Philadelphia's New Mobile Command Post is Ready to Roll

The Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management will inaugurate a new era with the debut of its state-of-the-art mobile Command Post (CP1) that can be rolled out at a moments notice during natural disasters and human-caused emergencies. The new Command Post represents a step forward in emergency response activities in Philadelphia combining versatility with enhanced performance capabilities. The mobile command post can be situated near an unfolding emergency, serving as a mobile headquarters to unite various first responders from multiple agencies under one roof as they coordinate operations. Or, it can supplement activities coordinated through the City's Emergency Operations Center.

“As we roll out a new decade, it is only fitting that we roll out the City's new mobile command post that will be available for deployment at emergencies, large-scale special events, and during emergency preparedness exercises and drills,” said Mayor Nutter at a ceremony today outside City Hall. “Whether we are responding to environmental events such as oil spills on the river, hazardous material releases, multiple alarm fires, severe

weather events, terrorist threats, or monitoring 4th of July activities, the mobile command post will provide us with the resources to provide an on-scene coordinated response.”

During the official ceremony, Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Everett Gillison, Managing Director Camille Cates-Barnett and Deputy Managing Director for Emergency Management MaryAnn Tierney welcomed members of the Mayor’s Executive and Management teams who were on hand to tour the new response vehicle and observe demos of its GIS, wireless Internet and Intranet systems, telephone, radio and data networks, and regional interoperable communications capabilities and more.

“This new mobile command post will enable the Office of Emergency Management, our Police and Fire departments, and other key emergency response agencies the ability to coordinate the appropriate services and resources needed to safely respond to a crisis,” said Dr. Barnett. “The mobile command post will provide us enhanced on-the-scene response, with the flexibility for scaling up or scaling back our operations as needed.”

The mobile command post was designed with three distinct areas. The conference/command section is where incident commanders can assess, coordinate and analyze response and recovery plans, and conduct regularly scheduled briefings and logistics meetings. This section features conference meeting space equipped with video feeds of the unfolding event, weather updates, and the ability to monitor media coverage on several high-definition, flat screen LCD and plasma televisions, a Smart board mounted to a Plasma TV, plus DVD/VCR recorder/player combo units.

The command post also features an Information Technology area, complete with a workstation and equipped with wireless Internet/Intranet, network and telecommunications equipment, geographic information mapping capabilities, a plotter, printers and a copier/scanner/fax unit.

The communications section is outfitted with four workstations and mobile radios for Police, Fire and EMS dispatching and interoperable communications equipment that will allow various first responder agencies throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania to talk to each other.

“Technology has changed greatly over the last ten years and this state-of-the-art mobile command center will provide our first responders with the information necessary to quickly assess the situation and determine an appropriate course of action,” noted Deputy Mayor Gillison.

The \$472,517.00 vehicle was funded by a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant through the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force. “Planning for the new mobile command post began more than a year ago with input from a variety of agencies to ensure that its design encompasses all the possible uses for the vehicle,” said Deputy Managing Director MaryAnn Tierney. “We are proud to report that the mobile command post was delivered eight months ahead of schedule and slightly under budget.”

The mobile command center also has an exterior work station with access to telephone, radio and audio/video technology. A telescoping mast features closed-circuit video that

will enable first responders the capability to survey the incident. The vehicle is also equipped with two 750 watt tripod light poles and a Dometic electric awning for exterior conference space availability that includes an outside work station with Network connections, desktop telephone, and 27 inch monitor/ TV.

The mobile command post is a Freightliner MT-55, powered by a Cummins Engine with 300 HP and an Allison 2500 EVS transmission. It is 12 feet, four inches in high, eight feet wide, 39 feet and three inches long and has a gross vehicle weight rating of 30,000 lbs.

#