

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE POLICE REGION 2

Shortly before midnight on August 12 a severe thunderstorm moved across the region causing a significant amount of trees and wires down and road closures in West Cocalico, East Cocalico and Brecknock Townships. All fire departments in the affected areas were dispatched to multiple and escalating calls. In West Cocalico, a vehicle crashed into down debris and wires, and in East Cocalico a rescue was dispatched for an individual trapped in their vehicle.

This event became the first test of the new "Lancaster County Fire Police Resource Officer Hotline" system hosted by the Lancaster County Fire Police Association (LCFPA) and collaborated with officers of the Lancaster County Fire Police Task Force (LCFPTF)

F.P. Lieutenant 18 (18-2), was advised that F.P. Capt. 32 (32-1) was the nearest available on-call "Fire Police Resource Officer". In accordance with the new protocol, 18-2 contacted LCWC (County) and requested station 32 fire police be dispatched to assist. I responded to station 18, met with 18-2 who briefed me on his needs, the various roads needing closed etc., and while he continued to work on "Fire Police Command", I developed a strategy and resource list to fill the needs. This was especially delicate/difficult with 39's second alarm building fire in progress as well as the widespread nature of the storm and nearby areas being affected. I presented my proposed plan to F.P. Lieutenant 18, who approved it and we then began requesting the necessary resources and fulfilling the assignments.

Overall 7 stations (18, 13, 14, 15, 22, 32, & 33) were dispatched of which 4 companies responded with a total of 12 fire police officers. A representative of the LCFPTF responded to monitor and see if any additional resources such as cones or signs were needed. Additionally, the resource officer coordinated and collaborated with East and West Cocalico Township road crews to clear roads and close remaining roads.

Operations continued until dawn at which point sufficient roads were either cleared or the local township was able to set up sufficient road closure signs, and the last remaining units could be released.

Respectfully,



Merle R. Weaver
Region 2, LCFPA & LCFPTF