



Legislative *Update*

Centre County Fire and Emergency Services

FROM STATE SENATOR JAKE CORMAN

Centre County Receives \$750,000 for New Fire Training Site

I recently presented the Centre County Commissioners with \$750,000 in state funding to support the development of the Centre County Emergency Services Training Facility.

The new facility, to be located in Spring Township near the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (CPI), will have at least 18 training modules, including an aircraft crash simulation, a simulated structural collapse, area for hazardous materials training, and a pump testing zone for fire apparatus. The training facility will also allow fire companies to take advantage of on-site apparatus certification, saving them time and money.

"Senator Corman has supported this project from the beginning, and this funding puts us on track to complete the project," said Tim Schreffler, Chairman of the Fire and Emergency Services Training Site Committee. "It is very fortunate for us to have this kind of support from

Senator Corman presented the check to Centre County Commissioners and members of the Fire and Emergency Services Training Site Committee.

our state Senator, and it is a pleasure to know that Senator Corman pulled through for us."

The Centre County Emergency Services Training Facility will provide training to police forces, firefighters, emergency services, and hazardous materials workers from across the state and will help take the pressure off of the State Fire Academy in Lewistown and allow the state's many emergency services units to train in Centre County.

Additionally, training professionals will be able to offer an educational component for students in the CPI curriculum.

In 2000, I secured a \$500,000 state

grant to assist in the clean-up and remediation of the former fire training site on the Penn State Campus. I included the new site's funding authorization in the Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 2003-2004.

As your state senator, I will continue my commitment to provide our firefighters and emergency responders with the best facilities, equipment and training possible. Every time these individuals respond to a call, they risk their safety to protect our lives and the lives of our loved ones. For their dedication and sacrifice, they deserve continuous support from the state government.



Centre County's LifeLink Receives \$100,000 for New Headquarters

I am pleased to announce that Centre County's LifeLink EMS has received \$100,000 in community revitalization assistance funding to support its headquarters project.

The new \$3 million headquarters, located at 125 Puddingtown Road in College Twp., is home to the non-profit Centre LifeLink EMS organization, formally known as the Alpha Community Ambulance Service.

I became involved with the new headquarters project when I included the funding authorization in the Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 2001-2002.

Our first responders deserve a

good working environment that provides them with the necessary resources, equipment and training to do their jobs safely and to the best of their ability.

"Senator Corman has supported this project from the beginning and we are thrilled that he was able to secure this much needed funding for our project," said Scott Rawson, Executive Director of Centre LifeLink EMS. "We have been pursuing assistance from the state for this project and we are delighted that Senator Corman pulled through for us."

To best serve area citizens, Centre

LifeLink currently operates two satellite stations in addition to the new headquarters. The satellite stations located in Patton Twp. and State College Borough enable LifeLink to serve an area quickly and efficiently.

Centre LifeLink EMS operates seven ambulances which provide 24-hour Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) emergency service to the Borough of State College, College Twp., Harris Twp., Ferguson Twp., Patton Twp., and mutual aid to surrounding areas of Centre and Huntingdon Counties. Its call volume is approximately 6,000 calls per year, with the majority being emergencies.

You can visit the Centre LifeLink EMS's website at www.centrelifelink.com.

Senator Corman presented the \$100,000 grant check to the board members of the Centre County LifeLink EMS.



Emergency Responder Death Benefits Extended

Legislation that expands and increases family death benefits for emergency responders was signed into law as Act 59 of 2005.

Act 59 increases family death benefits covered under the Emergency Responders Death Benefits Act from \$50,000 to \$100,000. It also expands the law to cover death benefits for responders who die of a heart attack or stroke that occurs within 24 hours

of a physical training exercise or emergency response.

Pennsylvania's emergency responders risk their lives to keep our communities safe every time they answer the call to duty, and their families make this sacrifice as well. This law ensures that these families receive the benefits they deserve should the unthinkable happen.

Legislation Aims to Restore Funding

The Pennsylvania State Senate passed legislation that would restore \$25 million per year in state funding to support volunteer firefighters and ambulance services.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court threw out a provision in the gaming law that provided \$25 million annually to the Commonwealth's first responders, the largest single source of state funds available to volunteer fire and ambulance companies. Senate Bill 867, which I support, would restore this annual funding to ensure that volunteer organizations have access to necessary equipment and facilities, training of personnel and funds for capital projects.

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