



2026 Lehigh Valley Emergency Services Conference

Date/Time:

April 16th & 17th 2026

0800-1600

Location:

Desales University
University Center Building

2755 Station Ave
Center Valley PA 18034

Keynote Speaker:



Savannah Maddison

Maury County, TN
Fire Department

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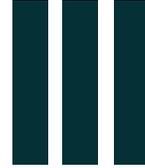
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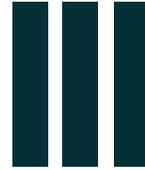
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LEHIGH VALLEY EMERGENCY SERVICES CONFERENCE

Conference Committee



Joseph Light – Operations & Training Coordinator, Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency (*Conference Chair*)

Dr. Ahmet Yayla – Associate Professor; Director, Center for Homeland Security, Desales University

Dane Carroll – EMC, Upper Saucon Twp EMA

Tanya Hook – Director, Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency

Nicole Burton – Emergency Planner, Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency

Kevin Krotzer – Special Operations, Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency

Kevin McGowan – Outreach Manager, Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency

Valerie Sosa – Administrative Assistant, Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency

Jeff Kelly – EMC, South Whitehall Twp EMA

Carrie Frey – Director of Operations, Cetronia Ambulance

PEMA Eastern Area Office

Ryan Rightley – Program Assistant, Desales University

Jesus Delgado – Desales University

Ryan Hay – Vice President, Emergency Preparedness, Jefferson Health

Josh Houck - Director, Emergency Preparedness, LVHN



Complementary Wi-fi Access



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1. Turn on your device's Wi-Fi and select: Desales Guest
2. You should be automatically directed to Desales University's webpage to connect to the complimentary Wi-Fi.

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WELCOME MESSAGE



Welcome to the 2026 Lehigh Valley Emergency Services Conference

On behalf of the planning committee, welcome to the 2026 Lehigh Valley Emergency Services Conference—an event built by and for the dedicated professionals who serve and protect our communities.

This year's conference brings together emergency responders, emergency managers, healthcare professionals, public safety leaders, and industry partners from across the region and beyond. Over the next few days, you will have the opportunity to learn from leading experts, engage in meaningful training, explore innovative technologies, and connect with colleagues who share your commitment to service and resilience.

Our sessions span a wide array of disciplines, including fire, EMS, law enforcement, emergency management, public health, cybersecurity, and more. Whether you're here for hands-on training, dynamic panel discussions, or to explore our expanded exhibit hall, we're confident you'll leave with new knowledge, fresh perspectives, and valuable connections.

We thank you for your continued dedication to public safety and preparedness. Your presence here helps strengthen the entire emergency services community—and for that, we are grateful.

Stay safe, learn well, and enjoy the conference!

The Lehigh Valley Emergency Services Conference (LVESC) is the region's premier training and networking event for emergency services professionals. Hosted annually in the heart of Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley, the conference brings together responders and leaders from fire services, emergency medical services, law enforcement, emergency management, healthcare, public safety communications, and more.

Our mission is to provide high-quality, interdisciplinary training that strengthens individual capabilities and fosters regional collaboration. Through hands-on courses, dynamic keynote presentations, panel discussions, and an expansive exhibit hall, LVESC equips attendees with the tools and knowledge needed to face today's evolving threats and challenges.

The 2026 conference features:

- Over 30 educational sessions
- Specialized tracks for EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Management
 - Live demonstrations and scenario-based training
 - A vibrant exhibit hall featuring the latest products and services
- Networking opportunities with regional, state, and national partners

Whether you're new to public safety or a seasoned professional, the Lehigh Valley Emergency Services Conference is designed to educate, inspire, and connect.





LEHIGH VALLEY EMERGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Lucy Morgan, Director
Luzerne County Emergency Services

Lucy Morgan and her entire team at Luzerne County EMA deserve to be recognized for all of the work they do in the community, but more precisely for the immense help they have been with protecting our county's and state's schools this year. They truly went above and beyond in our community to make our county better, safer and more prepared.

Lucy and the team volunteered their time to be part of a statewide online training for schools mandated by the state of Pennsylvania through the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Their message has been viewed by thousands of teachers and administrators statewide since recording.

Lucy allowed her team to volunteer in relation to an Emergency Operations Plan Building Pilot Project for our county, positively impacting over 40 school locations in the process by rebuilding EOP's. Her team took part in panel discussions, helped build the training, and were made available anytime needs or questions arose.

Because of their volunteer hours to these multiple projects, over 200 school districts throughout the commonwealth have better insight into the working roles and resources provided by emergency managers. Also, directly for our county, we now have over 40 educational settings with updated EOP's or who are currently working through making final updates. Both of these endeavors have wide-reaching positive ramifications for the safety of our local and statewide communities.



LEHIGH VALLEY EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

Brandon Selig, Paramedic
City of Allentown EMS

It is my honor to nominate Brandon Selig, a 29-year-old Paramedic with the City of Allentown, for the esteemed EMS Professional of the Year Award. His career in Emergency Medical Services spans an impressive 13 years, marked by unwavering dedication, professional excellence, and profound community impact.

Beginning his service at just 16 years old, Brandon Selig dedicated nine years as an EMT before advancing to the role of Paramedic, where he has served with distinction for the past four years. Over the last three and a half years with the City of Allentown, he has become an integral member of the EMS system—recognized by both colleagues and the community for his skill, compassion, and professionalism.

His exemplary service has been honored with multiple awards, including the President's Volunteer Service Award, a Certificate of Merit, and recognition as the City of Allentown Crime Watch Paramedic of the Year in 2024. Each of these accolades reflects not only his technical expertise but also his ability to connect with people during their most vulnerable moments.

Throughout his career, Brandon Selig has saved countless lives and touched many more with his compassion, calm presence, and commitment to patient care. He embodies the very best of EMS: courage under pressure, leadership in critical moments, and a dedication to service that inspires those around him.

It is with great pride and respect that I nominate Brandon Selig for EMS Professional of the Year. His outstanding service, lifelong dedication to emergency care, and positive impact on the community make him a most deserving recipient of this honor.



LEHIGH VALLEY FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

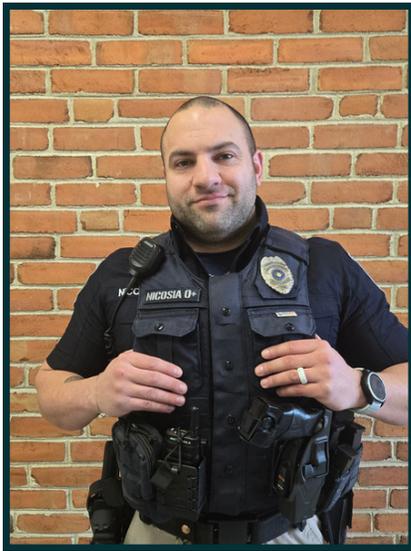
Bobby Lewullis, Firefighter
Wilson Borough Fire Dept

Robert “Bobby” Lewullis of the Wilson Borough Fire Department represents the courage, professionalism, and selfless service that the Firefighter of the Year award is meant to honor.

During a three-alarm fire in downtown Easton, Bobby was assigned to search for reported victims in extremely hazardous conditions. While operating on an upper floor, he ran low on air, became disoriented, and made the critical decision to declare a mayday—a moment that demands training, composure, and sound judgment. In the process of escaping, Bobby fell roughly 20 feet, suffering serious injuries including fractures and smoke inhalation.

Even after being injured in the line of duty, Bobby’s focus remained on what matters most: the mission, his team, and the residents impacted by the fire. His actions reflect the very best of the fire service—stepping forward when it counts, doing the job under pressure, and putting others first.

For his bravery, decision-making, and unwavering commitment to service, Bobby Lewullis is a deserving nominee for Firefighter of the Year at the Lehigh Valley Emergency Services Conference.



LEHIGH VALLEY POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Mark Nicosia, School Resource Officer Northern Lehigh School District

In his capacity as the School Resource Officer at NLS, Officer Nicosia has redefined what it means to protect and serve, demonstrating an unparalleled commitment to our youth and community.

His contributions can be best understood in three key areas:

- 1. Guardian of a Safe and Positive Environment:** Officer Nicosia is a vigilant protector of our students and staff. His presence is a source of security, and their proactive approach to campus safety is exceptional. He has implemented many safety protocols that have tangibly improved the well-being of our school. He handles every incident, from a minor conflict to a major emergency, with professionalism, calm authority, and profound empathy.
- 2. Builder of Bridges and Trust:** Where some students may see a uniform, our students see a trusted ally. Officer Nicosia dedicates their time to being visible and approachable. Not from an office, but in the hallways, at lunch, and at extracurricular events. He knows students by name, listen to their concerns, and offers guidance on issues far beyond the scope of law enforcement. He has shattered negative stereotypes and built a powerful bridge of trust between our young people and the police department, humanizing the badge in a way that will have a lasting impact on this generation.
- 3. Proactive Mentor and Intervener:** Officer Nicosia's greatest strength is his ability to identify students in need and intervene proactively. He has become a primary resource for students struggling with issues at home, mental health challenges, or peer pressure. By establishing himself as a safe and non-judgmental adult, he has successfully de-escalated countless potential crises and guided numerous students toward positive resources and better choices, effectively preventing negative outcomes before they ever happen.

Officer Nicosia does not just police a school; he nurtures a community. His daily work is a testament to the highest ideals of law enforcement: protecting the vulnerable, building public trust, and making a profound, positive difference in the lives of others. He is exceptionally deserving of this honor.



Desales Criminal Justice / Homeland Security Student of the Year

Sophia Amoretti, Undergraduate
Desales University

We are excited to recognize Sophia Amoretti as one of our most exemplary students as this year's Undergraduate Student of the Year.

Sophia demonstrated enthusiasm and promise even before arriving on campus. During the Accepted Students' Day Crime Scene Event, she immediately distinguished herself as a standout participant. Her lively personality, collaborative spirit, and confidence during the group's final presentation clearly reflected her emerging leadership skills.

Since joining our community, Sophia has been an active and reliable presence at homeland security and criminal justice events. She not only attends regularly but also encourages her peers to participate. Her outreach extends beyond her immediate circle, as she invites students from other disciplines to become involved as well, helping to strengthen engagement across the university.

Now halfway through her undergraduate studies, Sophia continues to set an example for her peers. Her enthusiasm for her coursework, her involvement in the university community, and her strong academic performance position her among the homeland security program's top students.

We look forward to seeing what Sophia will accomplish in the remainder of her undergraduate career at DeSales University.



Desales Criminal Justice / Homeland Security Student of the Year

Braeden DeGrazia, Graduate
Desales University

One of our most recent undergraduates to complete the program and begin his master's degree, Braeden DeGrazia, exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding student. His dedication extends beyond academic achievement—Braeden is deeply committed to serving his community both on and off campus.

A natural leader, Braeden has served as president of the Homeland Security Club, keeping students engaged and actively involved in the program. When he's not in the audience, he contributes to events and conferences as a speaker, presenter, or moderator. Most recently, he has also taken on the role of organizer and is currently developing his own panel.

In addition to his leadership within the Homeland Security program, Braeden is a past president of Special Olympics at DSU and has organized several initiative events on campus. He successfully brought the Polar Plunge to DSU, transforming it into a highly successful fundraiser that more than doubled the initial goal of \$10,000.

Braeden's skills, drive, and ambition also support his professional role as an Emergency Management Specialist with the Upper Saucon Emergency Management Agency. Although he's just beginning his professional career, we're certain he is going to go far!



Desales Criminal Justice / Homeland Security Student of the Year

Jesus Delgado, Graduate
Desales University

Jesus always goes above and beyond in his efforts to assist the Master of Arts in Homeland Security program. He is a tremendous asset to the program for both faculty and students alike.

He is reliable and determined in coordinating and planning the events we host and sponsor—including this one! Whether he is navigating correspondence from multiple organizations or drafting newsletters and emails, Jesus keeps the planning moving forward and effortlessly keeps everyone informed. He supports everything from designing graphics and flyers to assisting with floor plan layouts and volunteer organization.

Over the past two years, Jesus has attended every undergraduate admissions event for the MAHS program. He is an asset to the department by fielding questions about the student perspective of the program at events such as open houses, Bulldog Bash, our annual crime scene event, and the annual welcome picnic. Additionally, he has helped represent the program at professional conferences including the National Homeland Security Conference, PACJE, NJEPA, and of course, LVESC.

Jesus has put in a tremendous effort in assisting the MAHS program both center stage and behind the scenes. His continued work in keeping the program's gears turning through outreach efforts to prospective students—both within the DeSales community and beyond—has been paramount in bringing new students to the program.

Though he will be sorely missed, we are excited to celebrate his graduation next month. We look forward to seeing where his many talents will take him in the future.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

**Thursday
April 16th**

**Friday
April 17th**

Registration 0700-0800

Registration 0700-0800

| | |
|---|---|
| FOOD Continental Breakfast 0700-1100 | FOOD Continental Breakfast 0700-1100 |
| Opening Ceramones 0800-0830 | NEHCC MCI Training 0800-1600 |
| Keynote Speaker 0830-1030 | Sessions 0800-1200 |
| Sessions 1100-1200 | Awards Lunch 1200-1300 |
| Lunch 1200-1300 | Sessions 1300-1600 |
| Sessions 1300-1600 | |

Times subject to change based on presenter availability. Check app/website for updates.

CONFERENCE ID REQUIRED AT ALL EVENTS AND SESSIONS



Savannah Maddison

Savannah Maddison is a dynamic social media influencer, AEMT, firefighter, and Public Information Officer with the Maury County Fire Department in Tennessee. Known for her powerful voice in the emergency services community, Savannah is an acclaimed motivational speaker and a visionary thought leader who brings a fresh, forward-looking perspective to the fire service in today's digital age.

At the 2026 Lehigh Valley Emergency Services Conference, Savannah is thrilled to deliver a keynote focused on mass gathering preparation, sharing insights from both a department readiness and PIO perspective. She'll explore how social media can be a powerful tool to inform, engage, and prepare the public in advance of high-risk events — a topic more relevant than ever.

This keynote will inspire, educate, and challenge attendees to think differently about emergency preparedness, communication, and the evolving role of the fire service. Whether you're in operations, administration, or public outreach, this is a session you won't want to miss.



PRESENTED BY



Join us for our opening ceremonies beginning promptly at 0800 in the Commonwealth / Hurd Conference Rooms. Opening speeches and remarks as well as administrative overview of the conference will take place. Special Guests and VIP's will be in attendance for a networking opportunity.



FULL AGENDA

Thursday, April 16th

For up-to-date information, please check the app.

0700-0800 | Registration & Continental Breakfast

0800-0830 | Opening Ceremonies

0830-1030 | Keynote Speaker

At just 10 years old, Savannah Maddison launched a nationwide movement to support deployed service members—proving that one voice, no matter how young, can create lasting change. Today, as an award-winning author, speaker, and founder of Savannah’s Soldiers, she continues to inspire audiences with her message of courage, leadership, and service. In this moving keynote, Savannah shares her personal journey, lessons learned in mobilizing communities, and how purpose-driven leadership can transform lives—even in the most challenging circumstances. Her story is a powerful reminder of the impact we all can make—especially those in emergency services—when we lead with compassion, resilience, and heart.

1100-1200 | If Everything’s Important, Nothing Is: Prioritization in Emergency Services

In the high-stakes world of emergency services, everything can feel urgent—but not everything is important. This one-hour session will help emergency service leaders and team members refocus their priorities by “defining their why” and developing a shared language of importance across their organizations. Attendees will explore the difference between importance and urgency, clarify roles and responsibilities, and learn to identify the tasks that truly move the needle. The session will also highlight how technology can support better prioritization and how individuals can achieve greater work-life harmony without compromising mission readiness.



FULL AGENDA

Thursday, April 16th

For up-to-date information, please check the app.

1100-1500 | Psychological First Aid Skills Training

Psychological First Aid (PFA) is as natural, necessary and accessible as basic medical first aid. Effective delivery of Psychological First Aid in the immediate aftermath of a violent or traumatic event has been found to address the obvious emotional consequences of the incident, as well to mitigate financial exposure through litigation, worker's comp stress-related claims, attrition and lost productivity.

The Psychological First Aid Skills program is a full-day, skill building workshop that provides the knowledge and skills necessary to assist people with the immediate emotional distress resulting from an accident, injury or sudden shocking event. As with basic medical first aid skills, responders don't need to be doctors, nurses or trained medical or mental health professionals to provide initial care to those in need. Early psychological support can alleviate suffering and reduce the likelihood lasting emotional problems. BSA is one of the nation's leading providers of Psychological First Aid training. Our training model is easy to learn, easy to remember and easy to use during real-time emergencies.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The role of the PFA responder in a crisis
- Common emergency stress reactions (ESRs)
- Fear management strategies and techniques
- Restoring emotional equilibrium with the P-D-C approach (Protect-Direct-Connect)
- Verbal de-escalation skills for assisting agitated individuals
- Assisted coping and supportive communications techniques



FULL AGENDA

Thursday, April 16th

For up-to-date information, please check the app.

1100-1200 | UAS Integration and Utilization for Special Events and Mass Gatherings

As the role of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in public safety continues to expand, this session will explore how drone technology is being integrated into planning and operational support for special events and mass gatherings. Led by members of the Lehigh County Drone Team (Station 43), attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of how UAS can be deployed for real-time situational awareness, crowd monitoring, search and rescue, and logistical support. The presentation will include case examples from regional events, discuss FAA regulatory considerations, outline inter-agency coordination, and share lessons learned for effective drone deployment. Whether you're starting a UAS program or looking to enhance an existing one, this session provides actionable insight for emergency managers, law enforcement, and public safety professionals.

1200-1300 | Lunch

1300-1400 | Mental Wellness for Frontline Personnel

This course, "Mental Wellness for Frontline Personnel," is designed to provide essential knowledge and strategies for maintaining mental health in high-stress professions. Tailored for emergency responders, medical personnel, and other frontline workers, the course explores the unique challenges faced by these professionals and offers practical tools for building resilience and managing stress. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of mental wellness, stress management techniques, and the importance of peer support in high-pressure environments.

1300-1400 | Public Information during Mass Gatherings and Special Events

Mass gatherings and special events present unique challenges for public information officers (PIOs), emergency managers, and first responders. This session explores best practices for delivering timely, accurate, and coordinated public information before, during, and after high-profile events such as concerts, sporting events, festivals, political rallies, and more. Attendees will gain insight into developing Joint Information Systems (JIS), crafting pre-event messaging, managing real-time updates through multiple platforms, and handling misinformation in fast-paced environments. Real-world case studies and lessons learned from regional events will be used to highlight strategies for successful communication and interagency coordination. Whether you're a seasoned PIO or an emergency responder supporting communications, this session will equip you with tools to keep the public informed and confident when it matters most.

FULL AGENDA

Thursday, April 16th

For up-to-date information, please check the app.

1410-1600 | Preventing Targeted Violence: An Overview of the FBI's Community Anti-Threats Officer (CATO) Program

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is working with local, county, and state partners to address threats of targeted violence facing communities. Special Agent Eric Patterson and Special Agent Robert Cariola will outline the FBI's Community Anti-Threats Officer (CATO) Program and its partnerships with agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Special Agent Patterson and Special Agent Cariola will explain the science behind Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM); provide resources for further education and training in BTAM at the local, state, and national levels; and discuss the need to develop and implement long-term threat mitigation strategies for persons of concern through a multidisciplinary framework.

1430-1600 | Butler County Mass Gathering Chaos

On July 13, 2024, during a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, a mass gathering escalated into national headlines when an attempted assassination of then former President Donald Trump occurred. This session provides a firsthand operational case study of the challenges faced by local emergency services during and after the incident. Butler County Department of Emergency Services will walk participants through the complexities of planning for high-profile events, managing chaos amid active threats, coordinating with state and federal partners, and maintaining public safety under pressure. Lessons learned and best practices will be shared to strengthen planning, communication, and command operations during politically charged or high-risk events.



1500-1600 | Critical Decision Making

This program will discuss current theories regarding human decision making in critical and non-critical situations. Factors that lead to poor decisions and strategies to mitigate these factors. How Crew Resource Management can be used in EMS to improve patient safety, satisfaction and treatment. Barriers to effective communication and strategies to mitigate these barriers

FULL AGENDA

Friday, April 17th

For up-to-date information, please check the app.

0700-0800 | Registration & Continental Breakfast

0800-1600 | Mass Casualty Incident Basic Training

This course will review common MCI principals, lessons learned from prior incidents, and include hands on practice utilizing scenario-based training. While the core audience for this program is EMS providers, others in healthcare and emergency services will benefit greatly. Integration between bystanders, on-site representatives and emergency responders is key to successful MCI mitigation.

NO Cost to attend this training

Register Here: <https://forms.office.com/r/iS4UeJ3cZ3>

0800-0930 2025 Hudson River Helicopter Crash Case Study by NYC OEM

On a clear morning in 2025, a private helicopter made an emergency water landing in the Hudson River, triggering a large-scale, multi-agency response from local, state, and federal agencies. This case study, led by representatives from NYC OEM, walks attendees through the timeline of events, response coordination, and lessons learned from this high-profile incident. Topics will include unified command operations, victim rescue and accountability, public information management, aviation incident protocols, and coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Participants will gain critical insight into how a densely populated urban area can effectively manage a complex incident with limited warning.

1030-1200 CISA Special Events Planning & Mass Gatherings for Emergency Services

Public gatherings are increasingly vulnerable to violent attacks and criminal activity because of their relative accessibility and large number of potential targets. While remaining vigilant in the deterrence of traditional targets (i.e., national assets such as the electric grid and national supply chain) and high-profile events (i.e., Super Bowl and Presidential Inauguration), it's equally important to focus on securing public gatherings.

Public gatherings, also referred to as mass gatherings, are places where people gather freely together in a particular location for a specific purpose and are often associated with large crowds. These include places like music festivals, sporting events, places of worship, restaurants, and shopping centers.

These locations are easily accessible and often have minimal security, increasing their vulnerability to a variety of security risks. Given the threats towards, and incidents against, public gathering locations or events, it is important to understand the potential operational impacts from a successful attack, as well as the corresponding protective measures that can be taken to enhance their security. By connecting with local authorities, developing plans to identify issues and support incident response, training staff and volunteers, and reporting concerns to emergency authorities, many incidents may be mitigated or avoided.

FULL AGENDA

Friday, April 17th

For up-to-date information, please check the app.

1200-1300 | Awards / Lunch

1300-1400 | Allentown EMS Bike Team Event Planning

Planning for large events in urban and crowded environments requires mobility, speed, and flexibility—qualities the Allentown EMS Bike Team delivers during high-traffic incidents. This session offers a detailed look at how the Allentown EMS Bike Team prepares for, deploys, and operates during major public events, including parades, festivals, concerts, and protests. Attendees will gain insight into pre-event planning, route reconnaissance, medical supply configuration, communication strategies, team coordination, and integration with event command structures. Real-world case examples and lessons learned will help attendees understand how to build or enhance a bike team to improve EMS coverage in areas where traditional vehicles may struggle to navigate.

1300-1400 | Philadelphia I-95 Bridge Collapse Lessons

Learned

In June 2023, a tanker truck fire caused a catastrophic collapse of a section of Interstate 95 in Philadelphia—one of the busiest travel corridors on the East Coast. This session offers a comprehensive review of the incident, focusing on the emergency response, multi-agency coordination, and rapid infrastructure restoration efforts that followed. Attendees will gain insights into how emergency management, transportation agencies, fire services, and law enforcement came together to manage traffic disruption, public communication, and responder safety in a high-pressure, high-visibility environment. The session will also explore lessons learned that can be applied to future infrastructure emergencies, emphasizing preparedness, interagency collaboration, and continuity of operations.

1400-1500 | The Negotiated Management Style of Policing

Negotiated Management: Proactive Communication Strategies for Demonstrations & Mass Gatherings

Mass gatherings can shift from peaceful to volatile in minutes—often based on trust, perception, and communication. This interactive workshop introduces the Negotiated Management Style of Policing, a practical approach that emphasizes early relationship-building and open lines of communication with demonstrators to reduce tension and prevent conflict before it starts.

Using real-world examples (including lessons learned from major incidents), participants will learn core principles for engagement, messaging, and coordination in dynamic demonstration environments. Attendees will then work in small groups through scenario-based problems and brief back-to-the-room report outs, building strategies that can be applied to campuses, special events, protests, and other high-visibility gatherings.

FULL AGENDA

Friday, April 17th

For up-to-date information, please check the app.

1400-1500 | Dementia Training for the First Responder

As our population ages, first responders are increasingly encountering individuals living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia during emergency calls. This session is designed to prepare fire, EMS, and law enforcement personnel with the knowledge and skills needed to recognize the signs of dementia and respond with empathy, patience, and effectiveness. Through real-world examples and scenario-based guidance, attendees will learn communication techniques, behavioral cues, safety considerations, and strategies to de-escalate potentially stressful situations. The session will also provide an overview of local resources and support services for individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Empowering first responders with dementia-awareness training helps ensure compassionate, appropriate care while enhancing overall scene safety and community trust.

1500-1600 | Desales Student Poster Presentations

Come explore the future of emergency services, homeland security, and criminal justice through the eyes of the next generation of professionals. This session features poster presentations from undergraduate and graduate students in Desales University's Homeland Security and Criminal Justice programs. Students will present original research, applied projects, and innovative concepts covering topics such as disaster response, cybersecurity, law enforcement, public health emergencies, and crisis communication. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage directly with student presenters, ask questions, and gain new insights from fresh academic perspectives. Support student scholarship and see what's next in the world of public safety!

1500-1600 | Saving our Own: Firefighter CPR

While we must be proficient in our abilities to save the public we serve, we must be EXCEPTIONAL in our abilities to save our own. On today's fireground, cardiovascular events and over exertion are the leading cause of firefighter fatalities. Critical life-saving techniques for managing this type of event include immediate and rapid victim removal from the IDLH & their own PPE followed by high quality CPR in a "Pit Crew" type system. This course was developed to ensure that firefighters are equipped with the knowledge to rapidly remove a firefighter found in cardiac arrest, begin resuscitation, quickly and efficiently remove the firefighter from their Turn Out Gear & SCBA, then transfer patient care to EMS.



LESTA.

LEHIGH EMERGENCY SERVICES
TRAINING ACADEMY



640 W. Hamilton St. 8th Floor
Allentown, PA 18101-2117

610-782-4600

lesta@lehighcounty.org

WHAT IS THE LEHIGH EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING ACADEMY (LESTA)?

Located in the heart of Lehigh County, LESTA provides world-class training and certification for emergency services personnel. From firefighting to medical response, our goal is to equip professionals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to serve their communities with excellence.

The Lehigh Emergency Services Training Academy (LESTA) was established to coordinate the delivery of training to all emergency service organizations within Lehigh County, PA. Through partnerships with several public safety training organizations, LESTA seeks to provide high-quality programs for first responders and is committed to meeting the training needs of all first responders in Lehigh County.





M.A in Homeland Security

The DeSales University Master of Arts in Homeland Security (MAHS)

There are four concentration options for the online program: **Counterterrorism Investigations**, **Counterterrorism Digital Forensics**, and **Emergency Management**.

Required Core Courses

- Foundations of Homeland Security
- Research Methods
- Privacy, Ethics, Diversity and Human Rights
- Contemporary Issues in Homeland Security
- Advanced Counterterrorism
- Capstone (Master Project Seminar)

Counterterrorism Investigations

- Domestic Terrorism and Extremism
- Investigation of Terrorism
- Hostage Negotiations
- Post Blast and Terrorist Attack Crime

Emergency Management

- Disaster & Emergency Management
- Risk Management & Resiliency
- Post-Blast and Terrorist Attack Crime Scene
- Hosage Negotiations

Counterterrorism Digital Forensics

- Investigation of Terrorism
- Digital Investigation and Evidence Collection
- Forensic Aquisition and Analysis
- Network and Cloud Foensics

Don't want to earn a full degree?

Just take the four concentration courses to earn a graduate degree certificate!



DeSales University Is proud to offer actively employed homeland security professionals a **20% tuition discount** for the MAHS.

connect



Pennsylvania Eastern Area Training Committee

Chairman: Joseph Light, Lehigh County
Co-Chair: David Elmore, Luzerne County



Who We are:

The Pennsylvania Eastern Area Training Committee is a dynamic and dedicated organization committed to advancing training and development of Emergency Management, Fire, Rescue, Hazmat, EMS and Law Enforcement within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Eastern region. With a strong history of service and collaboration, this committee plays a pivotal role in promoting professional growth, education, and networking opportunities for individuals and organizations across various industries.

Mission:

Pennsylvania's Eastern Area Training Committee's mission is to facilitate the growth and excellence of emergency management professionals and organizations by providing high-quality training and development opportunities, fostering collaboration, and promoting the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Vision:

The vision of the Pennsylvania Eastern Area Training Committee is to be a leading force in promoting continuous learning and development, contributing to the economic and social well-being of the region, and empowering individuals and organizations to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Member Counties/Organizations: Berks County, Bucks County, Carbon County, Chester County, Columbia County, Delaware County, Lackawanna County, Lehigh County, Luzerne County, Monroe County, Montgomery County, Montour County, Northampton County, Northumberland County, Philadelphia, Schuylkill County, Susquehanna County, Wayne County, Wyoming County, PEMA Eastern Area Office, Northeast Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force, PA State Corrections, Eastern PA EMS Council, Northeast Health Care Collation, PA Dept of Health, South East Counter Terrorism Task Force, and North Central Counter Terrorism Task Force.



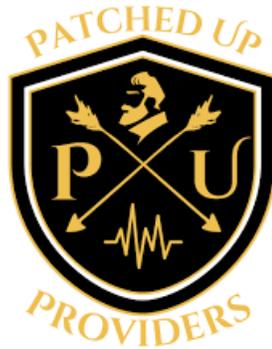


VISIT OUR EXHIBITORS



EXHIBITORS

CRR CRISIS RELIEF & RECOVERY





**DESALES
UNIVERSITY**

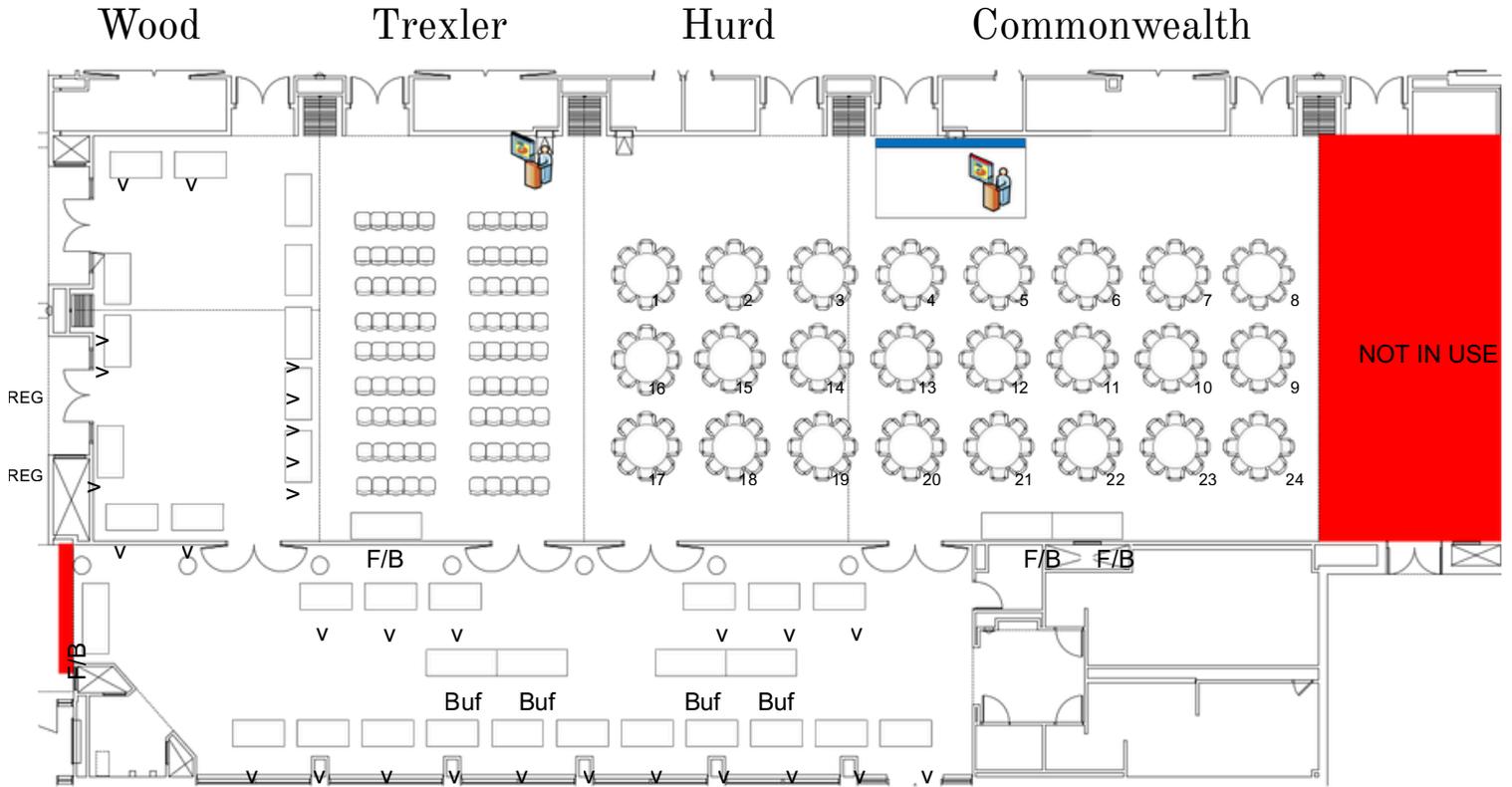


**Main Entrance
University Center**



Venue Layout

EVENT: Lehigh County Emergency Management
DATE: 4/16/26 - 4/17-26



- 24 Tables of 8 (Comm/Hurd)
- Seating for 192
- Trexler – Theatre for 90
- Wood/Heritage – 12 Vendor Tables
- Gallery -17 Vendor Tables First Bay
- of Dining Hall