

PUBLIC SAFETY INSIDER

Dedicated. Professional. Always Ready — Atlantic City Public Safety

Inside the Issue

Get a sneak peek at what's inside this month's newsletter:

- **Chief's Corner:**
Updates, insights, and words of encouragement from our Chiefs, sharing priorities and perspectives with our teams.
- **Community Calendar:**
Stay informed about upcoming events and important dates happening in our community this month.
- **Spotlight on Service:**
Recognizing exemplary work and outstanding contributions from individuals and teams across all departments. See who's been making a difference!
- **Wellness Highlight:**
Tips and guidance for staying healthy, resilient, and supported during the holiday season.
- **Safety Tips:**
Essential advice for keeping you and your family safe, with practical tips for home, travel, and winter preparedness.



The Grinch Visits the EOC during Parade Operations.

WELCOME

Welcome to the December edition of the Public Safety Insider, our internal newsletter dedicated to recognizing the outstanding work of the Police Department, Fire Department, and Beach Patrol. As we close out the year and move through the busy holiday season, this month's edition places a special focus on health, wellness, and staying safe during the holidays.

Inside, you'll find stories highlighting individual achievements, department milestones, seasonal safety tips, training opportunities, and messages from our leadership. This newsletter remains a space to support one another, stay informed, and strengthen the bond between our teams. Thank you for your continued dedication, resilience, and commitment to keeping our community safe—this season and beyond.

Safety Tip: Cold Weather Alertness

As temperatures drop, take extra precautions to protect against cold-related injuries. Dress in layers, monitor exposure during extended outdoor operations, and watch for signs of cold stress in yourself and others. Staying prepared for winter conditions helps maintain safety and performance during the season. These steps help reduce the risk of cold-related injuries during winter operations.



Atlantic City Police Department

Spotlight on Service

On October 27, 2025, Atlantic City Police units responded to a domestic violence incident. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the victim and assessed the situation, establishing a secure perimeter around the residence. The suspect initially refused to cooperate and avoided contact, prompting the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) to be called in. After multiple attempts to communicate and encourage surrender, SWAT was notified to support the operation.

Through careful negotiation, tactical coordination, and continuous communication, the suspect ultimately surrendered peacefully, without injury to any parties. Officers conducted a thorough search of the residence and secured evidence related to the incident. Throughout the operation, all personnel demonstrated exceptional composure, teamwork, and dedication to public safety. Their focus on de-escalation and collaboration ensured a safe outcome and highlighted the professionalism and discipline of the Atlantic City Police Department.



This Month in Pictures



ACPD New Recruits | November 2025

Atlantic City Police Department recruits are pictured during their training at the Police Academy, developing the skills, discipline, and knowledge necessary to serve and protect the community. Their dedication, teamwork, and commitment during this critical phase of law enforcement training are evident.



Photo courtesy of Chief Downey

A Message from the Beach Patrol Chief

Chief's Corner

The summer of 2025 was one for the books for the Atlantic City Beach Patrol. With beautiful weather and warmer ocean temperatures, we had a great season. From June through September, they performed 1,051 ocean rescues, responded to 441 medical assists, and safely reunited 244 lost children with their families. Lifeguards also assisted 117 visitors and residents with accessible beach wheelchairs, ensuring everyone could enjoy the shore safely.

I am proud to report that, thanks to the vigilance and professionalism of our team, there were no drownings this season. Every rescue, every call, and every act of service reflects the dedication and skill of our lifeguards and EMTs.

As the off-season begins, our winter Boatyard Operations are in full swing. Our crews are busy repairing and maintaining lifeboats, lifeguard stands, PWCs, and equipment at all eleven District Stations. Every piece of gear is carefully prepared to ensure the Beach Patrol is always "rescue ready" for the upcoming summer.

Looking ahead to 2026, we anticipate a strong mix of returning veteran lifeguards and eager new recruits, and the excitement for summer is already building—especially after these long, cold, and windy winter months.

On behalf of the entire Beach Patrol, thank you to our team and the community for your continued support in keeping our beaches safe.

See you on the beach

Chief Steven Downey

Atlantic City Fire Department

Smoke Alarm Initiative

For more than a decade, the Atlantic City Fire Department has partnered with the American Red Cross to bring life-saving fire safety resources directly into Atlantic City homes. Except for one year during COVID, the ACFD and Red Cross have carried out this annual home-visitation initiative with a single goal: reduce fire deaths and injuries by making sure every household has working smoke alarms.

This year’s canvass brought together 10 teams, each made up of four to five Red Cross volunteers and one Atlantic City Firefighter. These teams spent the day going door-to-door throughout Atlantic City—checking existing smoke alarms, replacing expired devices, and installing new alarms in homes that did not have them. All installations and safety checks were provided at no cost to residents.

The program was coordinated jointly by ACFD Chief Scott Evans, Rachel M. Lippoff, Executive Director of the Southern New Jersey American Red Cross, and Jim Eden, Community Disaster Program Manager for the American Red Cross’s New Jersey Region. The Atlantic City Boys & Girls Club hosted the event for the Red Cross and ACFD.

“What you are going to go out and do today is absolutely, 100% going to save lives,” Chief Evans told the teams before they left for the canvass. “I know that for a fact. We have gotten calls to fires where this program has installed smoke alarms and it has saved lives.”

This longstanding partnership between the ACFD and the American Red Cross continues to be one of the city’s strongest examples of community risk reduction in action. By combining trained firefighters, dedicated volunteers, and community support organizations, this initiative helps ensure Atlantic City families are better protected year-round.



Safety Tip: Smoke Alarm Safety Guidelines



Install alarms properly

Smoke alarms should be placed on every level of the home and near bedrooms so they can quickly alert everyone if there is smoke or fire, especially while people are sleeping.

Test and replace batteries

Smoke alarms need to be tested regularly to make sure they are working, and batteries should be replaced when they are low so the alarm will sound during an emergency.

Act immediately

If a smoke alarm goes off, everyone should leave the building right away using a safe exit and stay outside while emergency services are called.

Prioritizing Wellness This Holiday Season



Guidance for staying healthy, connected, and prepared during a season full of challenges

By Sgt. David Shapiro, ACPD

The holiday season can feel different for those of us in public safety. While most people are winding down, our work often ramps up—shift changes, mandatory overtime, parades, increased calls for service, and family obligations squeezed between work commitments. Add fatigue and financial pressures, and the season can feel overwhelming. In this profession, the holidays aren't always peaceful; they're unpredictable, demanding, and sometimes isolating.

But even amid the chaos, this time of year offers an opportunity to reflect on what matters most. Focus on what you can control and start with why. *Take care of yourself*—and take care of each other. Stress, fatigue, and the weight of responsibilities can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to carry them alone.

If you're struggling, feeling overwhelmed, or just need a conversation with someone who understands, reach out to your department's *Resiliency Program Officer (RPO)* or *peer support team*. Asking for help isn't weakness—it's discipline, ownership, and healing. Your wellness matters, not just for the job, but for you, your family, and your future.

Holiday pressures often bring food stress, extra responsibilities, and the feeling of needing to "get everything right." But don't let this steal meaningful moments. Whether on duty or off, take the opportunity to connect, share a meal, and enjoy conversation. These moments, though rare, are essential for long-term wellness and mental health.

As the year winds down, focus on momentum rather than perfection. *Set SMART goals for the year ahead*—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. Ask yourself: What do you want 2026 to look like physically, mentally, and professionally? Give yourself a mission you can measure, own, and grow from.

This holiday season, give yourself permission to slow down, connect, and appreciate the moments you have.

You show up for your community every day—make sure you show up for yourself, too.

Atlantic City Fire & Police Departments

Spotlight on Service

On December 4, 2025, a critical incident occurred at an antenna tower when part of the structure fell, leaving one worker tragically killed and two others in immediate danger hundreds of feet above the ground.

The Fire Department performed an extraordinary rescue under extremely dangerous and freezing conditions, successfully recovering the victim and rescuing the remaining workers. The operation, which lasted approximately three hours, was supported by Sergeant Miller, who provided crucial real-time intelligence from a drone, including emergency lighting for workers and rescue teams.

The Coast Guard coordinated with our team but determined that helicopter access was too dangerous due to the conditions. Meanwhile, Police Department officers established a secure perimeter, ensured scene safety for both rescue personnel and civilians, and maintained perimeter control overnight. Detectives Tolbert and Butcher conducted interviews with all on-site workers. Drone operations were documented in coordination with OSHA the following morning.

This incident was highly unusual and extremely hazardous, but the teamwork and coordination across all departments ensured the rescue was conducted safely, with no further injuries. The professionalism, quick thinking, and bravery displayed by our Fire and Police personnel highlight the dedication and skill of our public safety teams.

The successful rescue demonstrates the power of teamwork and coordination between our Fire and Police Departments, showcasing the professionalism and dedication that keeps our community safe.



Atlantic City Fire Department

Historical Fact

Atlantic City Fire Department: A Legacy of Service



First Fire Department on Absecon Island

The Atlantic City Fire Department was the first fire department established on Absecon Island and has a long-standing tradition of leadership in fire safety and emergency response throughout South Jersey.

Historic Fire Station Preservation

Several of the city's fire stations are recognized for their historical significance. Fire Station #4, built in 1912, has been in continuous use for over a century, reflecting early 20th-century civic pride and architectural detail. Fire Stations #6 and #9, constructed in 1907 and 1909, also remain active. The city is currently preserving Fire Station #2 (Indiana & Baltic Avenues) with grants to maintain this landmark, originally designed for horse-drawn fire apparatus.

Modern Fire Services

Today, the Atlantic City Fire Department operates out of six fire stations, providing fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials support, and other specialized operations to ensure the safety of residents and visitors.



Photo courtesy of acnj.gov

Atlantic City Beach Patrol

Honoring Former ACBP Chief Rod Aluise

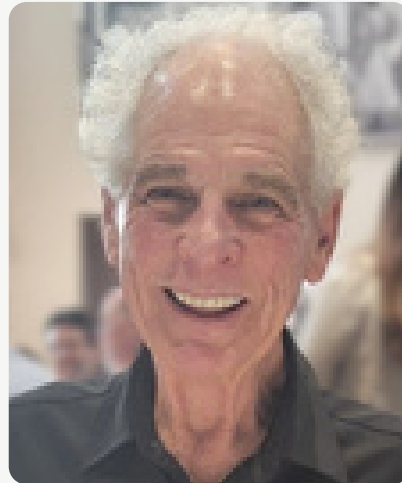


Photo courtesy of the Aluise Family

The Atlantic City Beach Patrol and the entire public safety community honor the life and legacy of Ralph "Rod" Aluise, who passed away on November 6, 2025, at the age of 83. Rod was a lifelong servant of Atlantic City's beaches, spending 56 summers protecting residents and visitors and shaping the Beach Patrol into the professional, disciplined organization it is today.

Rod first joined the ACBP in 1959, beginning a career defined by leadership, mentorship, and devotion to service. Over the decades, he rose through every rank—Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, and Chief—and also supported the City's emergency management efforts. Generations of guards credit Rod with setting the standards of accountability, pride, and readiness that remain core to the Beach Patrol.

His vision helped elevate Atlantic City on the national lifeguarding stage. Rod founded the Atlantic City Classic lifeguard races, created the Lifeguard Hall of Fame, and championed training and professionalism that left a permanent mark on the culture of the Patrol.

Even after retiring in 2014, Rod never left the beach behind. He visited stands regularly, encouraged young guards, and continued to find joy and purpose in the ocean and the boardwalk he knew so well. To many, he was not just a leader but a role model—someone whose dedication to public safety, family, and community was unmistakable.

Rod's legacy lives on in the generations of lifeguards he trained, the traditions he built, and the safety of the beaches he helped protect for more than half a century.

Atlantic City Police Department

Spotlight on Service

On October 18, 2025, Officers Matthew Stanwood and Nicholas Timek were assigned to the Special Investigations Section to follow up on multiple complaints involving establishments selling alcohol, tobacco, and THC products to individuals under the legal purchasing age. While working undercover, the officers were able to buy THC and vape products from one business, and they were also permitted entry and served alcohol in a bar/restaurant. These encounters confirmed several violations and provided clear, actionable evidence.

Throughout the assignment, Officers Stanwood and Timek demonstrated strong investigative skills, sound judgment, and professionalism in sensitive situations. Their ability to maintain their undercover roles and gather credible information was essential in addressing community concerns and promoting public safety. Both officers are deserving of commendation for their effort, integrity, and teamwork during this investigation.



A Message from the Police Chief

Chief's Corner

As we head into the holiday season, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to all of our first responders and their families. I continue to be impressed by the commitment our officers show every single day. Whether it's participating in Shop With A Cop, helping with our turkey giveaway, volunteering to work the Holiday Parade to ensure it is safe and secure, or going above and beyond on calls for service to bring perpetrators to justice, our first responders consistently demonstrate what true public service looks like.

While many in our community will gather around holiday dinners with loved ones, our dedicated first responders will be protecting and serving, answering calls for service, responding to emergencies, answering 911 calls, and keeping our neighborhoods safe. I want to take a moment to recognize and thank the Atlantic City Police Foundation, who will once again fund a catered meal for our Officers, Public Safety Telecommunicators and civilian support staff who will be working and away from their families on Christmas day.

To all the officers and employees of the ACPD, thank you for your unwavering professionalism and sacrifice. And to your families, who share in these sacrifices, I offer my deepest appreciation.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. May God bless the peacemakers.

Chief James Sarkos

This Month in Pictures



Shop With A Cop | December 15 -17, 2025

Atlantic City Police officers joined local children for this year's Shop With A Cop, helping them pick out gifts and enjoy the holiday season. This event highlights the department's commitment to community engagement and building positive relationships with the families they serve.

Atlantic City Police Department

Spotlight on Service

On October 20, 2025, Atlantic City Police responded to an armed robbery at 905 Atlantic Avenue, where two masked suspects had fled after robbing the store clerk. Responding officers quickly located one suspect, who attempted to flee on foot, and through the coordinated efforts of Officers Tracy, Rodriguez, Bell, Vargas, and Defeo, he was apprehended. Two firearms—one used in the robbery—and cash believed to be stolen proceeds were recovered, ensuring the immediate safety of the public.

Efforts to locate the second suspect led to his arrest in Camden with the assistance of NJ Transit Police. Officers Xiques and Thompson transported him back to Atlantic City, where additional evidence linked him to the robbery. Both individuals, identified as career criminals from Mercer County with no ties to Atlantic City, are now in custody.

The swift, professional actions of the officers involved highlight the department’s commitment to public safety and the security of the city’s residents, visitors, and business community.



This Month in Pictures



Sgt. Charles Miller, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Tim Mancuso, and Chief Scott Evans of the Office of Emergency Management educate the community on emergency preparedness, highlighting what to plan for and how to stay ready. The presentation emphasized practical tips and resources to help families and individuals respond safely in any emergency situation.

A Good “KIND” of Mystery

A quiet tradition of kindness inside the Atlantic City Public Safety Building.



For more than five and a half years, a quiet tradition has been unfolding inside the Atlantic City Public Safety Building—one that has lifted spirits, sparked conversation, and served as a simple reminder that kindness still matters. Tucked inside the elevator, small handwritten notes with positive messages appear every few weeks, courtesy of a member of the Atlantic City Public Safety Team whose identity is known only to a few.

The tradition began during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The mystery person—“MP,” for the purposes of this article—noticed a pack of inspirational cards in a local store. One message read, “Leave encouraging notes in public places.” MP took that suggestion to heart, first placing uplifting notes in bus shelters throughout the city. By May 2020, the notes began appearing in the Public Safety Building’s famously slow elevator, where they have remained ever since.

Each message is thoughtfully tailored to the season or moment. The current note reads: “THE BEST GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON ARE COMPASSION & KINDNESS,” accompanied by the familiar hashtag #BEKIND—a quiet reminder that the holidays can be difficult for many and that small acts of kindness can mean a great deal.

Over the years, MP worried the notes might be removed or vandalized. That has never happened. Colleagues have occasionally added supportive comments like “I agree!” A local media member was once seen recording video of a note, though no story ever surfaced. And despite concerns that the tradition might draw objection, it never has.

Instead, the notes have become part of the building’s culture. Over the years, hundreds—likely thousands—of employees, officers, firefighters, beach patrol members, contractors, visitors, and partners have ridden that elevator. Most have read those small slips of paper and felt, even briefly, a lift in their day.

After more than five years, one thing seems certain: this good kind of mystery is here to stay.

Atlantic City Beach Patrol

Spotlight on Service

Beach Patrol: Junior Lifeguard Program Growth

The Junior Lifeguard program, re-established in 2023 under Captain Michelle Burwell and Lieutenant Brendan Santangelo, has continued to grow and strengthen the Atlantic City Beach Patrol. The program prepares future lifeguards while helping to meet summer staffing needs.

- 2023: 15 Junior Guards completed the program and joined the ranks the following summer
- 2024: 16 Junior Guards successfully completed the program
- 2025: 15 Junior Guards completed testing and will enter the Lifeguard Academy in 2026

Over the past three seasons, 46 Junior Guards have graduated from the program, including 25 city residents. The Beach Patrol plans to continue expanding the program and increasing local recruitment, ensuring a strong foundation for future summers.



This Month in Pictures



County Firefighter Graduation | October 31, 2025

Graduates Dominic Gitto, Joseph Cajzer, and Jeffrey Lopez are pictured together and with their families, celebrating their completion of Fire Academy training and dedication to serving the community.

Atlantic City Police Department

Spotlight on Service

On November 12, 2025, Officers J. Bell and I. Johnson of Bravo Patrol responded to a call on Emerson Avenue where a two-month-old infant was not breathing. Officer Bell immediately began infant CPR, performing chest compressions and rescue breaths, while both officers continued life-saving care until EMTs Allisha Lecuyer, John Thomas, and Alexander Lekas arrived and restored the infant's circulation.

During the incident, Officer J. Martin secured the scene, and Officer W. Luengas-Gonzalez located the infant's mother and brought her to the scene. Bravo Patrol officers established traffic posts and provided an emergency escort to AtlantiCare Medical Center, ensuring the ambulance arrived safely. Dispatchers coordinated critical information throughout the event.

Thanks to the quick thinking, skill, dedication, and coordinated efforts of all involved, the infant was stabilized and airlifted to Cooper University Hospital for ongoing care. Their actions reflect the professionalism and commitment of the Atlantic City Police Department.



This Month in Pictures



Photos courtesy of Edward Lea

803 Award Ceremony | December 3, 2025

Atlantic City Police Officers are recognized with 803 Awards, Life Saving Medals, Unit Citation Medals, and Departmental Commendations for lifesaving efforts, suspect apprehension, and critical investigative work.

Atlantic City Fire Department

Spotlight on Service

On December 5, a two-alarm fire broke out at the iconic Peanut World shop on the Boardwalk, sending heavy smoke across the area and threatening nearby businesses. Acting Deputy Chief Jeffrey Bird led the response as crews arrived quickly, forced entry, and launched an aggressive interior attack that stopped the fire from spreading further. Chief Scott Evans praised the firefighters for their fast, decisive actions under challenging conditions.

More than 40 personnel, including Engines 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7; Ladders 1 and 2; Rescue 1; and EMS, worked together to contain the fire. They suppressed flames, ventilated the structure, and protected adjacent buildings from damage, ensuring the safety of the surrounding boardwalk area.

Thanks to the coordination, training, and dedication of the responding teams, the fire was brought under control quickly with no injuries reported. This incident highlights the professionalism, teamwork, and courage of Atlantic City's public safety personnel in protecting both people and property.



A Message from the Fire Chief

Chief's Corner

As we wrap up another busy month in Atlantic City, I want to take a moment to recognize the steady work of our firefighters, officers, dispatchers, and support staff. Much of what this department accomplishes doesn't make the news, but it makes a real difference for the people who live, work, and visit here.

This season brings colder weather, increased call volume, and added stress for many families. Whether responding to a fast-moving fire, assisting residents in need, or handling the day-to-day calls that keep this city running, your professionalism continues to stand out. These quiet, consistent efforts are what shape the reputation of this department more than anything else.

Our community risk-reduction work remains equally important. Smoke alarm installations with the American Red Cross, public education efforts, and outreach to vulnerable residents all help prevent emergencies before they happen – and they embody the kind of service that strengthens trust across our city.

As we head deeper into the holiday season, I appreciate the commitment every member of this department brings to the job. I hope each of you finds time to rest, recharge, and spend moments with family and friends, even as we continue supporting the community around the clock.

Thank you for everything you do for Atlantic City.

Chief Scott Evans

This Month in Pictures



Photo courtesy of Edward Lea

Veterans Day Remembrance | November 2025

ACFD Firefighters pay tribute to our Military Heroes on a beautiful Veterans Day.

This Month in Pictures



Photos courtesy of Edward Lea

PAL Thanksgiving Dinner | November 24, 2025

The Atlantic City Police Athletic League served a warm Thanksgiving dinner to community members, celebrating gratitude and togetherness.

Atlantic City Police Department

Spotlight on Service

On November 3, 2025, Officer Christopher Campbell conducted a routine motor vehicle stop at North Carolina and Adriatic Avenue for a vehicle with expired registration. Upon making contact with the occupants, Officer Campbell recognized one individual as a wanted subject involved in a prior domestic violence incident. His keen observation and awareness set the stage for a safe and effective response.

Officer Campbell safely took the individual into custody without incident. A search incident to arrest resulted in the recovery of a firearm and controlled substances. Officer Campbell’s tactical approach, calm demeanor, and adherence to protocol ensured that the arrest was executed safely, with no harm to anyone involved.

This incident highlights the importance of vigilance, quick decision-making, and professionalism in law enforcement. Officer Campbell’s actions reflect the dedication and skill of the Atlantic City Police Department in protecting the community and maintaining public safety.



Atlantic City Fire Department

Spotlight on Service

On December 11, a fast-moving fire broke out in the center unit of a row of townhomes on the 1100 block of Baltic Avenue. Deputy Fire Chief James Gillespie served as Commanding Officer, directing crews as they arrived to find the first floor fully involved and flames rapidly spreading to the second. Strong winds caused the fire to escalate quickly, prompting a second alarm within minutes.

Thanks to the quick action of Atlantic City Police, residents in neighboring units were safely evacuated. Ladders 1 and 2; Engines 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7; Rescue 1; and Exceptional EMS responded, delivering a coordinated, aggressive attack that stopped the fire from spreading further. Four juveniles on scene were triaged—either self-evacuating or assisted by officers—with no significant injuries reported.

“This was a fast-moving fire due to windy conditions,” said Fire Chief Scott Evans. “Our firefighters quickly assessed the scene and aggressively attacked the fire, preventing further damage to adjacent homes and potential injuries.” The combined efforts of firefighters, police officers, and EMS demonstrated the skill, dedication, and teamwork of Atlantic City’s public safety personnel.



This Month in Pictures



ACFD Firefighters | December 13, 2025

Taking a moment to enjoy the holiday parade, the crew from Fire Station #4 shares some holiday cheer.

Atlantic City Holiday Parade and Festival Highlight

Celebrating the Holidays Through Community, Coordination, and Public Safety

This year's Atlantic City Holiday Parade and Festival brought thousands of residents and visitors to Atlantic Avenue for an evening of celebration, community, and holiday spirit. More than 80 floats, bands, and performance groups stepped off from City Hall at 4:30 p.m., making their way along the 2.5-mile route to O'Donnell Park, where the Holiday Village welcomed attendees with vendors, food trucks, and seasonal entertainment.

To support an event of this scale, the City activated its Emergency Operations Center for the duration of the parade. Planning began nearly two months in advance and included extensive coordination across multiple departments and partner agencies. ACPD Sergeant Brian Shapiro and Assistant to the Business Administrator Jazmyn Rivera served as primary coordinators, guiding logistics and operational planning that helped ensure a safe and smooth event for all involved.

A wide network of agencies and partners contributed to the success of the evening, including Mayor Marty Small, Sr., ACPD, ACFD, South Jersey Transportation Authority, New Jersey State Police, DELMO Sports, ACPD SWAT, towing companies, ACPD/ACFD Drone Unit, Exceptional Medical Services, Atlantic City Beach Patrol, Atlas Traffic Management, AC Communications Bureau, City departments, CRDA, area casino security teams, ACHILES Surveillance Officers, and police departments from Stockton University, Ventnor, Longport, Galloway, and Brigantine. Their combined efforts ensured safety, coordination, and seamless execution throughout the parade and festival route.

The parade and festival highlighted the high level of teamwork across Atlantic City's public safety agencies, city departments, and partner organizations. Most importantly, the event was made possible by the enthusiasm and support of Atlantic City's residents, businesses, and visitors, bringing the community together to celebrate the holiday season.



Safety Tip: Winter Storm Safety

Stay Warm

- Heat your home safely
- Seal drafts & monitor indoor temps
- Check on neighbors; dress in warm layers if outside

Be Prepared

- Food, water, meds (1gal/person/day)
- Create a Go-Kit (3 days) and Stay-at-Home Kit (2 weeks)
- Include warm clothing, blankets, batteries, and chargers

Be Ready

- Know first aid, CPR, and frostbite signs
- Smoke & CO alarms with batteries
- Plan for power, gas, or water loss

Stay Connected

- Sign up for local emergency alerts
- Monitor weather updates and news
- Winter Storm Watch = Be Prepared → storm possible; review plans and supplies
- Winter Storm Warning = Take Action → storm imminent; follow safety guidance

Information Provided by the American Red Cross

This Month in Pictures



ACPD Police Officers | December 13, 2025

Motorcycle officers lead the holiday parade, with lights flashing as they guide the festivities through the streets.

Atlantic City Police Department

Spotlight on Service

On October 5, 2025, the Atlantic City Police Department received a report of a man stranded in marshland near Atlantic City. He could only see the Atlantic City High School in the distance. Patrol units immediately began searching along Route 40 but faced challenges due to the difficult terrain and limited visibility, making it hard to locate the individual.

Recognizing the need for additional resources, Sergeant Berardis and Sergeant Miller, both certified drone operators, launched drones from separate locations to cover a larger search area. Their quick thinking and coordination led to the man’s location, approximately 1.5 miles from the high school—an area that was difficult to access by foot or vehicle.

Using the drones’ communication capabilities, the sergeants reassured the man and provided precise GPS coordinates to the New Jersey State Police Marine Unit. This information enabled a swift and successful rescue. The actions of Sergeant Berardis and Sergeant Miller highlight the innovative use of technology and exceptional teamwork, ensuring the individual’s safe recovery.



Atlantic City Police Department

Spotlight on Service: Promotions

On November 19, 2025, the Atlantic City Police Department celebrated the promotions of Officers Christopher Smith and Lauren Downey to the rank of Sergeant during a ceremony at City Hall. Both officers bring years of experience, proven leadership, and a strong dedication to public safety in the community.

Promotion to Sergeant: Christopher Smith

Sergeant Christopher Smith joined the Atlantic City Police Department in 2007 after earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Stockton University. Over the years, he has served in a variety of roles. From 2007 to 2016, he worked as a patrolman on Bravo Platoon and joined the ACPD SWAT Team in 2012. He later served in the Tactical Unit (2016–2017) and spent eight years as a Detective in the Special Investigations Section. In February 2025, he was assigned to the Professional Standards Unit, where he continues to apply his experience to oversight and accountability functions within the department.

Promotion to Sergeant: Lauren Downey

Sergeant Downey carries forward a proud family tradition in the ACPD. Her father, Richard Andrews, served 32 years and retired as a Police Captain, while her brother, Richard Andrews Jr., served 27 years and retired as a Lieutenant. Downey herself has served the department for 24 years. Her career includes 20 years as a patrol officer and four years in Criminal Investigations. Her promotion to Sergeant reflects her depth of experience and long-standing commitment to public safety in Atlantic City.

Special Law Enforcement Officer Appointment

Retired ACPD Officer Jimmy Bower was sworn in as a Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) for the Atlantic City Municipal Court. The department congratulates Sergeants Smith and Downey, and SLEO Bower, for their professionalism, dedication, and continued service to the community.



Photo courtesy of Edward Lea

Safety Alerts at Your Fingertips

Timely alerts and practical tips to help keep you safe.

Staying safe starts with staying informed. Our social media pages are one of the quickest ways to keep up with important safety updates, community alerts, and helpful tips you can use every day. When you follow us, you gain:

- **Real-Time Updates:** From emergency notifications to road closures and weather-related warnings, we share timely information that helps you make informed decisions.
- **Community Connection:** Social media allows us to stay connected with you. We can answer questions, share resources, highlight community events, and work together to keep our neighborhoods safe.
- **Behind-the-Scenes Insights:** Take an inside look at the work being done every day by our local safety professionals.

In addition, we encourage you to sign up for AC Alerts, Atlantic City’s official emergency notification system. AC Alerts delivers real-time updates on emergencies, road closures, and public safety incidents directly to your phone, email, or landline, helping you stay prepared and connected with your community.

Stay informed. Stay prepared. Stay safe – connect with us online!



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Atlantic City Beach Patrol

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@atlanticcitybeachpatrol

SIGN UP



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Police Athletic League (PAL) Boxing Program End of the Year Banquet
January 6, 2026 | 5:00PM–7:00PM

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of the PAL Boxing Program with an end-of-year banquet honoring participants, coaches, and volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

PAL Black History Month Annual Trip
February 2026

The Police Athletic League hosts its annual Black History Month trip, providing participants with an educational and cultural experience to celebrate and learn about Black history and heritage.

ACPD K9 Graduation
February 13, 2026

Celebrate the graduation of Two Patrol Narcotics Dogs and One Bomb-Detection Dog as they complete their rigorous training. Officers and K9s are recognized for their hard work and dedication to public safety.

Saint Patrick’s Day Parade
March 7, 2026 | 1:00PM

Celebrate Irish heritage and community spirit at the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade on the boardwalk! Enjoy festive floats, marching bands, and local organizations bringing music, color, and tradition to the streets.

The Public Safety Insider is brought to you by the Public Safety Information Office. It is produced by OEM Intern Chelsea Moore and Public Safety PIO Matt Duffy. Please contact us at MDuffy@acnj.gov with any ideas or suggestions for future newsletters, we love your input and contributions! Have a Happy Holiday Season and a Safe and Prosperous New Year!