

Berks County Fire Service Working Group Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2010

ATTENDANCE

ZONE 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Schegan (46)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Yenser (21)
ZONE 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Snyder (50)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Schrack (41) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Quell (37)
ZONE 3	Lester Feick (27)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Martin (47)
ZONE 4	Scot Landis (67)	Bruce Longenecker (79) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Hostetter
ZONE 5/6	Matt Gehman (22) Mike DeTurck (25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Schaeffer (20) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Stevens (17)
ZONE 7	Michael Moyer (RFD)	Ron Wentzel (RFD)
BERKS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gottschall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Wanner
BERKS COUNTY FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION	Dick Trostle	
BERKS COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION	Leon Grim	
BERKS COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION	Bob Englebach	
OTHERS:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steven Knoll - Fire Training Center	

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 1822 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services Conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Leesport, PA.

DISCUSSION

Zone 2: Zone 2 President, Thomas Detrich, addressed the Working Group by giving his personal endorsement, as well as the endorsement of Zone 2, of the Berks County Fire Services Working Group. Tom communicated that he and Zone 2 support the Berks County Fire Services and their workings.

Box Alarms: Craig Wanner provided Working Group members with an updated list of the Fire and EMS agency's that have submitted their box alarms. Approximately 50% of Fire and EMS agency's box alarms have been submitted. Craig reported several company's are working on their box alarms while several others are complete but are waiting for municipal approval. DES hopes to start entering the box alarms into the CAD and begin rolling out the box alarms for dispatching in roughly 2 weeks.

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Zone 5/6 representative Chris Schaeffer questioned what happens if there are differences between a Fire Company's box alarms and their respective EMS agency's box alarms. DES reported in that situation that Fire and EMS need to work together to provide unified box alarms. If there are any questions, Fire and EMS agencies should contact Craig Wanner at DES.

QRS vs. Medical Assist: There was a discussion on the difference between a QRS dispatch versus a Medical Assist dispatch. DES Deputy Director Brian Gottschall stated that Fire Company's will be dispatched as QRS when they are automatically dispatched for a medical emergency on the box alarms. A fire company will be dispatched as a Medical Assist when they are special requested to assist EMS for a medical emergency.

MASS NOTIFICATION: DES has been trained on the system and is rolling out training sessions for each departments administrator to attend. The training times are as follows and will be held at the Direct Link Building.

- September 9, 2010 @ 1800 hours
- September 12 2010 @ 1800 hours
- September 14 2010 @ 1800 hours
- September 16 2010 @ 1800 hours
- September 17 2010 @ 1800 hours
- September 18 2010 @ 0900 hours.

Class size limit is 20 people per session; class is approximately 2 hours in length. Class is only for the designated administrators of for each Fire and EMS agency. Registration for the training sessions can be found at www.berksdes.com.

KIMBALL REPORT/NEW RADIO SYSTEM: All vendors interested in providing a proposal have until September 15th to submit the RFP's. Once received, Berks will review the proposals and narrow its selection down to 2 vendors and then negotiate between the vendors before selecting which vendor to award the contract.

Total Visibility: Discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Zone All Calls: Regarding who has authority to use a Zone All Call tone. Zone 1 and 2 voted to allow any chief officer within their zone to dispatch an All Call while Zone 5/6 stated they will allow their Zone President and Vice-President to use the Zone All Call for administrative purposes. Further discussions was tabled till next meeting until information is received from Zone's 3 and 4.

Support Your Fire Company: Steven Noll from the Fire Training Site announced The "Support Your Fire Company" program has a web domain of www.berksfire.com for additional information. On October 22 Commissioner Christian Leinbach will promote the program at the Fairground Square mall from 10am – 9pm . All Berks County Fire Departments will be receiving a letter asking for their assistance. Some areas of

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assistance include Apparatus to be displayed in the parking lot, equipment to be displayed inside as well as live demonstrations.

Radio Project Funding: The Working Group discussed regional grants and/or having Berks County submit a county-wide grant to help offset costs of radio's for the new radio system. Working Group Chairman, Christopher Stevens, will submit a letter to the Berks County Commissioners on the possibility of hiring a professional grant writer to seek and apply for grants for radios on behalf of Berks County. Submitting a regional grant on behalf of all Berks County Fire Departments through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program was discussed as well as thinking "Outside of the Box" by looking at alternative funding opportunities outside of the AFG. Anybody with information on areas to search for additional funding for radio's or with information on a good professional grant writer shall contact either Brian Gottschall at DES or their respective Zone representative.

NEW CAD: Brian Gottschall explained that the new CAD vendor is working on the ability of the new CAD to be able to grab and import information to Firehouse and Fire Reporting software. However, there is a large cost for the program of approximately \$70,000. Any fire department wishing to have this capability would be required to pay a fee which has not been set since the final cost of the program has not been determined.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday September 30th, 2010 at 1815 hours in the conference room of Berks DES at Direct link.

The meeting was adjourned at 2029.