

Berks County Fire Service Working Group Meeting Minutes

December 9, 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) Ken Quell (37)
ZONE 3	Lester Feick (27)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Martin (47)
ZONE 4	Scot Landis (67)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce Longenecker (79) 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Moyer (RFD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leon Grim	
BERKS COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Englebach	
OTHERS:		

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 1817 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services Conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Leesport, PA.

DISCUSSION

Box Alarms: Craig Wanner provided an updated list of Fire and EMS agencies that have submitted their box alarms and municipalities who have submitted their municipal authorization forms. There are still several fire departments, EMS agencies and municipalities who have not submitted their box alarms/muni authorization forms to DES. Currently 10 municipal box alarms have been implemented and being used for dispatching. Another 8 municipal box alarms have been entered into system and needs to be ported into the CAD and should be ready to go live soon.

Zone All Calls: Discussion was held as to when an All Call can be used by a field user. It was decided that an All Call can only be called for an emergency. If a field user wishes to make a general announcement, i.e. training announcement, to the county or to a particular zone or zones, they are to contact Brian Gottschall at DES and he will

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send the message out to all fire company mass notification administrators for information to be distributed.

P25: Brian Gottschall handed out documentation showing end user radio prices and accessories. DES will be meeting with every fire department in 2011 to review their radio needs and which radios would best fit their needs. Brian confirmed that the system is non-proprietary and you have an option to use other radios that are P25 compliant. Caution was thrown to the WG as not all P25 radio's have the licensing and options of the Motorola radios. For example, if other manufacturer's radios are used they will not have the OTAP (Over the Air Programming) feature available. Brian also stated that the county will be purchasing additional spare radios. The spare radios will be sent to RMI to use when a fire department brings in a radio that needs maintenance or repairs. RMI will program a spare radio to use in exchange until the other radio is returned from maintenance or repair. Brian said he will send out updates on the progress of the P25 system as it becomes available.

RIT Consortium: The WG reviewed a proposed radio procedure submitted by the RIT Consortium for evacuations at emergencies. After some discussion, the procedure was not endorsed by the Working Group. It was stated that the Communication Center already has an evacuation policy in place and is almost identical to the RIT Consortium's proposed policy.

Dispatching of Stand-By Companies: Concerns about time to dispatch new box alarms and the dispatching of stand-by companies was discussed. Some people feel the new box alarms will take longer to dispatch because they will have more companies to notify plus the addition of stand-by companies. It was discussed about possibly dispatching the resources needed for the dispatch initially. Once dispatching is complete then the stand-by companies will be dispatched. DES will check to see if that is even possible with the implementation of a new CAD system in 2011 and report at January's meeting.

TVS: It was reported that a majority of county fire departments still need to enter their information into TVS.

Thank You: The Working Group thanked Deputy Fire Chief Michael Moyer for his time, dedication and insightfulness to the Working Group. Chief Moyer will be retiring at the end of the year. The Working Group wishes Chief Moyer a happy retirement!!!!

The next meeting will be held on Thursday January 27, 2011 at 1815 hours in the conference room of Berks DES at Direct link.

The meeting was adjourned at 2037.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Snyder, BFSWG Secretary