

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2012

ATTENDANCE:

Zone 1		RJ Schegan		Mark George		Scott Yenser (alt)
Zone 2	X	Eric Schrack		Chuck Snyder		Ken Quell (alt)
Zone 3		Bob Martin		Butch Feick		
Zone 4	X	Scot Landis		Bruce Longenecker		
Zones 5/6	X	Chris Stevens	X	Chris Schaeffer		Matt Gehman
	X	Eric Fox				
Zone 7		Ron Wentzel	X	Stephen Serba		Tom Rehr
BCFA	X	Roger Weidenhammer		Leon Grim		
BCFPA	X	Bob Englebach				
Berks DES	X	Brian Gottschall	X	Tony Flores	X	Craig Wanner
	X	Todd Boughter	X	Christina Wood	X	Matt Stairiker

OTHERS: Bob Snyder (Z4)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 1815 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link building, Bernville Road, Leesport, PA.

DISCUSSION

Training Committee:

- The publishing of course offerings for 2013 is expected after next month's committee meeting.
- The Training Committee – through the ETA – is enforcing a ten (10) person minimum by fourteen (14) days before the scheduled class start date or it WILL be cancelled. There is no discussion or “wiggle room” on this.
- Delmar is out of the business of offering Essentials training, however the State Fire Commissioners Office will continue to support it and add a fifth module (although it is uncertain what that fifth module will be).
- The “Academy on the Road” classes will be returning for Spring 2013; tentative offerings are 2-Day RIT, 2-Day RIT Extended, Large Area Search, and Alternative Fuels.

East-Central Task Force:

- In the process of planning “Operation Coal Cracker 2”; this will be expanded to include health, medical, and law enforcement disciplines.
- The Incident Management Team is still taking memberships; if interested contact Scot Landis.
- The East-Central Task Force has merged with the South Central Mountain and North Central Mountain Task Forces. This merger allows the combined Task Forces to cover over two dozen Pennsylvania counties.

RIT Consortium: No progress. Working Group representatives are still reaching out to their respective zones for input on a “mission” for the Consortium.

P25:

- Fire companies in the county are urged to reach out to the municipality(ies) they serve to ensure that said municipalities are acting on their promissory notes NOW. Motorola has set a cut-off date of December 5, 2012; there are no guarantees to any entities who submit their order past this firm deadline.
- There are no significant changes in status to any of the contested tower sites.

CAD:

- CAD map in NWC will be implemented by the end of the year. This will replace the current stand-alone mapping system, and will require two hours of training for each dispatcher. The NWC CAD map can generate calls from the map, incoming calls will appear on the map, and any calls received as Phase II will put the call in the general area.
- DES will be implementing automatic notification of utilities (electric and gas) on all Working Structure Fires.
- Local Level Alarm: After yet another lengthy discussion, and due to the fact that there is not 100% “buy-in” to the concept, the proposal made by Bob Snyder was withdrawn by Bob. However, this comes only with full agreement from DES that any fire touching or in a structure will NOT be dispatched under the “Miscellaneous” call type. Additionally it was requested by the Working Group that language be changed when dispatching every structure fire to report exactly WHAT is on fire (i.e. “Structure Fire, fire reported to be in the attic”).

Zone 1: No representatives present.

Zone 2: Nothing to report.

Zone 3: No representatives present.

Zone 4: Nothing to report.

Zones 5/6: Nothing to report.

Zone 7: Nothing to report.

BCFA: A reminder of the upcoming membership meeting – Saturday 10/27/2012, 1400 hours at the Fire Training Site.

BCFPA: Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1950 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 29, 2012, 1815 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Stevens, Chairman