

# **Berks County Fire Service Working Group Meeting Minutes**

**June 28, 2012**

## **ATTENDANCE**

ZONE 1	Bob Schegan (46)	Mark George (11)	
ZONE 2	X Chuck Snyder (50)	X Eric Schrack (41)	X Ken Quell (37)
ZONE 3	Lester Feick (27)	X Bob Martin (47)	
ZONE 4	X Scot Landis (67)	Bruce Longenecker (79)	Mark Hostetter (85)
ZONE 5/6	Matt Gehman (97)	X Chris Schaeffer (97)	
	Eric Fox (34)	X Chris Stevens (17)	
ZONE 7	X Stephen Serba (RFD)	Ron Wentzel (RFD)	Thomas Rehr (RFD)
BERKS DES:	X Brian Gottschall	Craig Wanner	X Tony Flores
BCFA:	Leon Grim		
BCFPA:	Bob Englebach		
OTHERS:	Bob Snyder (Cumru Twp Fire Dept)		

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 1832 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services Conference room, located in the Direct Link building, Bernville Road, Leesport, PA.

The minutes of the May 2012 were approved.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Collapse Task Force:** Scot Landis reported that the task is presently assembling equipment.

**Training Committee:** Fall training schedule is will be available online shortly. County training committee is working on 2013. Training can be found at [www.berkscountyfiretraining.com](http://www.berkscountyfiretraining.com) .

**CAD:** Tony Flores reported that New World CAD is scheduled to go live around July 10<sup>th</sup> as training is wrapping up this week. Time frame to have ability to change box alarms is TBD. Several questions were asked regarding multi-purpose apparatus (ie: Rescue-Engine) and how they would be replaced if they failed to respond. DES will look further into the use of multi-purpose apparatus.

**Cumru Structure Local Alarm:** Bob Snyder spoke inquiring about changes in run card assignment call types. Attached to the minutes is a letter from Bob Snyder explaining his recommendations.

**P25 Radio Project:** Brian Gottschall reported that both Mt Penn and Hamburg towers have been erected while the North Campus tower is expected to be delivered by the end of July. It was also reported that P25 testing is being done internally.

Brian Gottschall reported the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is suing over the Albany tower site. Brian Gottschall reported all AFG grant assessments are complete and it was determines it can provide mobile radios for all Fire and EMS departments in addition to 9 year warranty's as wells as thick roof mounts for apparatus that need it through an AFG amendment. Once complete, all signed municipal promissory notes will need to be collected in order to order the radio's.

**Other Items:**

**Zone 1:** Nothing to report.

**Zone 2:** Nothing to report.

**Zone 3:** Nothing to report.

**Zone 4:** Zone 4 asked if there was an internal media policy at the Comm Center regarding dispatching media details at all times of the day/night. Asked for all zones to discuss on appropriate times of the day where media details should not be dispatched..

**Zone 5/6:** Nothing to report

**Zone 7:** Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2017 hours. Due to lower attendance and scheduled vacations in July, Chairman Chris Stevens will evaluate the need for the July Working Group Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charles Snyder, Secretary

The Fire Service Working Group (FSWG) recently discussed the proposal from Cumru Township Fire Dept. regarding the possible use of a "Structure Local Alarm" assignment and changing the way HazMat responses are dispatched. The basic idea is to be more effective in assigning suitable structural suppression resources to calls for service. This resulted in the following suggestions to the fire service:

1. Currently, if a fire or possible fire in a structure is reported, dispatchers use either the First Alarm Structure assignment or the Miscellaneous Fire assignment based on information from the caller and their individual judgment. FSWG suggests this be changed to a choice to use either the First Alarm Structure assignment or the AFA assignment, making the current AFA assignment instead into an AFA/Structure Local Alarm assignment.
2. FSWG recognizes the need for a clear, simple, consistent rule for dispatchers to use when choosing between the First Alarm Structure assignment and the AFA/Structure Local Alarm assignment for fires or possible fires in structures. FSWG suggests a caller reporting any fire or smoke in the structure or a caller who is hysterical or otherwise unable to provide clear information result in use of the First Alarm Structure assignment. If a caller clearly reports a "possible" fire, odor, or other unknown condition in a structure with no fire or smoke evident, and for fire alarm activations, FSWG suggests the use of the AFA/Structure Local Alarm assignment.
3. FSWG suggests that the Miscellaneous Fire assignment be used for fires or possible fires not otherwise covered on the run cards and not involving structures. Examples would include dumpster fires, illegal burning outdoors, class B fires outdoors, unknown type fires or possible fires observed from a distance, and similar.
4. FSWG suggests using the AFA/Structure Local Alarm assignment for HazMat calls inside structures not otherwise covered on the run cards (natural gas odors, heating oil spills, and similar product releases indoors) while using the HazMat assignment for any HazMat calls outside of structures (fluid spill control on roadways, propane releases from outside tanks, etc.).

FSWG asks the Zones to discuss these suggestions and give feedback to FSWG through your representatives at your earliest convenience.