

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Zone 1 | | Matt Brett | | Ethan Kunkel | x | Scott Yenser (alt) |
| Zone 2 | | Eric Schrack | | Chuck Snyder | | Ken Quell (alt) |
| Zone 3 | | Bob Martin | | Corey Houser | | Lester Feick |
| Zone 4 | | Scot Landis | x | 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 | x | Leon Grim | | |
| BCFPA | x | Bob Englebach | x | J. David Bossard (alt) | | |
| Training | x | Bob Snyder | | | | |
| Berks DES | x | Brian Gottschall | x | Tony Flores | | Matt Stairiker |
| | | Craig Wanner | x | Todd Boughter | x | Christina Wood |
| Forestry 17 | | Joe Sherman | | Ron Minnich (alt) | | |

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens at 1825 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 March 2013 meeting was approved as written.

DISCUSSION

East-Central Task Force: No update

RIT Consortium: No update

BCFA: Progress

BCFPA: Dave Bossard mentioned that fire police were not being acknowledged by Berks dispatchers on the BCFPA private VHF frequency; Brian reiterated that there is no policy in place for DES to monitor that channel. Those that do, do so by choice. Chris reminded Dave that there will be three talk paths in the new radio system.

Training Committee:

- Registrations are coming in for the Water Rescue class, which should be run in May/June.
- Essentials is currently running and is well-attended.
- Firefighter Survival will likely be offered in the fall of 2013.
- In an attempt to fill “gaps” for classes that aren’t held often, there is a possibility that a MetEd Electrical Emergency Class and/or an Academy On The Road class will be held in the fall.
- Planning has begun for offering classes in the Technical Rescue discipline in the spring of 2014.

CAD:

- The MCTs should be finished tomorrow so CAD can be updated to version 10 of the software.
- 33 of 59 fire companies have deployed WEBCAD (as of the date of this meeting). DES is yet again urging fire companies to make the switch, as there will be a day in the near future when DES will cease to give times and incident numbers over the phone.
- Discussion about notes not appearing on incidents stating “fire/incident under control”, “patient extrication complete”, etc. DES management is advising dispatchers that anything to enter notes that are appropriate to a specific incident.

Run Cards:

- Christina disseminated a draft copy of the Fire Call Type designations for review. There was some push-back regarding “Appliance Malfunction” and “Hot Smells” under the Miscellaneous Fire category. After much discussion it was decided to create the category of “Structural Investigation” for appliance malfunctions and odors with no visible smoke or fire evident. It should be noted that individual fire companies/departments can “have it any way they want” i.e. building their Structural Investigation call type to mirror AFA, Structure Fire, Miscellaneous, or can assign apparatus appropriately.
- For Medical Assists, DES will internally create an apparatus pseudo-name for Medical Assists and QRS calls. This will allow fire companies/departments to respond with their unit of choice for these incidents.
- Discussion occurred as to WG approving the starting of Task Forces and what happens when a Task Force begins to show signs of falling apart. Discussion tabled.

P25:

- There will be two upcoming meetings regarding the alternate tower site in Cumru Township: Tuesday, April 30 (Cumru Commissioners) and Tuesday, May 14 (Cumru Zoning Board). There is optimism that this site will be approved.
- There will be another meeting on May 6th regarding the Bethel site. SHPO needs to be in agreement with the FCC to approve the MOA for the County to proceed. The FCC maintains that the County did everything it was supposed to do.
- Much discussion about the A/B dividing line (which agencies/departments will be on the “A” side and which will be on the “B” side). Several options were discussed with no firm decision made by DES at this point in time.

911 Radio Advisory Board: Discussion was initiated by the members of the Advisory Board as to whether there was a need for this Board to continue. Specifically, when the 911 Advisory Board was started there was no Fire Working Group, no EMS Working Group, and no Police Working Group. Options on the table are to discontinue the Board or a reduction in the number of meetings. If the 911 Advisory Board were to discontinue, the Fire Working Group would pick up Rick Schartel as a Working Group “Member-At-Large”. The recommendation of this Working Group is to reduce the number of meetings from monthly to “as needed”.

The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 30, 2013 at 1815 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Stevens
Chairman