

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – August 29, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

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

Other attendees: None.

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.

The minutes of the June 2013 meeting were approved as written.

DISCUSSION

East-Central Task Force (Scot):

- PA Task Force 1 now has an open enrollment for rescue technicians. There is funding available to send interested and qualified people to training. If you have an interest in becoming part of PA TF-1 please e-mail Scot Landis: scot.landis@verizon.net.
- An exercise for technical rescue is being planned at the Schuylkill County Firegrounds. This exercise will combine elements of structural collapse and confined space rescue. When a firm timeline has been set the information will be disseminated broadly.
- The Pa. Interstate Mutual Aid System (PIMUS) is no longer being recognized by that name; the new name is The Pa. Fire & Rescue Mutual Aid System or FRMAS (nobody was quite sure how to pronounce it, however "FirmAss" gained significant traction among the Working Group attendees). There will be two trainings: Division Group Supervisor (a 24-hour class) in Columbia County, and Task Force Strike Team Leader (a 24-hour class) in Berks County. Dates and times for these classes have not been confirmed. If a company or members of companies are interested in attending either of these two classes please e-mail Scot Landis.

RIT Consortium: No update

BCFA: Nothing to report.

BCFPA (Bob Englebach):

- Legal seminar for Fire Chiefs and Municipal representatives concerning the legalities of having fire police will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2013, 1900 hours at the Berks Fire Training Site. Seminar will be led by Tony Riccardi and there are no pre-registration requirements.

Forestry (Joe Sherman):

- Basic Wildfire PA-130 training will be held on Thursday, September 5 from 1900-2300 hours, and Thursday, September 19 from 1900-2300 hours. Classes will be held at Kutztown Fire Company. If interested please contact Dean Dalious at 610-488-6620.
- Forestry crews from PA have been dispatched to the west coast for active wildfire incidents in Utah, California, Arizona, and Alaska. A total of 152 PA wildland firefighters have been deployed as of August 28th, with 55 still actively deployed.
- There were 4 DCNR grants awarded in Berks County this year, and a total of 18 in 9 counties. The next grant window opens in October 2014. Joe relayed that while the “only one grant application every 5 years” rule was still in effect, DCNR has to give much of the money back because not enough applications are being received each year.

Training Committee (Bob Snyder):

- The training website has been completely updated and now has many new classes listed. Please check out the website at www.berkscountyfiretraining.org
- Two Academy on the Road programs will be held this fall: Responding to Ethanol Incidents and Large Area Search.
- Several classes are schedule for the Fall of 2013 with more coming in 2014. The website will be updated in real time as classes are finalized. Some of the teasers for 2014 are additional certification opportunities, pump classes, MCTO series, and BVR series.
- Please “like us” on Facebook!

911 Radio Advisory Board (Chris):

- There was no business to be discussed, therefore no meeting was held in August. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 5th.

CAD (Tony):

- All EMS and law enforcement agencies are now on WEBCAD, however **11 county fire companies/departments have failed to sign-up. THIS MUST BE RESOLVED IMMEDIATELY. Please call Tony ASAP, as the county will no longer be giving times and incident numbers over the phone FOR ANYONE.**

Run Cards (Christina):

- A Technical Rescue Resource list was distributed to the Working Group members in attendance. It is up to each individual company/department to verify what each company/department on this list says they can do and what equipment they say they carry.
- Currently meeting with fire chiefs to load run cards into CAD and to verify that everything is correct.

P25:

- Construction set to begin on the Pulpit Rock tower site in Albany Township.
- An Environmental Assessment agreement has been finalized for the Bethel Township site.
- Issues are being resolved with Berks Conservancy regarding the number of trees being taken down at the Turnpike tower site.
- Local regulatory issues are being resolved with the Longswamp tower site.
- A need to apply for a zoning and building permit on the part of American Tower was realized for the Union tower site.

Zone 1: No representatives in attendance.

Zone 2: Dean Dalious introduced himself to the group as the new Zone 2 alternate.

Zone 3: No representatives in attendance.

Zone 4: Nothing to report.

Zones 5/6: Nothing to report.

Zone 7:

- A class of 19 is almost complete academy training and will be on the street in the next few weeks.
- Issues with priority while dual-band mobile radios are on scan. Much discussion ensued. Countywide input will be solicited, as a narrow window for potential across-the-board mobile reprogramming is quickly approaching.

The meeting was adjourned at 2110 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2013 at 1815 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Stevens, Chairman