

**BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP**  
**Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Zone 1</b>		Matt Brett		Ethan Kunkel	x	Scott Yenser (alt)
<b>Zone 2</b>		Ken Quell	x	Dean Dalious		
<b>Zone 3</b>		Bob Martin		Lester Feick		Corey Hauser (alt)
<b>Zone 4</b>		Bruce Longenecker	x	Bob Snyder		
<b>Zones 5/6</b>	x	Chris Stevens	x	Chris Schaeffer	x	Eric Fox
		Chris Bickings				
<b>Zone 7</b>		Tom Kemery		Tom Rehr		
<b>BCFA</b>	x	Roger Weidenhammer		Leon Grim		
<b>BCFPA</b>	x	Bob Englebach		J. David Bossard (alt)		
<b>Task Force</b>	x	Scot Landis		Michael Lessar		
<b>Berks DES</b>	x	Brian Gottschall	x	Tony Flores		Matt Stairiker
	x	Todd Boughter	x	Christina Wood	x	Jon Fritz
<b>Forestry 17</b>		Joe Sherman				

\*Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus

**Other attendees:** None

The meeting was called to order at 1822 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

The May 28, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written.

**DISCUSSION**

**East-Central Task Force (Scot):**

- Structural Collapse 1 & 2 will be running in Luzerne County.
- No dates have been set for the confined space class to be held in Schuylkill County (this was funding made available that Northumberland County failed to use).
- The task force purchased several GPS units that were dispersed to select specialized agencies throughout the region. Boyertown Area Fire & Rescue received five (5), Schuylkill County's technical rescue team received five (5), Plains in Luzerne County received five (5), and Task Force 49 in Northumberland County received five (5).
- With a change in EMCs in Luzerne County, the practice of drop-shipping equipment directly to entities has been discontinued. All equipment now goes to the Luzerne County EMA to be inventoried before being dispersed to entities.
- Next task force meeting is July 9, 2015 at the Schuylkill Fire Training site.

**BCFA:** Progress.

**BCFPA:** Nothing to report.

**Forestry (Dean):** Nothing to report.

**Training (Bob S.):**

- Please make all fire agencies aware that the Essentials series also includes Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations. The order of classes is Mod 1, Mod 2, Awareness, Mod 3, Operations, Mod 4. Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations pricing is NOT built into the pricing for Essentials.
- Some smaller classes coming on-line for Fall 2015.
- Committee will be meeting in July to discuss 2016 class offerings.

**Zone 1:** Nothing to report.

**Zone 2:** Nothing to report.

**Zone 3:** Nothing to report.

**Zone 4:** Nothing to report.

**Zones 5/6:** Nothing to report.

**Zone 7:** Nothing to report.

**DES:**

- Radio Management: There are agencies in the County who are purchasing new radios that are being shipped from Motorola with the newest software. These radios will not work because DES has been unable to upgrade to the newest software due to RM jobs that are continuing to sit in pending for certain agencies.
- Run Cards: There is one (1) run card that includes both Fire & EMS. The fire chief and EMS chief need to collaborate on the cards, and they must be signed off by the fire chief, the EMS chief, and the designated municipal representative.
- Total Visibility: Now being maintained by Special Operations & Projects Manager Jon Fritz.
- Premise Alerts: DES has been discussing the possibility of beginning to accept special needs premise alerts from the general public. Premise alerts would have to be renewed annually; there are several in Reading that currently have no expiration dates. General public would have to submit a form to DES and renew it annually. After much discussion, it was unanimously agreed by the Working Group to NOT have DES pursue this any further. The communications center should continue to refer the calling party to the local fire agency, EMS agency, or police department.
- There are entities that are using Bluetooth with their 700 MHz radio. If a radio operator is using Bluetooth and stands next to a second radio operator using a corded speaker/mic there will be a noticeable timing delay.

Eric Fox advised the Working Group that Larry Waldbiesser's wife passed away recently. Eric also mentioned that the Pa. OSFC has rolled out Emergency Reporting and seems to work much better than Firehouse. As of the present time two (2) years' worth of incidents has been imported from Firehouse to ER. DES will not be investing in an interface between New World CAD and Emergency Reporting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2018 hours. With a lack of business to discuss there will be no July 2015 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 1815 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Stevens, Chair