

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

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

*Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus

Other attendees: None

The meeting was called to order at 1820 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

The June 25, 2015 meeting minutes were distributed too late for the group to review. They will be reviewed at the September 24, 2015 scheduled meeting.

DISCUSSION

Correspondence: Chris received an e-mail from Bruce Longenecker. Bruce is retiring in early September as Wyoming Fire Commissioner and is stepping down from the Working Group. Bruce was one of the initial members of the Working Group and his participation is much appreciated. The Working Group thanks Bruce for his commitment in serving on the Working Group and helping to improve the Berks County Fire Services, and congratulates him on his retirement. Bruce's participation on the Working Group will be sorely missed.

East-Central Task Force: No report.

BCFA: Nothing to report.

BCFPA: Nothing to report.

Forestry (Dean): Joe Sherman is scheduled to retire in the next 9 months (approximately).

Training (Bob S.):

- Discussion about training committee meetings being canceled, shifted to different dates, short notice of upcoming meetings, and some Zone reps not willing to continue without some level of consistency and communication. Bob advised that meetings are back to the third Wednesday of the month. Bob will reach out to committee members, and every attempt will be made to get the contact information from everyone to improve communication.
- Reached out to HACC to start the process for Officer II, Structure II, and possible 1006.
- Essentials, some 16-hour classes, possibly BVR, Truck I & Truck II for Fall 2015.

Zone 1: Nothing to report.

Zone 2: Nothing to report.

Zone 3: Nothing to report.

Zone 4:

- Zone 4 companies were contacted about feedback on paging system improvements with no comments coming back to the Working Group representatives.
- 154.1825 has been set up as a narrowbanded cross-band repeater of Berks Fire A. Reception seems to be good, as it can be heard well into Zone 3, into portions of Lancaster County, and even into Maiden Creek Township.

Zones 5/6: Attempting to get a representative from MetEd to meet with the Zone regarding extensive delays in responding to accidents with entrapment and wires down on the affected vehicles.

Zone 7: Met with DES about the radio system improving in-station items, vehicle issues, and ways to make the fireground ops talkgroup perform better.

DES:

- FirstNet: Pennsylvania has released the paper organizational survey. It needs to be completed by the end of September. Brian would like participation from persons in the fire services in Berks to assist in completing the survey. Brian is looking for approximately 10-12 volunteers. Zone reps are tasked with reaching out to their respective fire agencies for volunteers.
- All agencies need to update their Radio Maintenance Device Programmer.
- Reading 120 bicycle race: This 120 mile race will be traversing roads all around Berks County as well as the City of Reading on Saturday, September 12. The organizer of the event is seeking the assistance of fire police for traffic control in and around the race route. Bob Englebach agreed to be the primary point of contact for the race organizer.
- Papal visit: The City of Philadelphia has asked for mutual-aid fire equipment (specifically fire suppression-equipped gators as well as gators that are capable of transporting a patient in a supine position) to be trailered to a specific location in Philadelphia and left there for the duration of the event. Impacts to Berks County are approximately 6,000,000 people are expected to travel to Philadelphia and Berks County highways will be burdened (most likely via tour buses). DES is requesting that any municipality that could be facing a local impact from the papal visit please advise. DES is also recommending that fire agencies who cover the larger highways in Berks County (I-78, PA Turnpike, Route 222, 73, 100, etc.) consider a staffing plan.
- Radio system: Final System Acceptance is nearing. DES would like all agencies and all disciplines to take a second look at the radio SOPs (a working copy exists to make revisions within DES). Field user-generated changes to SOPs may be desired as well. Radio template changes are going to be made that are DES driven, however fire agencies may have some input in this as well (i.e. ergonomics, radio layout).

- A reminder to all fire agencies that when you are at an incident that has a potential to escalate and you require additional assets (apparatus and/or manpower) the Incident Commander is to hail Berks and ask for those assets to be dispatched for an immediate work detail, NOT a “standby in station”. An additional reminder is that any asset that is relocated into the first-run area of another agency is covering that agency’s first-run area and not their own.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1957 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 1815 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Stevens, Chair