

**BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP**  
**Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Zone 1</b>		Matt Brett		Ethan Kunkel		
<b>Zone 2</b>		Ken Quell	X	Dean Dalious		Cody Rahn
<b>Zone 3</b>		Bob Martin		Lester Feick		Corey Hauser (alt)
<b>Zone 4</b>	X	Bob Snyder		Josh Keller		
<b>Zones 5/6</b>	X	Chris Stevens	X	Chris Schaeffer	X	Eric Fox
		Chris Bickings				
<b>Zone 7</b>		Tom Kemery		Tom Rehr		Brian Thorpe
<b>BCFA</b>		Roger Weidenhammer		Leon Grim		
<b>BCFPA</b>		Randy Minninger				
<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>		Troy Withers				

\*Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus

**Other attendees:** None

The meeting was called to order at 1816 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

The April 28, 2016 minutes were unavailable for review and will be approved at the next meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

**Forestry:** Nothing to report.

**East-Central Task Force:** Nothing to report.

**BCFA:** Not present.

**BCFPA:** Not present.

**Training (Bob S.):**

- Will be offering Truck 1 Ops plus 2 structural burn sessions, and a few other odds and ends to round out the year.
- Jones & Bartlett new haz-mat awareness and operations programs will be rolling out July 1, 2016 plus EVOT (replacement for EVOC). There will be a 6-month window where a student can take either the old version or the new version, however starting 1/1/2017 the Jones & Bartlett version will be the only offering.

**Zone 1:** Not present.

**Zone 2:** In regards to 2<sup>nd</sup> dispatches and cover times: stay the same as current with 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 and covers at 6.

**Zone 3:** Not present.

**Zone 4:** Okay with 2<sup>nd</sup> dispatch at 5 and cover at 7 and in the process of officially polling each agency within the zone.

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

**Zone 7:** Not present.

**DES (Brian Gottschall):**

- Reinforce with all agencies that text paging is NOT going away. DES has met with a vendor, and originally the vendor was advertising unlimited usage. After further investigation it was found that the price is based on usage, but an overage would likely be charged in future years. The vendor estimates that 1,000,000 alerts would be used, however Berks' actual use in 2015 was over 4,000,000. DES believes that the price offered could potentially quadruple for next year. The takeaway is that some details need to be worked out. There was some discussion among the members in attendance about the feasibility of looking at IAR or Active 911 to reduce the total number of annual alerts.....and who would fund that effort.
- Will be moving towards a generic fire reporting system in the future and will discontinue use of Firehouse software. No date for cutover at this point.
- EBA button pushes: DES is looking into potentially changing the amount of time a user holds the emergency button after an activation. Currently the push is set for 1 second, however users are accidentally reactivating the emergency button. Potentially the amount of time to hold the emergency button to reset the emergency activation could be 2 seconds. Some discussion occurred.
- DES is considering changing the EBA process. Currently if an EBA occurs DES calls the unit and states "Engine 100 Echo Bravo Alpha, your location". The current and only acceptable response is "Engine 100 accidental". DES is considering any form of the word "accident", as approximately 50% of the responses from field users are inappropriate. Discussion.

**UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**A company-by company vote will be gathered for the following regarding second dispatch and cover times:**

**A) 2<sup>nd</sup> dispatch at 5 minutes, covers at 6 minutes (current SOP)**

**B) 2<sup>nd</sup> dispatch at 5 minutes, covers at 7 minutes**

**Chris will harvest votes as given to him by zone reps to calculate a total and present it at the June meeting.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1930 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 1815 hours in the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Stevens, Chair