

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – September 29, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Zone 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Brett	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethan Kunkel	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Yenser (alt)
Zone 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Quell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Dalious	<input type="checkbox"/> Cody Rahn
Zone 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Martin	<input type="checkbox"/> Lester Feick	<input type="checkbox"/> Corey Hauser (alt)
Zone 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Snyder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh Keller	
Zone 5/6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Stevens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Schaeffer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Fox
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Bickings		
Zone 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Kemery	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rehr	<input type="checkbox"/> Brian Thorpe (alt)
BCFA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Weidenhammer	<input type="checkbox"/> Leon Grim	
BCFPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Enlebach	<input type="checkbox"/> J. David Bossard (alt)	
Task Force	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Landis	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Lassar	
Berks DES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gottschall	<input type="checkbox"/> Tony Flores	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean Hart
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Boughter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christina Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Fritz
Forestry 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Troy Withers		

***Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus**

Other Attendees:

The meeting was called to order by Chris Stevens, Chair at 18:17 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

The August 25, 2016 meeting minutes were not ready for review. They will be reviewed for approval at a future meeting.

DISCUSSION

Forestry 17 (DCNR): Troy Withers was not in attendance. Dean Dalious did not know of any items for discussion.

East-Central Task Force (Landis):

- Penske donated a box truck to Boyertown Area Fire and Rescue for collapse response. The vehicle is currently being outfitted with necessary equipment, and an agreement with Berks County is being finalized.
- PEMA has recently changed what is necessary prior to conducting a training event. This process is very cumbersome and will require additional permits.

BCFA (Weidenhammer): Nothing to report.

Training (Weidenhammer):

- The committee has received one letter of interest for a replacement committee chairperson. They will be meeting with this individual in the near future and will report back to the Working Group next month.

- The committee is working on the 2017 Spring courses, and he believes that the Essentials classes are schedule; however, he did not have the dates readily available for the meeting.

BCFPA: There was no representation in attendance. No Report

Zone 1: Nothing to report

Zone 2 (Daliou):

- Clarification was requested with the Total Visibility program. There are some departments that are experiencing a problem with the system on newer computers. After some discussion, it was recommended that any department having a problem should contact John Fritz.
- Clarification was requested to how a department is to inform the county of apparatus relocates in the event of a non-emergent function, such as a funeral detail. This question started a lengthy discussion about the need to clarify several items that are easily found within the DES Communication SOPs. Brian Gottschall will work with Christine Wood about distributing some sort of newsletter that will answer this and several other questions.

Zone 3: There was no representation in attendance. No Report

Zone 4: Nothing to report

Zone 5/6: Nothing to report

Zone 7/RFD (Kemery):

- The latest class of probationary firefighters are in their final portion of the process.
- They are starting the promotion process for vacant Deputy Chief positions.
- They are in the final stages of developing a curriculum for an Active Shooter training. This will be an initial training between RFD and RPD.
- They are in the process of reformatting their box assignments

Tabled / Old Business: Scott Landis discussed Zone 4's inquiry about the possibility of reinstating pre-alert messages for high priority calls. Chris Stevens added that this topic has come up within Zone 5/6 as well. After some discussions about the request, the topic was again tabled until the October meeting so Scott could meet with Chief 85 to further discuss the request.

DES:

- Brian Gottschall announced some personnel changes:
 - Sean Hart was introduced to the Working Group as the new Deputy Director of DES.
 - Nelson Lopez will be leaving his position as a Watch Officer and transitioning into a new position of CAD Analysis at the end of October.
 - Blair Miller will be promoted from Telecommunicator to Watch Officer
- Plan "Charlie" is under review and will most likely receive a total revision.
- The Berks Alert changeover from Eaton to Swiftreach has been completed. Brian Gottschall asked the group if any problems have been report, which there were none. There was a conversation regarding "mapping problems" related to the 3rd party dispatching service Active 911. It is believed to be a problem within the Active 911 system and not related to the county CAD. John Fritz will follow-up with Active 911 and report back. Zones need to contact Christine

Wood with any Zone representatives that will have county administrative privileges that will permit the individual to send zone wide text messages.

- Christine Wood announced that the transition over to the new CAD toning was completed. This now means that the sending of the tones will now be completely automated, which should decrease the time a call is received to the time the CAD sends the tones for a dispatch. This announcement brought up the conversation of when the “clock” starts for a second dispatch. After some discussion, Christine will look into what the DES can do to change the counter for second dispatches to when the initial dispatch is complete, not when the dispatcher accepts the call.
- DES was asked about the Emergency Reporting’s CAD interface, and if companies are able receive the service. Sean Hart explained that the current interface is hosted on a Reading City server, and the City’s IT Department will not permit any other county company on the server. Because of this, Emergency Reporting is building their own server to host the interface service. Once it is complete, additional companies will be able to enroll for the service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 19:45 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 18:15 hours on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Bickings, Secretary