

BERKS COUNTY FIRE SERVICES WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – March 29, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Zone 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Brett (alt)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethan Kunkel	<input type="checkbox"/> “Open” (alt)
Zone 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Dalious	<input type="checkbox"/> Blair Miller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Quell (alt)
Zone 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Martin	<input type="checkbox"/> Lester Feick	<input type="checkbox"/> Corey Hauser (alt)
Zone 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colin Hackman	<input type="checkbox"/> Avery Leshen	<input type="checkbox"/> “Open” (alt)
Zone 5/6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Bickings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Schaeffer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Fox
	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Reitnauer		
Zone 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Kemery	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rehr	<input type="checkbox"/> Brian Thorpe (alt)
BCFA	<input type="checkbox"/> Roger Weidenhammer	<input type="checkbox"/> Leon Grim	
BCFPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Randy Minninger	<input type="checkbox"/> “Open” (alt)	
Task Force	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Landis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corey Heimbach	
Berks DES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gottschall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean Hart	<input type="checkbox"/> Tony Flores
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Boughter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christina Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Fritz
Forestry 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Derrick Etter		

***Ron Wentzel, Vice Chair Emeritus**

Other Attendees: Zach Noel, Mike Cruse, Jerry Wise, Justin Nichors,

The meeting was called to order by Colin Hackman, Chair at 18:16 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

The March 29, 2019 Meeting Minutes were emailed to the group by Chairman Hackman. There were no changes requested or made.

DISCUSSION

Verizon Wireless Public Safety

- Zach Noel and Mike Cruse, representatives from Verizon Wireless provided a short presentation for the upcoming Public Safety App / Network.
- The network will provide users;
 - A private core
 - Priority to call with pre-emption
 - Mission critical PTT
- The app should be available from the Verizon App Store 3rd Quarter 2018.

Pennsylvania K9 Search and Rescue

- The group provided a short presentation about their service, which is located in Lancaster County.
- Would like to provide a more formal presentation at the different zone meetings.

Forestry: No Report

BCFPA: No Report

BCFA: No Report

Training: No Report..

East-Central Task Force (Landis):

- The Confined Space Certification and Rope 1 & 2 courses have been completed
- The Task Force full scale exercise is scheduled for September

Zone 1: No Report

Zone 2 (Daliouis):

- There are continued concerns about the quality of the dispatching audio. They believe that it is a dispatcher, not equipment problem. As stated in previous meetings, DES instructed departments that are experiencing these problems to contact the Watch Officer at the time of the problem, not at a later date.
- Plan Charlie appears to them as an inconsistent policy that is utilized differently each time. DES reported that the Plan Charlie Policy is a generic policy that is used for a variety of events. When Plan Charlie is activated by DES, it should be announced on all talk groups, and for the best results, each department should dedicate one person in their station be available to receive non-priority calls. DES also reported that the plan is under review and will be revised in the future.

Zone 3(Martin via email): Requested an update on the Unication P25 Pager purchase. (See DES)

Zone 4 (Hackman):

- A request was received to distribute the operation talk groups between Zone A and B so that the same ops channels can be utilized and programed into the new P25 pagers. DES reported that the new P25 pagers has 64 available channels, and each department is able to program all ops channels into them.
- Based on the discussion regarding accident dispatches in March, Zone 4 would not like additional call volume from increased accident calls.

Zone 5/6 (Schaeffer):

- The zone would like to know the possibility for the dispatchers to inform the incident commander / OIC what apparatus failed to respond before dispatching the next due. DES reported that this is against the policy, and it will not be a possibility at this time.
- The zone would like to know if Collapse 95 is the county designated collapse unit? DES reported that the county will not dictate who the individual departments will add to their run cards as resources. This question did develop into a lengthy discussion about the available resources for the county, and the fact that the individual department resources are available on the county website when needed. DES was notified that when the county switch to the new website, the list of out of county resources was removed.

Zone 7 (Kemery):

- The recruit class was progressing well.
- The VHF radio antenna issue was repaired.

DES:

- **Radio Management Software:** There is a current upgrade necessary for the software, and it is important to maintain the current version of the software because of the upcoming Fleet update.

- **Montgomery County Radio Upgrade:** Montco has run into a delay in their radio upgrade, and it should be completed by approximately July 2018, with the sharing of their fleet mapping available in October.
- **Transition to ECAD:** With the transition to the new ECAD a new feature will be available in the coming months. This feature is called “Rip and Run,” and it will be available through the Swift texting system. The feature will enable departments to attach a computer to the system and receive dispatch and final email that can be printed with the CAD information. This is a nice feature for apparatus that has email available through a tablet or MDC. More to follow once this feature is made available to the Swift administrators.
- **June 30th is the end of the Motorola battery warranty.**
- **APX7500 Dual Band Mobile Radio:** This model is being discontinued by Motorola. In the event that a department will need a new one or would like to buy a dual band mobile radio, Motorola is obligated by contract to provide the new model at the APX7500 price.
- **Re-Fleeting:** A detailed list of changes included in the re-fleeting will be emailed to the individual department contacts in the near future.
- **Location Services:** As part of the re-fleeting, the location services features will be enabled in all portable and mobile radios. Radio Maintenance Inc (RMI) will need to install an additional antenna in every apparatus for the feature to work on the mobile radios. The installation costs will be covered by the County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for 1800 hours on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at the Direct Link conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Bickings, Secretary