

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2018

Attendance:

Zone 1:

Zone 2: Ken Quell

Zone 3:

Zone 4: Colin Hackman, Avery Lesher

Zone 5/6: Chris Schaeffer, Eric Fox

Zone 7: Tom Kemery

BCFA: Roger Weidenhammer

BCFPA:

Task Force: Cory Heimbach

Berks DES: Brian Gottschall, Todd Boughter, Christina Wood, Jon Fritz, Sara Shivers

The meeting was called to order by Colin Hackman, Chair at 1800 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

The July 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes were emailed to the group by Chairman Hackman. There were no changes requested or made.

Discussion

Forestry: No Report

BCFPA: No Report

BCFA: No Report

Training: Check the website for the 2019 class schedule.

East-Central Task Force: The full scale exercise was postponed until April 2019

Zone 1: No Report

Zone 2: There is still concern over the volume of tones verses voice of dispatchers. DES reports the tone volume will always be louder and adjusting that volume would reduce paging coverage.

There was question regarding the County Resource List. DES reports this is on their website and up to date.

Zone 3: No Report

Zone 4: No Report

Zone 5/6: There was a question regarding the GPS Data being sent in the text messaging which was affecting Active 911 and I Am Responding. DES reports the CAD operates off GPS Coordinates

Zone 7: No Report

DES: Unication Pagers and equipment has mostly arrived. It has been discovered that Company 44 is having false activations with the Unication Pagers which is a software issue. DES is currently in contact with Unication for a solution prior to releasing the pagers.

GPS Activation for mobiles and portables is still a work in progress. DES has received some pushback from Fire Departments.

Rip and Run is up and running. Departments wishing to utilize this CAD feature should contact Christina Wood for instructions and activation.

DES reports that Department Radio Managers need to make sure their Programming Software is up to date. Should be on version 18.1.00

Robeson Tower Paging Project is still a work in progress

New Business

Fire Guide Cards: Kevin Neiswender (DES) has created Fire Guide Cards for dispatchers to utilize when answering fire related 911 calls. Currently there are cards for EMS. The Fire Guide Cards were sent out to the Working Group to review and approve, but zone representatives did not get them to their Zone meetings. This will be pushed back to the next meeting to approve, or amend. This will also add additional points to the Communications portion of each Departments ISO Ratings.

Chris Schaeffer opened the floor for nominations for 2019:

Chairman: Colin Hackman

Motion – Brian Gotschall

Second – Avery Lesher

Vice Chairman: Chris Schaeffer

Motion – Colin Hackman

Second: Avery Lesher

Secretary: Chris Bickings

Motion – Colin Hackman

Second – Eric Fox

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1904 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 1800 hours on Thursday November 29, 2018 at the Direct Link Conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colin D. Hackman, Chairman