

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

Meeting Minutes – January 31, 2019

Attendance:

Zone 1:

Zone 2: Ken Quell

Zone 3:

Zone 4: Colin Hackman, Avery Leshner

Zone 5/6: Chris Schaeffer, Eric Fox

Zone 7:

BCFA: Roger Weidenhammer

BCFPA:

Task Force:

Berks DES: Brian Gottschall, Sean Hart, Todd Boughter, Christina Wood, Jon Fritz

Forestry: Rick Deppen, Derrick Etter

Additional Attendance: Scot Landis

The meeting was called to order by Colin Hackman, Chair at 1801 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

The November 29, 2018 Meeting Minutes were emailed to the group by Chairman Hackman. There were no changes requested or made.

Discussion

Forestry: Rick Deppen provided a breakdown of fires for 8 County's around Berks, with Berks being the highest with 52 reported brush fires for 2018. Rick is currently working on a Risk Assessment for Berks County to assist with prevention and pre-positioned resources. Air support for 2019 will start on March 23. There will be a demonstration of the air support on March 22, 2019 at 1341 N Church Street, Hazelton.

BCFPA: No Report

BCFA: No Report

Training: Check the website for the 2019 class schedule. Scot Landis asked the committee for feedback from their Zones on Reading Area Community College becoming a training sponsor again for fire training. Limited Zones were able to discuss and will be going to their Zones to obtain any interest.

East-Central Task Force: Currently going through a re-organization

Zone 1: No Report

Zone 2: Dean Dalious was not in attendance, but provided a report to Jon Fritz. Dean reports Zone 2 was in favor of RACC offering fire training. Dean also recommended the FSWG going back to monthly meetings.

Zone 3: No Report

Zone 4: Company 72 brought up the possibility of the County identifying ATV units that were suppression or rescue capable. After a lengthy discussion it was determined the County can do this, but each Department would need to list the different units on their run cards. Chairman Hackman requested each FSWG Representative take this to their Zones to discuss internally and report back to the FSWG to determine if this is viable or able to be handle on a Department level with knowing their resources and listing them accordingly on their run cards.

Zone 5/6: Chris Schaeffer stated his Zone had no issues with RACC doing fire training.

Zone 7: No Report

DES: Brain Gottschall reported a Unication Pager update has been sent to all buyers and the problems seemed to be resolved with additional testing still in progress.

Christina Wood asked that all Departments complete their updated resource list of apparatus and return to her.

Brian reports GPS Upgrade still a work in progress and Departments should be contacted to have the GPS antennas added. **ALL** mobile radios will need a GPS antenna for the radios to function with the system.

Brain reported he received a question regarding recalls / slow and holds of assignments being missed due to pagers automatically resetting after dispatch. Chairman Hackman requested each Zone Representative from the FSWG address this concern with their Zones and report back at the next meeting.

Chairman Hackman ask DES if they were capable of doing a Working Fire Dispatch as some companies do not want to run a lot of apparatus on initial calls. Brian stated this can be done by each companies on their run cards.

Avery Leshner ask DES about notifying utilities when a Working Fire was declared. Brain stated this could be done, but the Departments would need to list the utility companies (Met-Ed, PP&L, UGI) on their run cards.

New Business

It was brought up to the group about holding meetings monthly or keep the meetings as they currently are. The group decided to keep meetings as they are with the ability to hold special meetings if needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 1800 hours on Thursday March 28, 2019 at the Direct Link Conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colin D. Hackman, Chairman