

Berks County Fire Service Working Group Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2010

ATTENDANCE

ZONE 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Schegan (46)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Yenser (21)	
ZONE 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Snyder (50)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Schrack (41)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Quell (37)
ZONE 3	Lester Feick (27)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Martin (47)	
ZONE 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scot Landis (67)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce Longenecker (79)	Mark Hostetter (85)
ZONE 5/6	Matt Gehman (22)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Schaeffer (20)	
	Mike DeTurck (25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Stevens (17)	
ZONE 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Moyer (RFD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Wentzel (RFD)	
BERKS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gottschall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Wanner	
BERKS COUNTY FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION	Dick Trostle		
BERKS COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION	Leon Grim		
BERKS COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Englebach		
OTHERS:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dante Cutrone – American Red Cross		

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Ron Wentzel at 1815 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services Conference room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Leesport, PA. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as posted with no additions or corrections.

DISCUSSION

Red Cross Heroes Breakfast: Dante Cutrone from the American Red Cross spoke about the 7th Annual Berks County Heroes Breakfast on Thursday May 12th 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Reading Hotel. Flyers were handed out to members of the Working Group and the Red Cross encourages people to nominate people for any one of a number of categories for the event. Dante can be reached at 610-372-5588 or via email at dcutrone@rolandschlegel.com

Support Your Local Fire Company: Brian Gottschall, DES, reported the event held at the Fairground Square Mall was a success. 19 forms were collected including 12 that asked for callback from the respective fire department. One suggestion for next year is to move the event to the Berkshire Square Mall.

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Run Cards/Box Alarms: Craig Wanner provided Working Group members with an updated list of the Fire and EMS agencies that have submitted their cards. The following fire companies have not submitted run cards to DES: 6, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30, 34, 38, 40, 41, 49, 54, 55, 61. Additionally, the following municipalities have still not submitted Fire Change Authorizations for run cards: Bally Borough, Bernville Borough, Centre Township, Douglass Township, Jefferson Township, Lenhartsville Borough, Maiden Creek Township, Muhlenburg Township, North Heidelberg Township, Oley Township, Penn Township, City of Reading, Robeson Township, Ruscumban Township, South Heidelberg Township, Port Clinton Borough. It is important to note that without the municipality's completed Fire Authorization form in the hands of DES, run cards from any fire companies serving any of the abovementioned municipality will NOT be loaded into the new box/card system.

County Commissioner Presentation: Scot Landis started a discussion of the Working Group creating a presentation to provide to the County Commissioners discussing the origins of the Berks County Fire Services Working Group, its past accomplishments, its current projects and potential future projects and have the presentation attended by the press. WG members, both past and present, are asked to write down a list of accomplishments and forward them to Scot Landis.

Radio System: Brian Gottschall reported that Raytheon and Motorola are the two vendors who were selected to the next round of the radio system. Both companies will refine their proposals to submit before county awards a contract. Also, Brian had 4 - P25 compliant radios for WG members to look at including a triple band portable radio capable of UHF, VHF and 700/800 MHz. An updated presentation on the progress of the radio system will be provided on November 12th at 9:00am at the County Commissioners Board Room.

Zone All Calls: Zone 5/6 will meet in November to discuss. Zone 4 authorized only the Zone 4 President and Zone 4 Officers to use the Zone 4 all call while Zone 2 authorized the Zone 2 President and the Zone 2 Fire Chief Officers to be able to use the All Call.

Incident Management Team: Further discussion was presented and Ron Wentzel asked instead of an entire team to be called when command positions are to be filled but no officers are available, can officers just be dispatched from companies to respond to a scene to fill in the positions needed. Brian Gottschall communicated that this could possibly be done in Total Visibility as long as officers qualifications are in T.V. to ensure that chief officers with the proper qualification are dispatched.

Fire Police: Bob Englebach reported, after an article in the Reading Eagle, that the Berks County Fire Police Association fully supports the new 700/800mhz radio system. However it is the stand of the association that they feel they do not need to be part of the new system but that will not prevent a fire companies from providing fire police with 700/800mhz radios to use on the new system. Bob Englebach also reported that 2 Fire Police repeater towers have been narrow banded.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2020 hours. The next meeting will be held on December 9th, 2010 at 1815 hours in the conference room of Berks DES at Direct Link due to the next meeting date landing on Thanksgiving Day.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Snyder, BFSWG Secretary

DRAFT