

Berks County Fire Service Working Group Meeting Minutes

September 29th, 2011

ATTENDANCE

ZONE 1	Bob Schegan (46)	X Bill Battista (33)	X Mark George (11)
ZONE 2	X Chuck Snyder (50)	X Eric Schrack (41)	Ken Quell (37)
ZONE 3	X Lester Feick (27)	Bob Martin (47)	
ZONE 4	Scot Landis (67)	X Bruce Longenecker (79)	Mark Hostetter
ZONE 5/6	Matt Gehman (22) X Eric Fox (34)	X Chris Schaeffer (20) X Chris Stevens (17)	
ZONE 7	Kevin Kulp (RFD)	Ron Wentzel (RFD)	
BERKS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES	X Brian Gottschall	X Craig Wanner	Tony Flores
BERKS COUNTY FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION	X Roger Weidenhammer		
BERKS COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION	Leon Grim		
BERKS COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION	X Bob Englebach		
OTHERS:			

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Stevens 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 from the August 25, 2011 were approved.

DISCUSSION

Collapse Task Force: Tabled.

Box Alarms: Craig W provided an updated list on box alarm implementation. There are 4 municipal box alarms that DES will complete on their own which includes Pike Township, Ruscombmanor Township, Earl Township and North Heidelberg Township. Craig also stated that DES will be providing internal training shortly on learning how to input box alarms into the New World CAD system. At this time DES has a target of February 2012 for full implementation of the New World CAD.

911 Advisory Board: Bill Battista reported the FOP representative suggested changing Fire/EMS/PD numbering to municipal numbers. There was no further

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discussion of municipal numbering after the suggestion. Chris Stevens was voted as the Working Group Alternate to the 911 Advisory Board.

RCC: Brian Gottschall reported that both county regional grants were submitted for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for mobile radios. Womelsdorf and the City of Reading were the host companies for the regional requests.

P25: Eric Schrack and Chris Stevens will represent the fire service for fleet mapping. Brian Gottschall communicated that radios will have 8 digit ID numbers that will show up when someone key's up a radio. Instead of assigning an arbitrary sequential number for each radio (ex. First person to get a portable in the county will have ID # 00000001) it was decided to create a standard numbering system to help better identify the radio. Updates on progress of a standard numbering system will be discussed at further Working Group Meetings.

Training: Roger Weidenhammer reported the training committee had their first meeting on September 21st. Bob Snyder will Chair the committee and Ryan Bingaman will be the Secretary. The committee will meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 1900 hrs at the Fire Training Site. The committee will reach out to other local ETA's see what they can offer to Berks as well as the Berks-Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center. The committee is asking for feedback into the type of training being requested throughout the county. The committee will then create a training plan and once complete come up with an engine to execute the training.

Zone 1: Zone 1 reported they had their first meeting in many years and was attended by every zone company except for Temple which had a prior commitment. Zone 1 agreed to meet the 3rd Monday every other month. Zone 1 also asked that Working Group minutes be sent out within 1 week of the meeting.

Zone 2: Zone 2 had questions regarding the RIT consortium. Chris Schaeffer reported he attends the RIT meetings and they have finished their SOG's and they will be distributed to each zone for review. Chris also stated the RIT consortium has a video to show to each zone regarding the importance of having RIT at emergencies.

Zone 3: Zone 3 reported they would like to see pre-alerts on the dispatch channel. It is asked to be taken back to each zone for discussion.

Zone 5/6: Zone 5/6 is requesting that all zones discuss the possibility of adding "Safety" designation for safety officer.

APX 4000: Brian Gottschall reported on October 6th there will be a sneak peek of the APX4000 portable radios for the P25 radio system. There will be three sessions on the 6th.

Meeting adjourned at 2102.

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The next meeting will be held October 27, 2011 at 1815 hours in the conference room of Berks DES at Direct Link.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Snyder, BFSWG Secretary

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