

Fire Chiefs' & Fire Fighters' Association Of York County, Inc.

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

February 16, 2009

President Rick Shank called the monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order and led the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence. 59 people were in attendance. President Shank thanked Cameo for providing the meal this evening. Prior to the meeting, Cameo Services, Donna Trupe gave a presentation on the services they offer.

President Rick Shank for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1st: Chief Buffington 2nd: Chris Krichten Motion Passed

Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the balances of the treasurer's report.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chief John Senft: The Board met prior to this evening, and also met in an Executive Session. 2 weeks ago there was a meeting with Delta Development, to discuss the release of the money. There has been a financial increase from the County. We are planning to pay down the principal of the line of credit that was used to finish the burn building. The Fire school committee is working on the fee schedule for courses. A special thanks goes to them for their hard work. The 1968 Ward Lafrance is looking to be replaced sometime in the future. The Tank has been discounted, for it keeps leaking. An Offer to purchase Abbottstown's 1989 E-One Engine has been extended to the Fire School.

COMMUNICATIONS: Chief Buffington submitted the following report.

The Radio Committee met on 29 January 2009 at 19:30 hours at the Communications Center.

Chief Shank brought up several new unit designations for approval. All were approved.

Phil Treffinger gave a report on the new radio system:

- The operating system was replaced.
- They are updating the police radios and will be testing them until next Tuesday.
- The police are still experiencing push to talk problems in mobile radios.
- Tyco is saying that the problems are software related.
- The county staff is optimistic.
- Updates were done to some city police portables and they are working correctly.
- 2,000 replacement batteries have been received and they are awaiting delivery of 3,000 more.
- New batteries will be distributed already conditioned and ready to use.
- Phil will get instructions from the manufacturer on how to condition the new batteries.
- The county is still waiting on delivery of the new charger units.
- Phil suggested that an email be sent to Eric inquiring about the possibility of swapping out the 6 bank chargers for single station chargers.
- Upgrades will be made to the Queen Street and Red Lion but they are currently working on how to do it without dropping the link. Possibly setting up temporary system while the new is installed.
- FCC has approved the license for the higher strength paging in the west end of the county.

Chief Krichten commented on the paging going down.

- County staff indicated that this is believed to have been caused by upgrades to the software. They did not expect the problem.
- Chief Shank requested that when they are doing any maintenance that could result in the system going down that a page be sent out prior to the work so that everyone will be advised.
- There was discussion about the possibility of using text messaging to cell phones for notification.

Chief Cromer asked when we will have access to the online access to the paging system.

- Phil said that this will not happen until they can come up with an effective security system.

Chief Nichols asked if the redundant paging system is up yet. It is not 100% up yet.

Chief Nichols also asked if backups to the paging system can be placed at key stations much like is in place for voice paging now.

There was discussion on cancel or update pages going out without box numbers on them and the confusion that this is causing when there are multiple incidents.

- Phil said that updates are being done with canned messages and that is why there is not a box number on the page.
- The committee voted to recommend that the canned pages be eliminated

There was discussion on the over-abundance of update pages that are being sent out.

Chief Cromer expressed concerns over the number of pagers that are being broken. Discussion followed with the consensus being that a more rugged pager is needed.

- Phil informed the committee that pagers with broken screens would not be replaced under warranty.
- Pagers that are receiving garbled messages will continue to be replaced under warranty.

It was brought up that EMSA voted to have EMS radios programmed to take them to an emergency talk group when the emergency button is pushed.

Chief Shank informed Phil that the body directed the committee to tell the county that the dispatch consoles need to be set up to identify who's emergency button has been activated. Phil advised the committee that the radios can only be programmed to display numerals for identifiers but that he thinks the consoles can display alpha-numeric characters.

The committee discussed how to identify radios. A motion was made to identify radios by seat position in the apparatus using letters. For example; Engine 2-1 drivers portable would be Engine 2-1A.

The committee discussed the letter sent to the county by the Fire Police Association demanding transmit capability on all police talk groups. The committee voted to not support this demand.

There was discussion on fire police all calls. Several chiefs expressed concern over worker's comp coverage for fire police when they respond to these all calls. The general consensus of the committee is that fire police all calls should not be done but a decision needs to be made by the body.

There was discussion about mobile radios being used as base stations. Manchester has been told that they are not permitted to do so without getting another FCC license that will be very expensive. Phil did not understand this as when the radios were ordered it was specified how they were to be used and that the appropriate licenses were gotten. He will look into this.

Chief Shank discussed the need to develop radio policies and procedures and directed that at the next committee meeting work is to begin on this.

There was discussion of creating an Oversight committee with 10 members from the Fire, EMS, & Police Associations. The Radio Committee will decide who will represent us at the meeting. A patch is in place for Helicopter's. It was also discussed about recognized fire brigades that are located throughout the county like: Harley, Ski Round Top, BAE, and other brigades. If they are already recognized by the county, they were offered to go onto the system. If they didn't go on at first, then they will have to wait till the radio system has been completed. Several Chiefs stated that they were not able to be in contact with someone from Excelon or the Capital City Airport.

911: Steve Buffington & Rick Shank: There have been major software changes to the mobile and portables. There is no time table until all the updates will have completed. It is normal for the pagers to go into a brain freeze. There has been discussion about Phasing in the turnover to the new system. This way it gives time to see which areas need work, and have fewer issues, than to switch it over at the same time, with many similar issues all over the county. Nothing has been discussed on conventional frequencies.

FIRE SCHOOL: Carl Avery, Program Coordinator, submitted the following report.

Activity:

- ☞ For the month of January, the Fire School hosted 25 events, which accounted for 116 hours of activity. This resulted in 1,360 Student hours.

Stricter Standards in 2009:

- ☞ Bucks Community College has announced it will be strictly following its standards of attendance at courses. **THE MINIMUM OF 15 for MOST CLASSES MUST BE ADHERED TOO!** If we fail to have enough Students pre-registered 10 days prior to a class, it will be canceled.
 - Classes involving **LIVE FIRE TRAINING** must have a **MINIMUM of 20** to run – This means, for example, If and ELIF (Entry Level – Interior Firefighter) class has a roster of less than 20, but more than 15 it will run, but will conclude with a skills day instead of a live fire. Classes such as Structural Burn Session (SBS) and SBS refreshers **MUST** have a minimum of 20 students.
 - Since this is a Safety Issue, Payment to the college in lieu of enrollment is **not an option**
 - If you are scheduling a SBS refresher for company / departmental training, you may want to contact your neighboring departments to make sure you attain the minimums
 - Payment in lieu of enrollment, The College does have a formula for payment in lieu of enrollment it is as follows
 - Classes up to 6 hours, \$20.00 per student under the minimum
 - Courses over 6 hours, \$50.00 per student under the minimumThe question then becomes who is responsible for that payment? Presently, the Fire School does not have this item in its budget. As the course requestor, we will either have to cancel the course or make the payment to the college
 - Also, if we pre-register 15 or more students for a class and Students do not attend class, dropping the attendance below 15 the class will have to be canceled and the **Fire School** will be responsible for paying for the instructor's time and expense.
- ☞ The Fire School Committee is reviewing these stricter standards and their impact on the courses taught for ideas as to how we can best assure training opportunities to you, our consumers, while maintaining fiscal responsibility

The ENTRY LEVEL Program:

- ☞ The ELIS Class started on January 11 with a full roster. Fire Instructor Tony Myers offered to run another ELIS Class which was held this past weekend (2/14 & 15). This Class had 29 Students in it. Fire Instructor William Staub is preparing a schedule for the ELFG class **As soon as I have his available dates, we will get that information out to you.**
- ☞ The regular Spring Series of the Entry Level Programs (ELIS, ELFG, ELEF) is currently **FULL(* this does not include the classes listed above)**We are still accepting pre-registrations **ON A STAND-BY BASIS** (*This means, if for any reason a student who was preregistered does not show up for the first day of class – for any reason, there spot will be filled by somebody on the stand-by list and is present*).
- ☞ The fourth segment of our Spring Entry Level Series, Entry Level Interior Firefighter is scheduled to begin on May 30th; we anticipate this class filling rapidly.
- ☞ **REMEMBER, the ENTRY LEVEL PROGRAM is a series of 4 courses; the ELIS (Introduction to the Fire Service) course is a prerequisite for Fire Ground Support which is a pre-requisite for Exterior fire fighter which is prerequisite for Interior Fire Fighter.**
- ☞ **Each of these classes is a stand alone Course and may be taken at anytime – If you have any questions about this, please call the Fire School.**

Current and Future Schedule:

- ☞ The 2009 schedule is available online at our web site www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org , just click on the [Click Here to See Available Classes](#) link on the home page.
- ☞ The 2009 Schedule has been published. **We are constantly updating it.** Watch your department / company Mailings for **Updates and New Classes**. We will also **update our Website with new additions (including 2009) as they come along.**
- ☞ One of the classes we are working on is a two day course from SafeIR. It is titled Tactical Thermal Imaging Training for Firefighters. This well respected company (they have presented at FDIC; some members from local departments have attended their presentations and speak highly of them). The class would be product specific to MSA Thermal Imaging Cameras (this company is recognized by MSA to present this training). The cost for this course is \$3,000.00. Your Fire School is working on grants to fund this program. – This Class and the efforts to bring it here to you in York County are the direct result of an e-mail requesting some additional training in Thermal Imaging.
- ☞ **Reminder for those who have signed up** the 4 hour Near Miss Reporting System class & workshop, that class will start at 09:00 hours on Saturday, February 28, 2009. Registration for this class is closed, however late registration and attendance

will be accepted (*Please note, those who missed the registration dead line cannot be guaranteed course related material and hand outs*)

Burn Building:

- ☛ SCHEDULING THE NEW BUILDING: The Fire School Committee is scheduled to present its proposed new "Use Policy" for the Structural Burn Building at tonight's Board Meeting. As soon as a policy has been adopted, we will start to consider scheduling the building for Live Fire Training. NON-LIVE fire training that uses the SBB is being scheduled now.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Mike Cadden: Several members completed Ice Rescue training. We had 3 calls for the month. Trench Rescue will be held Dallastown May 1st, 2nd, & 3rd. responding with multiple resources. Equipment. Coordinate that with the duty officer.

OEM: Tom Graybill: There were 3 calls for the month.

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Bob Boeckel: No Report

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: Progress is being made.

RESCUE SPECS: Josh Young: Josh handed out several copies of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Services Voluntary Program for Rescue Services List. Josh says the list is more generic, not specific. The minimum responding staffing requirements would include: 4 personnel trained at the Basic Vehicle Rescue – Technician level. Of those 4, one must be a First Responder or EMT. All 4 personnel would have to be trained at the Hazardous Materials Operations Level. Inspections would need to be completed from March 31, 2010 – September 2010. Spot inspections would occur once every three years. No all personnel need to be on the same piece, as long as both pieces are dispatched at same time. Josh advised everyone to visit <http://www.ehsf.org/docs/VRSRManualRevJan20062.pdf> to review the standards for classifying Rescues.

RIT COMMITTEE: Chief Shank: Dan Hoff has removed himself from the committee. Jan Cromer is now overseeing things.

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Tony Myers: Working with the committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Business

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made to pay the bills. 1st: Tony Myers 2nd: Kerry Herrman Motion Passed

A motion was made to dispose of the 1968 Ward LaFrance Engine 1. John Senft 2. Tony Myers Motion Passed

A motion was made to have the Board of Governors be in negotiations with Abbottstown's Fire Department for their 1989 E-One Engine, and not to exceed \$45,000. 1. John Senft 2. John McDonald Motion Passed

Ryan Brenneman stated that they are doing a bulk purchase for scanners. They are \$329.00 a piece. If you are interested, get a count from everyone in your department, and then contact him with the total number of scanners from your department. To receive the group purchase discount, we must have a minimum of 50 scanners. He states that members from each department should pay their department, and the fire department write just one check for the total number of scanners.

Association Dues are due this year. It was discussed to possibly include some contact information, name, address, and an e-mail address of at least the Chief or Fire Department Point of Contact. Chief Shank and Heather will work on a form to send to every department.

We received a \$5,000 donation from the Northeaster Fire Department Mutual Aid group.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, March 16th, 2009, at the Fire School.

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2nd: Buffington Motion Passed

Sincerely,

Heather Marsteller

Heather Marsteller

Recording Secretary