

Fire Chiefs & Fire Fighters Association of York County, Inc.

P. O. BOX 106
330 EMIG ROAD
EMIGSVILLE, PA 17318



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

February 21, 2005

President Skip Rupert called the regular monthly meeting of the Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association of York County Inc. to order and led the pledge to the flag. Thirty-eight people were in attendance. There was a moment of silence for Delta Fire Company member Ralph Morris who recently passed away.

- President Rupert introduced Bob Straw and Dick Sterner who were representing the Red Cross. Bob spoke on what the Red Cross does for fire victims. Shelter, food, clothing, and health items.
 - He said to encourage your residents who rent to purchase renters insurance, for \$60.00 per year they are covered for \$10,000.00.
 - Red Cross Canteen Services may take up to 1-½ hours to respond. They are requested through 911. Make sure you stay until they arrive or let them know where the family will be.
 - A needs/damage assessment must be done to best determine how to spend Red Cross dollars. Representatives have a pre-printed form to follow. They may ask to inspect the residence.
 - Any questions about the Red Cross may be directed to Bob or Dick at 845-2751.

President Rupert reviewed the criteria to get on the agenda for a meeting. Please refer anyone who wants to present to him. He generally will not allow anyone in who is "for profit".

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as published. President Rupert asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Ken Royal made the motion, seconded by Chief Tim Deller. Motion carried.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Barry Myers reported meeting with the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. The following items were discussed:

- The building's alarm system will be upgraded next week.
- The Fire School's address will change. We will be getting a mailbox at the end of the driveway. We will no longer have a PO Box.
- The double doors are leaking and will be repaired.
- The Forcible Entry Simulator has been ordered and will be delivered around mid March.
- Looking into repairing the wooden steps down to the pad.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: President Rupert reported that Chief Shank is the new chairman. Rob Bissey reported at the last meeting replacement piece Engine 45 (2005 Spartan) was approved, as well as Utility 64 (200 Ford F350). Rob wished to express his displeasure of the closing of the PO Box. The Board will talk with Rob regarding any issues.

911: Rob Sterner gave an update on the upgrade project:

- Rob started by reminding departments about the State Fire Commissioners Grant. The deadline to apply is Monday February 28th. The application process can be found online at www.oscf.state.pa.us.
- A CAD Vendor was selected - New World Systems. They were the most compliant with the RFP and are dedicated to customer service. Negotiations will be starting and a finalized contract is anticipated in 30-60 days.
- L. Robert Kimball is under contract to provide consulting services for the Radio Project. Two vendors M/A Com and Motorola presented demos to the 911 staff last week.
 - Demos for responders will be held on April 20th at 6pm – Motorola and April 27th at 6pm – M/A Com. Location of demos to be announced.

- Facility –
 - Breaking ground – spring of 2006.
 - Currently in schematic design phase.
 - 38,000 sq. ft. – Main Building
 - 13,000 sq. ft. – Out Building (Hazmat and MDC work)
 - Location is between the Youth Development Center and the current 911 Center.

Rob then took questions from the body on paging, radios, and the building project. Discussion followed.

Chief Ira Walker asked about paging. Rob Sterner advised no decisions have been made yet and they will be putting a working group together.

Nate Kirshman asked the body to provide input to Rob Bissey and himself regarding paging. Nate's paper on paging will be attached to these minutes. Email Nate at nate@nfdc.net with your comments

President Rupert stated he would like to go forward as an Association and make a stand on paging. He would like everyone to read what Nate has written and then have a discussion at next month's meeting.

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

Statement:

The Fire School has started 2005 on a very positive note. In our first two months of operation this year we have dramatically exceeded our usage hours from last year. The use of the school has jumped a dramatic 256% in terms of hours of use. While we are working to keep this trend positive we do see the gap in hours used tapering down some. Last year, January and February were the lowest hours of usage months and therefore had the greatest potential for increase. While we have been successful in showing these increases, we still have some courses missing the mark. Unfortunately, we did have to cancel a Confined Space Rescue Class, The Emergency Response to Terrorism class, and a Terrorism Operations - Domestic Preparedness class. The Fire School is always looking for feedback in regards to any of its classes but especially when we have classes canceled. It is important that we tailor our class offerings to the wants and needs of the Fire and Emergency Services in and around York County. One such change that came from your feedback was the scheduling of several ropes and rigging classes this year. We know that not only are these excellent classes on their own, but they may help bolster attendance in other classes, as they are prerequisites.

The 2005 Class schedule has been completed and has been mailed to all York County Stations. The new schedule is also available online at our web site www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org just click on the [Click Here to See Available Classes](#) link on the home page and it will take you directly to the listing of classes. We still have some room for additional classes and they will be added throughout the year as they become available. As of this report, we have scheduled over 78 classes for the coming year. We will be e-mailing periodic reminders of individual courses and information throughout the year. The first round of applications for the Mason-Dixon Extrication Challenge has been sent out. Your School Staff continues to work to improve our communications with all fire and rescue personnel in and around York County; if you'd like to be on our E-mail list, please e-mail me your information at YorkCoFireSchool@aol.com and we will see that you are added to the list.

Everyone should note that the Fire School's very own Catherine Litsikas, administrative assistant wrote an article for the Pennsylvania Fireman (Page 76 of the January, 2005 issue) on the dedication plaque in the Lobby of YOUR Fire School. This concise article gives a brief history of the school and pays honor to the people that made our Training Center possible. Give it a read.

The Firefighter I Certification test to be held at the York County Fire School is set for July 15 & 16, 2005. Please take advantage of the classes we have scheduled for this spring to **MAKE SURE YOU ARE READY** for the test in July. I **STRONGLY** emphasize the point that potential Candidates should make sure they have a Minimum of a **Hazardous Awareness** and that **it will be current** on the **test dates**; this also goes for **First Aid** and **Professional Rescuer CPR**. They should also make sure they have a **DOCUMENTED Structural Burn Session (one of these is scheduled on March 12 & 13 [this class is full] and another one is Scheduled for June 18 & 19 [the June class, however, may not leave you enough time to get your certificates back prior to test], here at YOUR FIRE SCHOOL.** Also we will have a **Fire Fighter I**

review class in June; those who take the review class tend to do much better on the test process. Check our web site for more information

The 2005 Mason-Dixon Extrication Challenge (sanctioned by TERCUSA). The Competition Identification Number is 200505USA02. This regional Extrication Challenge will take place May 6 – 8, 2005. Rescue Teams from the Northeastern United States as well as guests from other parts of the United States and Canada will be welcomed to attend this event at your hometown Fire School. We have interest expressed by teams from New York, New Jersey, and South Carolina. There is even a rumor that a York County Fire Company will be sending a team. The Host Hotel will be the Four Points Sheridan. It is anticipated opening ceremonies will take place there with all other activities taking place at the Fire School. Skip Rupert is the event Chairman and Program Coordinator Carl Avery will manage the event. The Fire School will be running a series of Full Page Ads in the Pennsylvania Fireman in regards to this event. We paid for the first (January) ad. Zmag Rescue Products will cover the cost of the second (February) ad and Fire Rescue Products of Harrisburg will cover the cost of the March ad.

Mark down September 30, October 1 & 2, 2005 for another extrication event, the Extrication Challenge Workshop. This event, geared toward Junior Fire & Rescue teams, (**but Rescuers from all levels can come and learn**) is one the best hands-on training formats for future rescuers. If you have a team of juniors, it is not too early to plan for this fall. Contact your Fire School and we (Mr. Rupert and I) will be glad to help you get started.

Your Fire School is scheduled for 240 hours of use this month. This represents a 235% increase in scheduled hours for the school from last February. We hope that this trend continues and with the offering of some new courses this year including line officer development, Ropes and others we plan on maximizing the use of our facility

Your Fire School can and does Schedule Classes, bring in the top local and world-class instructors, and have the facilities to bring you some of the best training available. However if WE DON'T HAVE YOU, we have nothing! Without students there is no class! It is up to YOU, the Fire Officers, Firefighter and Rescue personnel of York County, to take advantage of the programs we offer. MARCH is Bring a Buddy to Fire School Month! Find a class that may interest you and invite a fellow firefighter or rescuer to take the class with you. Working as a team, we can eliminate canceling classes.

Carl Avery and Skip Rupert will attend the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis. They both will take part in the weeklong training.

Facility Use Guidelines for Company/Departmental Level Training - Structural Burn Building was submitted to the Board of Governors at the October Meeting. Further action is pending their review and recommendations for revisions.

Coming Events:

(DON'T FORGET IT IS BRING A BUDDY TO FIRE SCHOOL MONTH)

Haz-Mat Awareness REFRESHER (HMAR), 1.5 hours, March 1 (18:30-20:00)

Haz- Mat Operations REFRESHER (HMOR), 5.5 hour, March 1 & 2 (18:30 – 21:30)

Vehicle Rescue – New Car Update (Local Course), March 5, (08:00 – 12:00)

This is a NEW CLASS and a NEW OFFERING; you will receive a YCFS Certificate

Pump Operations I (PUOP), 16 hours, March 6 (08:00-17:00) and March 8 & 10 (18:30 -22:30)

Confined Space Rescue (CSR), 16 hours, March 7, 9, 14, 16 (18:30-22:30)

We had to cancel our last CSR Class; SIGN UP NOW for this one

BUS RESCUE (BRES), 16 hours, March 12 & 13 (08:00 – 17:00)

STRUCTURAL BURN SESSION, 16 Hours, March 12 & 13 **(CLASS IS FULL)**

Incident Command System, 16 hours, March 15, 17, (18:30 -22:30) & March 19 (08:00- 17:00)

Apparatus Preventive Maintenance (APMA), 16 Hours, March 19 & 20, (08:00 – 17:00)

Principals of Building Construction, Combustible (BCP, C). 16 hours, March 21, 23, 28, 30, (18:30 – 22:30)

Airbags (SBS) Implications (BCCC-AI/SRS) 4 hours, March 24 (18:30-22:30)

MASON-DIXON EXTRICATION CHALLENGE May 6, 7 and 8, 2005, 08:00-17:00

Projects:

A Forcible Entry Training Station has been ordered and is anticipated to be delivered in March. This unit will be very similar to the unit we had on loan from HACC for the Firefighter I testing.

The alarm service is working on upgrading our alarm system. The new alarm system will be computer controlled and accessible from our offices. This means we can tailor access to the facility for various cardholders therefore increasing our security.

We are evaluating a collection of hand tools and equipment that will be used in classes (Tools likely to be encountered in obtaining Professional Cert per NFPA 1001 i.e.: Firefighter I)

Initial research and planning for the remodeling of a portion of the existing ladder shed into a Command Post/Field Office has begun. With our year round operations and the need to reinforce command and coordination operations as well as enhancing accountability, this modification to our existing property is seen as a need by the Fire School Committee and the Fire School Coordinator. Budgeting and a master plan for the school will impact the implementation of this project.

A Fourteen page, Six-thousand word document has been presented to the board covering some of the goals and concerns in regards to YOUR Fire School. Our Twelve-plus acre facility is constantly undergoing preventive and reactive maintenance as well as efforts to promote growth and use of our existing and future facilities.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Chief Myers reported ongoing training and the team is now working with the Counterterrorism Task Force

EMA: No report

FIRE POLICE: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- President Rupert read the revised Funeral/Retirement Policy and asked for a motion. Asst. Chief Haller made a motion to accept the policy as read. Ken Royal seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion to pay the bills by Chief Keith Miller, seconded by Asst. Chief Marlin Mellinger.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Chief Tony Myers took the floor and spoke about his recent accident while on a call. He said that he appreciated the outpouring of concern from fellow firefighters as well as the tremendous job the 911 Center did to take care of him. He said he has been on both sides of calls, when the 911 center has done well and when they have not done as well as they could have. They were there for him the night of his accident. He spoke about comments on the Internet toward the 911 Center and encouraged departments to address comments in house. Call the Center directly if you have a problem do not air things on a website. He encouraged members to sit in at the 911 Center and see how things really happen. He said that we have a good 911 Center and they deserve our support.

Motion to adjourn by Ken Royal, seconded by Chief Dietz. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Association Dues have been mailed out to all Departments for 2005/2006 please pay them by April 2005.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, March 21, 2005 at the York County Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary