

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

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

March 19th, 2012

Vice President Joe Madzellan 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. Thirty-nine people were in attendance.

Prior to the meeting, Forrest Nace from Fire House Software spoke about what new products and services they will be offering now and in the near future.

Brad Dunham from the Pennsylvania State Police spoke about the new texting law that is now in effect. He read the law that was written and passed by the State. From his interpretation, you may read your fire pager if you are stopped at a stop sign, red light, or are pulled over to the side of the road, and the vehicle is not in motion. If the vehicle is in motion, and you are using a device other than a gps unit, a device that is integrated into your vehicle, or a device that is affixed to a mass transit vehicle, or bus, if caught, you could receive a citation for \$50. This law is a primary offense, which means the officer can stop you if he/she suspects you were texting. He does not need another reason to pull you over. The law reads as follows:

Section 1. Section 102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read: § 102. Definitions.

Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent provisions of this title which are applicable to specific provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

"Interactive wireless communications device." A wireless telephone, personal digital assistant, smart phone, portable or mobile computer or similar device which can be used for voice communication, texting, e-mailing, browsing the Internet or instant messaging. The term does not include any of the following:

- (1) a device being used exclusively as a global positioning or navigation system;
- (2) a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle; or
- (3) a communications device that is affixed to a mass transit vehicle, bus or school bus.

Section 2. Title 75 is amended by adding a section to read: § 3316. Prohibiting text-based communications.

(a) Prohibition.--No driver shall operate a motor vehicle on a highway or trafficway in this Commonwealth while using an interactive wireless communications device to send, read or write a text-based communication while the vehicle is in motion. A person does not send, read or write a text-based communication when the person reads, selects or enters a telephone number or name in an interactive wireless communications device for the purpose of activating or deactivating a voice communication or a telephone call.

(c) Seizure.--The provisions of this section shall not be construed as authorizing the seizure or forfeiture of an interactive wireless communications device, unless otherwise provided by law.

(d) Penalty.--A person who violates subsection (a) commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$50.

(e) Preemption of local ordinances.--In accordance with section 6101 (relating to applicability and uniformity of title), this section supersedes and preempts all ordinances of any municipality with regard to the use of an interactive wireless communications device by the driver of a motor vehicle.

(f) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "text-based communication" means a text message, instant message, electronic mail or other written communication composed or received on an interactive wireless communications device.

Vice President Joe Madzellan asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1st: Chief Joe Yahnke
2nd: Chief Brian Bastinelli Motion Passed

Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the following report: Beginning Balance: \$5,393.43 with all balances and withdraws; we have an Ending Balance of: \$7,909.07

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Vice President Joe Madzellan: The Board did not have a quorum this evening, but will meet after this meeting to discuss a few items.

COMMUNICATIONS: Erik Brown was not present for the meeting. He did submit the minutes from the last Radio Working Group Meeting and the Open Issues Log.

Julio stated that there is another class of 14 dispatchers coming in.

Phil stated north of the Conowago creek, radios have been going into CCScan. Harris looked into the problem. The issue is linked back to a long term timing source. He stated that with this issue, the Chiefs have been really reasonable when dealing with the radio issues. Their cooperation has been very much appreciated.

Tim Mooney stated there are still issues with the radios. He was at the recent training in Dallastown, where there was some much opposition on the radios. He stated that units call out on Ops 12, but the IC in on 5. No one knows where they are supposed to be. It seems as though we are making the job easier for the dispatchers, but harder for those that are using them in the field.

Phil stated that this most recent idea came from the Radio Committee, not from the 911 Dispatchers. Before, there were complaints that there were too many EMS on the talk groups.

Tim Mooney stated that there is no voice on the pagers, like the old system. So now the firefighters have to read their pagers. He stated that the dispatchers are no longer voicing each piece that is due, but rather just the station, to cut down on the radio talk time. Tim stated that he has gone to the station after being dispatched in the middle of the night, and found his live-in firefighters are sitting in the wrong piece of apparatus. If the dispatchers would voice each piece, my firefighters could listen to the radio, as they are running up to the apparatus bay to get ready, instead of trying to read their pagers, and running to the Engines at the same time.

There was discussion on what is and isn't important information. Also what should and should not be on stated on the pagers and said over the radio. Some information may not be immediately forth coming, that should be at times. This is an issue.

There was a motion made to finish the trainings, but stop the implementation of the plan. Eric is to come do a presentation back here for the Chiefs' Association. 1st: Bill Carlisle 2nd: Tim Mooney There was more discussion regarding this new plan. This plan was never voted on or approved by the Chiefs' Association a year ago.

Chief Bill Carlisle amended his motion that we as an Association approve the final plan before it is implemented. 2nd: Tim Mooney Motion Passed.

Chief Brian Bastinelli stated that he was concerned for the safety on the street. We need to tighten up the things we do. We need to do what is right and move forward.

Vice President Madzellan stated that we need to better police ourselves. Don't ask for your orders, but rather go to staging area when you get on scene, and get your orders when you get to staging. We are our worst enemies. We need to self discipline ourselves.

911: Julio or Phil: Nothing more to add

FIRE SCHOOL: Richard Halpin: This last month, we had 233 hours of training. Sunday, July 15th is the Emergency Responder's night at the York Revolution Stadium. Dave Hoffnagle is having a battery sale. There is a handout that has the batteries listed that are one sale. We are hosting some VFIS trainings here this year. The first is Retention & Recruitment Strategies for Volunteer Emergency Services on May 1st. The second is Highway Safety Instructor Level on May 30th. There are registration forms here for those that are interested. When

registering, check the VFIS Insured box. The Fire School is insured through VFIS, and everyone here is the covered. There is a new class coming out for Driver Training for EMS. This will be a requirement for anyone recertifying as and EMT. The class will need to be taken once every three years to keep your certification. More information will follow on this class once we schedule it, and know more details. We are also hosting a "Responding to Ethanol Incidents" training program on August 12th. Preregistration is required.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Chief John Sanford: There were 2 calls for the month, 3 for the year. The first call was a trench rescue in Jefferson Borough. The second call was for a high angle rescue in Paradise Township.

OEM: Tom Graybill: Nothing to Report

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Tom Graybill: There were 3 calls for the month, 12 for the year. We recently had our recertification process for the Haz-Mat team. There is a high possibility that we will get our certification.

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: The following departments still need to turn in their rosters and dues by next Monday: Dues: 9, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 31, 33, 34, 36, 42, 43, 46-2, 54, 55, 57, 61, 63, 68, 89-1, 89-2, & 89-4. Rosters: 9, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 42, 43, 46-2, 54, 55, 56, 57, 61, 63, 68, 89-1, 89-2, & 89-4

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Bob Sells: No Report

RIT: Joe Yahnke: No Report

RESCUE INSPECTION: Tim Mooney: We have one rescue inspection coming up. Sta. 26 is going from a light rescue to a heavy rescue.

FIRE PREVENTION: Steve Tawney: No Report

FUND RAISING: No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A motion was made to pay the bills. 1st: Joe Yahnke 2nd: Brian Bastinelli Motion Passed

The Policy Board voted and turned down the use of Motorola Radios for stations inside the County. You are welcomed to write a letter of appeal to ask for an exemption to the Policy Board for review.

Phil stated that if your department wants the Motorola Radios, make sure they are the radios you want, and are the features that you want. Every radio is different from one manufacturer to the other. Just make sure it is what you want.

NEW BUSINESS: No Business

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Corey Green, from the Forrest Fire Crew, stated that the Federal funding for the Bureau of Fire is being cut. There are over 10,000 fires a year occurring in the state, but only about 2,000 of them are being reported. In an effort to try and better report the fires, he and a few other Forrest Fire Wardens are responding to more calls. The most recent was the suspicious fires along Interstate 83. By law, the Wardens have 24 hours to investigate a fire, without needing permission or a warrant. If there is a suspicious or unknown cause for the fire, they would like to know about it, so they can investigate and report as many as they possibly can. If you are on a call, and would like us to come out, just tell the 911 dispatcher you would like a Duty Officer from the Forrest Fire Crew. You don't have to remain on scene, as we have 24 hours to investigate.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, April 16th, 2012, at Red Lion Fire Company Sta. 34.

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2nd: Chief Brian Bastinelli Motion Passed

Sincerely,

Heather Grove

Heather Grove
Recording Secretary

RADIO WORKGROUP MEETING
FIRE / EMS / EMA RADIO WORK GROUP

Meeting Minutes
 March 8, 2012 Meeting

Highlighted are IN ATTENDANCE TODAY:

911 Representatives	Fire Representatives	EMS Representatives	Alternates / Others
Eric Bistline	Richard Shank	Joe Madzelan V.P.	Rich Godfrey-EMA
Julio Mendez	Erik Brown – W.	Alex Wilson – E.	
Cindy Dietz	Dave Michaels-M.	Shannon Fouts – M.	Joe Hammers-Fire Pol.
Phil Treffinger	Chris Krichten – N.	Ted Hake – S.	
Nate Kirschman	Tony Myers E.		Dave Nichols M. – Alt.
Ryan Renninger		Mark Moody - ALS	
Mel Grove			Ryan Brenneman N. Alt
Greg Kidd			
Rena Aikins			

1. **Approval of February 9, 2012 meeting minutes.** Approved as written.
2. **Review Open Issues Log.** #s 5-16) No Updates. # 17) What is status of this policy? Protocol Sub Committee will bring back to this group to discuss proposed changes. Can discuss it in next Thursdays Sub Committee meeting. #s 19 & 20) No updates. Question on #21) -Is this something that is anticipated being done year-end? Or next year? No date or time frame can be given yet. Various discussion [See Open Issues Log]

Eric Bistline wanted to let everyone know he got a price on reprogramming radios. If we(County) don't do it...I don't think we have the capacity to do it all. So we are looking at a price of between \$60,000 - \$80,000. To reprogram all the radios (by contractor). Every EMS agency will have to have their radios programmed by the end of the year because of the narrow-banding and the med frequencies. So the old Med channels-if you use, they will need to be narrow-banded. There will be serious volume differences if you are not. Those going in and out of the County-it will affect them. Various discussion...

3. **Discuss Dispatch with voice announcement (E. Brown)** Have had some complaints that they have not heard voice dispatches, just pages. Maybe follow up with the dispatchers. Julio will bring to the Supervisors meeting. Nate commented that if another talk group is talking, and that dispatch comes up then...it may not get heard. At times it comes up before the page goes out. Various discussion. With the new protocol, do we have the opportunity –with a position of full time voice dispatcher- to time that a little better? Can we put out an alert tone before the voice announcement? It is not a one touch process... there are multiple steps. Not technically feasible.? Can there be a mayday type button on the screen for the tone?
4. **Discuss Red Cross: Standardization of their units from across the county (E. Brown)** Red Cross 1, and 2 are the only numbers in use (they are the only vehicles with mobiles). We would like to expand the numbers to include our volunteers and not use personal names when communicating...etc. (handout given) Erik Brown will e-mail application for designations. Suggestions given on how to number.

Red Cross Continued: The Red Cross has regionalized their set ups. We are one of two that are dispatched by pagers or consistently use the radio system. Everyone else uses cell phones. The system has been working pretty well for us. We have coordinators with radios, but no real designation for them. Suggested that vehicles remain 1 thru 3 or 4 & 5...etc. Then the officers are 20, 21, 22... etc.

5. **Discuss CAD issues: Spring Grove having issues after taking an engine out of service (E. Brown).** Mel responded that after many repeated test coordinated between myself, New World Systems and the Chiefs in Spring Grove, we determined that after the change, the coding was not rewriting correctly. We came up with a work around...renumbered engine. New World is working on the coding issue so future it will not be a problem. As of now, this is working. Various discussion.
6. **Discuss "Patches: OPS to PD TAC Talk-Groups" (T. Hake)** There were a few recent police incidents where we could not get close to the scene and could not inter-op Police, Fire and EMS. (were staged distance away/geographic region issue) Looking for a long and short term solution of operability between all three. Fire and EMS can communicate and Police can talk to incident commanders, but we cannot talk to their incident commanders on their tactical channels. Who do we talk to about this? Eric suggested you go to the Police Chiefs about that. (Chief Snyder) We had given options/venue to use the OPS Talk Groups, they just don't want anyone else on those tactical channels. So there should be a solution. Police should give consent or suggest what channels you can talk to their incident commanders on in those cases. Nate K. stated there is the FTPD 1, 2 and 3 in every radio. Ask the Police command to meet you there. Get with them and communicate/suggest a mutual plan.
7. **Discuss Status of Ski Roundtop (Station 360) application (C. Dietz)** Was a letter sent to them regarding the decision? (Policy Board approval of) This group denied this, so we thought the Policy Board would/has done the communication. They approved "Station 360". Nate K. stated they have trained them on how to handle the radio communication and they are doing well. (They no longer wanted the QRS status due to health care laws and liability.) Eric will get answer from Policy Board.
8. **Other Business.** Shannon (not attending today) let us know the situation with the team from Butler Transport is close to getting licensed so we will have to grant them permission on our system. Because this team (not Butler) is out of York County --If they choose to get Med Radios, they can communicate with us. We were not going to give them York County Radios. Eric will e-mail Shannon.

Joe M. – We had an issue with an emergency activation button. We think a low voltage condition in the ambulance - may have triggered that. We didn't think the dispatcher knew how to handle it. We believe this has happened before. Maybe reiterate the policy for this to them. Because there was more than one that happened, I think there was confusion too. Nate suggested getting that radio checked out by Harris– a low voltage should not trigger emergency activation.

Joe M. – Dispatchers are intermittently not logging times. Maybe a training issue? They are acknowledging us, but not logging times in CAD. The 83 crash the other day, --we didn't have any on-scene times appended for the units. Just reminder to do this. It is important to us.

Technology Committee – the Mobile CAD we have been looking at – first we hired Ryan Brenneman as a career fire fighter for us and he is in CAD training for several months so he's given me the Technology Committee things. We talked about funding. I was forwarded a Fiscal 2012 State Homeland Security Grant Program information thru Motorola. I guess applications can be submitted thru May 4th. Sounds like if the County would apply, they would do that thru the State Administrative Agency. I guess that is under PEMA. ? So would like to look into this. But we can think about for next year.

We keep getting the issue of Motorola radios on our system brought up. They mentioned about changing the way we do our emergency button.... Is that something we should consider? From a technology standpoint, they need to train how to work the radios on our system. (Like an out-of County entity) We can't change how all the other radios are functioning. The Dauphin County comes in and they know how to use them on our system. The Policy Board should draft a letter in response to those pushing for this—it's a policy change. Erik Brown can send a letter letting chief know we discussed this and what the steps are to take to make their case. (They have been told to go to the Policy Board, but as far as we know they have not done that.)

Joe Hammers – Fire Police and use of “Traffic Unit” – we discussed last month, (e-mails sent also) what is decision? There is a list of requirements that a “Traffic Unit” should have, correct?. (see e-mails of York and Lancaster list) Various discussion on “Rescue Units”. Approve the Radio Designation of “Traffic Unit”--And with that we recommend they follow the minimum standards equipment list on the York County Fire Police Association Web Site www.ycfp.org/equip.html. Approved.

Ted Hake – there has been positive call received to dispatch interval on the cardiac arrest, so whatever you've done, it is improved. Thanks

9. Next meeting Thursday, April 12, 2012, 9:00am. at the Emergency Services Center – Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Brown

Penn Township Fire / Rescue

Future Meeting Dates and Locations:

FIRE / EMS RADIO WORKGROUP:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Meeting Room:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
April 12, 2012	ESC-911	Conference Room B	9:00 AM