

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

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

March 21st, 2011

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. Forty - three people were in attendance.

Prior to the meeting, Pat McKenna presented two awards. The first was presented to Chief Shank for his assistance to the Pennsylvania State Police, and the second was to Joe Yahnke and the Red Lion Fire Company for their efforts in assisting in the arrests of two arsonists.

Derek Shawl gave a presentation for the 2011 Fight for Air Climb to benefit the American Lung Association. The event will be held on April 16th at the Hershey Park Stadium. A registration fee of \$25 is waived for allfirst responders. Registration fliers were handed out during the meeting.

President Rick Shank approved the minutes as published.

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

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chief John Senft: The Board met this evening. We discussed various building and grounds improvement items this evening. We have not heard anything new from the State regarding the draw down.

COMMUNICATIONS: Erik Brown:

In conjunction with the new dispatch protocol committee and the continuous effort to streamline our radio communications, the following changes were approved to take place. The county is now ready to implement these changes.

1. **Station voice announcement:** During the voice announcement, departments will be voiced by station number, rather than by piece of apparatus. ***NOTE: This is for voice only and your pager will not change.*** This will reduce a lot of "air time" and help to streamline dispatching. In events where a specific piece is dispatched, that piece will be voiced if it's the only piece due. (ie: Truck 68 to Cumberland County or Air 46 to Carroll County, etc)
2. **Remove Ops Channels from pagers:** County will no longer be putting the ops channels in the pagers or in the voice announcement. This creates a lot of confusion on which channel units are to be working on and also when to switch. Each unit will call responding on their original home ops channel for all calls, when the dispatcher acknowledges your response, they will inform you which channel to switch to. You will then immediately switch to that channel and that will be your working ops channel.

****Special Note:** We know that taking the ops channel out of the pager may create some issues for our fire police until all the changes are made. For now, the fire police should be on the "fire police" bank and continue to use the channel that matches up with their home ops channel of the fire department. We are meeting with representatives from the fire police association at our next meeting to work on a more permanent solution and get their in-put on this subject.

3. Progress Reports and echoing: You will notice that the dispatchers will be doing more abbreviated progress reports and less echoing information on the radio. With our new radio system, everyone can hear each other and at times, the dispatcher echoing information is a waste of air time, plus it interferes with the call and other units being able to get on the radio.
4. Radio Acknowledgement: **"RESPONDING"** Only 1st due "Duty" officer responding will call responding. We still have the same problem with multiple chiefs and officers calling responding. PLEASE, we only need one officer calling out and that officer should be from the department who has primary jurisdiction of the call. (Not mutual aid departments) **"ON SCENE"** when arriving, the first unit or officer will give a brief size-up/progress report . If your department's policy is for every piece to call on scene, it will be documented if you call on scene, but will not be acknowledged by county. This is an effort to keep the talk group open and to reduce radio congestion in the event you have interior crews working inside who may need to use the radio.
5. Progress Reports: Due to the radio system and the capabilities of being able to be heard virtually anywhere in the county, progress reports will not be repeated unless special circumstances warrant it or special instructions need to be verified. At the very least, it will be very abbreviated. With our new system, it has become cumbersome at times because of county repeating everything when everyone can hear the progress report/orders directly for themselves. We are trying to promote and encourage direct unit to unit communication but also ask that you use discretion and good, responsible radio discipline.

These changes should alleviate some of the confusion that people are currently experiencing and have experienced over the past two (2) years. Everyone's cooperation will be needed and appreciated as we start to make some changes to improve our system and hopefully will promote consistency. Our committee intends to have the entire protocol finished by the end of June. We plan to have a trial and training demonstration for the dispatchers during the July time frame and then seek approval and acceptance by the county management by August. Once that occurs, we plan to use the Fall months to teach and educate through-out the county and implement the new protocol in January.

The changes listed above are slated to take affect on Tuesday, March 22nd at 08:00 HRS. Please take the time to share this information with your officers, members and especially to your fire police. The committee welcomes your feedback and suggestions. If you experience an issue on a call because of these changes, please contact me and let me know. If you had something good happen on a call and/or you see an improvement because of the changes made, we'd like to hear that as well. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at the contact information provided below.

FIRE SCHOOL: Richard Halpin: For the month of February, we had a total of 215 class hours. We had to cancel 8 classes; three of those cancelations were due to the weather. If anyone is looking to do any Company Level Trainings: using the maze, cutting up cars, or using the Burn Building, we need to have a copy of your Worker's Comp insurance and Liability Insurance policies. If multiple stations are training together, we need a copy from every station that is participating. If your department is planning on using the Burn Building for a burn, schedule it early. Dates are going quick, especially the week-end dates.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Chief John Sanford: We had one call for the month, and 3 for the year. We are doing a Trench Rescue Week-end on April 29th, 30th & May 1st, 2011. There are fliers available if anyone wants one.

OEM: Tom Graybill: Nothing to Report

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Tom Graybill: 0 Calls for the month

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: There is a meeting next Monday night at Station 37 (Windsor Fire Co.)

RESCUE INSPECTION: Tim Mooney: No Report

RIT: Joe Yahnke: No Report

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Tony Myers: I have been giving numerous 1403 classes. It is a requirement to have this class for those participating in a Company Level Burn. We have had 150 students from 10 stations sit through the class. We are making progress on the Red Engine. There is an organized video library and training guides in the basement. Anyone is welcomed to come and sign items out for viewing.

FIRE PREVENTION: No Report

FUND RAISING: No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made to pay the bills. 1st: Jan Cromer 2nd: Steve Tawney Motion Passed

Tony Myers brought up the recommendation about having a committee formed to look into possibly standardizing box alarms. A motion was made to form a committee to see about standardizing the box alarms County wide. 1st: Tony Myers 2nd: Tim Mooney Motion Passed

The motion was to form a committee that would make recommendations and bring them back the Chief's Association; we have not agreed that we are changing everyone's box alarms starting tomorrow. This is just the first step.

Jan Cromer stated that if we seem to be having all of these problems, do you think we went on line too soon? We are talking about changing box alarms, the 911 Center is saying the box alarms are not easy to change in the CAD system, and now we may be changing them all over again.

If anyone has complaints, send an email with just your response to the Chairman. That way it will be seen, and you will get a response back.

Phil stated that they are opening the system up to the local government municipalities. The 911 Center will program the mobile radios at a rate of \$25 per a mobile radio.

Chief Shank stated that if anyone is interested in serving on a committee, let him know. We could use volunteers for the Fundraising and Fire Prevention Committees just to name two committees.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, April 18th, 2011, at the 911 Center.

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

Sincerely,

Heather Grove

Heather Grove
Recording Secretary