

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING  
THIRD MONDAY

March 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. Forty-four people were in attendance.

- President Rupert introduced Andrea Turasky from Susquehanna Patriot Commercial Leasing Company Inc. She spoke about her company and their 5 W's of Municipal Financing.
  - Who is eligible? Anyone receiving or eligible to receive funding from federal resources.
  - What can you borrow money for? Anything essential to the Fire Company – even building loans.
  - When would you apply for this type of loan? If you are acquiring new equipment or refinancing to save money.
  - Where are they located? Susquehanna Banks are in York County, but most transactions occur over the phone.
  - Why would you use this company? Investment, to preserve cash, ability to defer payments, or to pool financial needs for discounts.
  - Andrea Turasky may be contacted at 1-800-786-0004 x-144 or [attur@susqbank.com](mailto:attur@susqbank.com).
- President Rupert introduced Chiefs Jansen and Nichols.
  - Chief Jansen spoke about attending the Homeland Security Conference last week. He said that 15 more decon companies are needed. A questionnaire came out before about rescue equipment and it will be coming out again. He urged members to fill out the questionnaire this time. Money will be made available to fill needs.
  - Chief Nichols spoke about the South Central Region PA USAR Company 1.
    - Counties in the South Central Region are York, Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Perry.
    - The team is registered as a State Asset in Pennsylvania.
    - The team needs 30 members but can be deployed with 10.
    - The team has special Technical and Operational capabilities to assist local responders.
    - The team is requested through the local EMA and dispatched through PEMA.
    - On site response time is 2 hours. The IST will respond or call first to make an assessment.
    - They are looking for more team members – many requirements to qualify.
    - Openings exist in the areas of Rescue Specialist, Medical Specialist, Technical Search Specialist, and Hazmat Specialist.
    - Interested persons should contact:
      - Dave Nichols at [dnichols@westmanchestertownship.com](mailto:dnichols@westmanchestertownship.com) or 792-3505
      - Glenn Jansen at [gjansen@afsglobal.com](mailto:gjansen@afsglobal.com) or 577-1170

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

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS:** Chairman John Senft reported meeting with the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. The following items were discussed:

- County reassessment of property.
- Partial resurfacing of the upper lot.
- Hydrant additions and replacement on the lower lot.
- Juvenile fire setter intern is working on a records retention project in the basement

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**RADIO COMMITTEE:** Chairman Chief Shank reported that the committee met on March 10<sup>th</sup> and approved designations for Duty Officer 10 and Attack 36. There was discussion on designations for Station 69, a letter was sent for clarification.

Chief Shank reported the following concerns from dispatchers at the 911 Center:

- Departments should take the equipment they have listed on their boxes and for which they are dispatched. They should allow 911 to utilize the resource list for additional equipment when needed and not take equipment out of order that may be needed on a later alarm or another call.
- Fire Police should not be calling 911 on 33.88 directly; they should be going through command or the police with their requests.
- Individuals identifying themselves, as “portable\_” should not be placing equipment in service. The dispatcher has no way of knowing whom the person is or if they are qualified to give the order.
- Multiple Chief Officers are not to call responding on the radio. The highest-ranking officer only should be calling.
- EMS should not be setting up command. Chief Shank will be attending the next EMSA meeting to have further discussion on this issue.
- Fire Fighters should not be calling the 911 Center by cell phone with updates; they are tying up 911 lines. They should call their Chief with the update.
- Department members should not be calling 911 to see where the call is if they missed it.
- Discussed a Miscellaneous Call category where the 1<sup>st</sup> due station would be dispatched. To be bought up under new business.
- Next meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the 911 Center in Meeting Room #4 at 7pm.

**911:** Operations Manager Audrey Rychalsky reported for project Director Rob Sterner on the upgrade project:

- Radios demos will be held on the following dates:
  - April 20<sup>th</sup> 1800 – 2100 hrs. MVA Com at the York Holiday Inn on Route 30.
  - April 27<sup>th</sup> 1800 – 2100 hrs. Motorola at the Harrisburg West Conference Center on Limekiln Road.

Chief Cadden expressed concern that 1800 was a little early. Audrey will report back to Rob and try to get 1830.

- Rob will be holding four Regional Meetings. He will be coming out to each zone with some of the Communications Committee members to discuss the radio project. This will occur in the first 2 –3 weeks of May.
- The antenna for 33.90 will be put on Queen Street next week.
- CAD negotiations continue – not complete yet.
- President Rupert asked if the radio project was too far-gone to give input. Audrey said it was not the RPF has not been written yet.

Cindy Dietz reported that Firehouse Software Refresher Training has been scheduled and will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1800 hrs at the Fire School. NO charge to attend, however please RSVP.

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

**Statement:**

Your Fire School is having a busy year in 2005. We are maintaining our trend toward increased usage into the third straight month of this Year. The School continues to exceed the usage hour from last year. This month's number of hours used has dropped slightly from last month. This was due in part to canceled classes, but also is due to companies scheduling use of the facility then canceling out. Some of this was due to weather; some of this was due to acquisition of acquired structures. We anticipate 260 hours of use at your Fire School by the end of this month. It is important to note that not all of this time is Fire Service Training. While this is the main focus of the School, our facilities are also used by agencies such as the York County Sheriffs' Department and Penn DOT. The School has taken the position to offer our facility to our comrades in Law Enforcement when not in use for Fire Training. This way we maximize the investment that the York County Commissioners have made in our operation. While Penn DOT's use of our facilities takes place through the use of an "AGILITY" agreement. The Agility agreement results in a beneficial exchange of services for your Fire School. We also are used by agencies and organizations such as our County EMA, York County Junior Firefighters Association, York County School of Technology and York Technical Institute. Our goal here is always to maximize the use of YOUR Fire School.

Even with our usage hours dropping this month compared to last, for the first three months of the year we are at a 225% increase from last year. As we stated in last month's report we do not see the school maintaining this rate of growth through out the year. However we do feel that a positive trend will continue though it most likely will taper down some.

Our growth has been positive; unfortunately we still have some courses missing the mark. Your Fire School is dependant upon YOU, our students, and our consumers. Without you, we have to cancel classes! This is something your Fire School does not like to do. 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. Your Fire School recent sent out an e-mail regarding pre-registration. *It is vital to our operation and YOUR enrolment that you register EARLY!* This is important for two big reasons. One; just this last weekend we had the APPARATUS PREVENTITIVE MAINTENANCE COURSE canceled by Buck's County Community College due to only having nine persons enrolled. It turns out with the LATE pre-registrations that came in AFTER the class was canceled we could have met the threshold. Unfortunately the ETAs such as BCCC cannot wait till the last minute when the have to line up special instructors for these classes. The Second thing EARLY Pre-registration does is it assures you a spot in class. With popular courses Like the Basic Vehicle Rescue Series, Structural Burn Session and even the Essentials Class registrations are flowing in. Soon some of these courses will have to closed out due FULL enrollment make sure you check our scheduled offering and make sure you sign up early for those classes you want and need.

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](http://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 will continue to send out training announcements monthly. If you are the training officer please make sure they get posted. If you're a firefighter or another Officer; MAKE SURE YOU ASK YOUR TRAINING OFFICER, where the training announcement are? We will be e-mailing periodic reminders of individual courses and information throughout the year. 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](mailto:YorkCoFireSchool@aol.com) and we will see that you are added to the list.

The end of February and early March were tough on Your Fire School Staff. Our administrative assistant was off work for a while with a medical issue as was our Housekeeping service. We did the best we could in the absence of our Administrative Assistant, and we had a fill in for our housekeeping service. Even I came down with an ailment. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, I developed a case of Bells Palsy. Your Fire School is bouncing back though, as of Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> all staff will be back to the regular work schedules and Things should return to normal here soon.

Make sure you mark down July 15 & 16, 2005. That is the date of the Firefighter I certification testing to take place here at your Fire School. If you plan on taking the test please make sure your prerequisites are in order. We do have classes scheduled this spring to help you be READY for the test in July. Firefighter I testing is your option to take. It is not a requirement, however it can help your department procure grants and it also provides a national registry of your qualifications as a Firefighter. Potential Candidates should make sure they have a minimum of 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 there is 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*]. 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. Just last week we sent out Firefighter I requests for application via both e-mail and regular mail. To the best of my knowledge there have been no fee increases this year. The fee last year was \$175.00 (\$25.00 for the written exam and \$150.00 for the practical). Your Fire School has copies of the skill sheets for all 26 Stations, 12 of which (randomly chosen) will be on the test. Candidates are welcome to get copies of the skill sheet to help them in their studying for the test. The FIRE SCHOOL CANNOT TELL YOU, which 12 Stations will be selected.

Litchfield, Ohio and Chili (a suburb of Rochester), New York are the first two Extrication Teams to sign up for our Mason-Dixon Extrication Challenge (sanctioned by TERCUSA). This regional Extrication Challenge will take place May 6 – 8, 2005. These teams and other will be welcomed to attend this event at your hometown Fire School. The rumor still exists that a York County Fire Company will be sending a team too. 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.

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

Uncle "FEster" has arrived. Your Fire School and its board of Governors saw fit to recently invest \$2500.00 in a new piece of training equipment. Uncle "FEster", as I jokingly refer to it, is a Forcible Entry Simulator. This equipment was designed and developed by a Firefighter from Harrisburg. The original was built for HACC. We used it here at the Fire School last year for the Firefighter I testing and Staff and Firefighters from the area were impressed with its design and construction. The York County and the HACC units feature both inward and outward opening doors, a simulated double hung window, and a "Security" bar station. Our unit has a new feature that was suggested by Deputy Chief 24, Joe Madzlan. The YCFS unit has an area set up where students can practice breaching/making entry on a studded sheetrock wall. We are very proud of our new addition.



#### **Coming Events:**

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)  
Haz-Mat First Responder Awareness. 4 hours, April 4<sup>th</sup> (18:30-22:30)  
Haz-Mat First Responder Operations, 24 hours, April 5, 7, 9 (0800-1700) 12 & 14 (1830-2230)  
Basic Rigging for Rope Rescue, 16 hours, April 9 & 10 (08:00-17:00)  
Incident Safety Officer, 16 hours, April 11, 12, 18, 20 (18:30-22:30)  
Introduction to Fire Officer Ship, 16 Hours April 16 & 17 (08:00 -17:00)  
FIRE FIGHTER SAFETY AWARENESS, 3 hours, April 21, (19:00-22:00)  
Basic Fire Police (FIPO), 16 hours, April 23 & 24 (08:00-17:00)  
Pump Operations II, 16 hours, April 23 & 24 (08:00-17:00)  
Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVOC) April 26, 28 (18:30-22:30) 30 (08:00 -17:00)  
Managing Company Tactical Operations- Preparation, April 30, May 1, (08:00-17:00)  
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. - **DELIVERED**  
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 there for increasing our security. – **INSTALATION SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED ON 3/12/05**

Phase one of a parking lot expansion with a 4 to 6 inch base of rolled crusher run to aid in parking – **COMPLETED**

Brush removal. Working with Penn DOT through an agility agreement crews and equipment from Penn DOT will be assisting our Program Support Specialist in clearing some old dead brush around the property – Scheduled for 3/28/05

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 Jansen reported no calls for the month. It has been quiet.

**EMA:** No report

**FIRE POLICE:** Jim Robertson reported no meeting was held. They have been snowed out the past two months in a row.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Chief Nichols inquired about the status of the Mayday Policy. Chief Shank reported it has not been completed due to lack of time. He will try and get on it by the next meeting.
- Chief Nichols asked about the policy on assistant instructors at the Fire School. President Rupert advised nothing has been received from the Board of Governors yet. Nothing has been resolved.
  - Carl Avery said a draft was submitted to the Board of Governors. Discussion followed on standards, insurance issues, and workers comp for assistant instructors.
- President Rupert stated that Nate Kirshman put together a write up on the radio system and it was forwarded out to members to read and respond back with input.
  - Nate recapped his write up. He said currently we alert on 33.90 and use 33.88 for updates. With the new system this will not occur. At the last project meeting Eric Bistline said he was not considering voice paging at this time. Text paging is where the County appears to be going. Nate has heard concerns that the new pagers may not be loud enough to wake people up. He received feedback from four individuals. He cautioned that if you make a resolution make sure you have sound reasoning for doing so. Discussion followed. President Rupert said we are not ready as an organization to make a resolution.
- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion to pay the bills by Commissioner Roth, seconded by Chief Haller.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Chief Shank requested approval by the body to add Miscellaneous Fire as a pre-CAD incident type. This category would get a 1<sup>st</sup> due station only response. Motion by Chief Steve Dietz, second by Chief Kevin Hale. Motion carried with one opposing vote. Cindy will work on revising the policy for next month's meeting.
- Chief Shank stated that the County Hazmat Decon Team needs 5 engines and a back up, for a total of 6 engines. Interested persons contact Chief Shank.
- Chief Rodney Miller questioned the use of the incident type "Investigation Inside". He said the new incident types sometimes takes longer to say than just saying what the call really is. He also said updates from dispatchers are not given quickly enough when they are given at all.
  - Cindy Dietz explained the purpose of the Miscellaneous Fire Incident Type, and how the new policy should rectify some of these old problems.

#### **GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

- Chief Dietz said he was asked to Chair the Fire School Committee, he was wondering who was on this committee.
- Chief Senft reported they are hosting the County Convention and Parade on August 20<sup>th</sup> and need Fire Police.
- Chief Aldinger thanked the departments that participated in St. Baldricks this year. They made \$47,000.00 and shaved 150 heads.

- Chief Hale said that the Rose Fire Company 100 year anniversary is this year. They will be hosting an open house on April 30<sup>th</sup> and a dance in the evening at their station. Everyone is welcome to come out.

Motion to adjourn by Chief Dietz seconded by Bob Bowman Meeting adjourned at 9:40 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, April 18, 2005 at VFIS -Glatfelter's Insurance, on Leader Heights Rd. Light refreshments will be served.

Sincerely,

*Cindy A. Dietz*

Cindy A. Dietz  
Secretary