

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

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

April 20, 2009

President Rick Shank called the quarterly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order and led the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence. 69 people were in attendance.

President Chief Shank thanked Seven Valley's Fire Company for hosting the meeting, and providing the meal prior to this meeting. John McDonald addressed and welcomed everyone. Comm. Roth thanked Mr. McDonald and Seven Valley's Fire Company for their hospitality.

President Rick Shank asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1st: Tony Myers 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. We decided to take \$15,000 to pay down the line of credit. They had a discussion on several issues.

COMMUNICATIONS: Chief Buffington: I have been out of town, and have been trying to get caught up on the issues. He says to start documenting the issues you are having. Write down the date, the time of day it occurred. When you call into 911, get a trouble ticket number. Write down a description of the problem. Then email Chief Buffington & Chief Shank, so they are aware of the issues that are going on. 911 needs to work with us. If Chief Shank or Buffington do not know what the problems are, they can't get them fixed.

Several Chiefs expressed their concerns and issues they have been having with the paging system. One Chief stated it needs to be consistent. There needs to be consistency between dispatching, information updates, and cancellations.

Chief Tony Myers says that we should not switch over to the new system until the Police have signed off on the system. Then 911 needs to do the same with us as there are doing with the Police.

There was an incident in Spring Garden with a Police Officer. The officer got into a struggle. The emergency button was pushed, but it was never received by 911. After much investigation, it appears the cord was dislodged from the antenna. Tyco says it is a design flaw.

Chief Shank stated we need to look at having another meeting to just discuss these issues that everyone is having.

There is a tablet being passed around. Put your name and number on the sheet if you would like to be called when the paging system goes down (It is called a Reverse 911). Give a couple good numbers. Within 15-20 minutes, most of the county can be made aware of incidents.

There will be a special meeting Thursday April 23rd, at 7:00 pm, at Seven Valley's Fire Department (Sta.

62). Be here to discuss your issues. If you cannot attend, send someone from your department as a delegate, and can express the issues that your department is facing.

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

Activity:

☞ For the month of March, the Fire School hosted 45 events, which accounted for 277 hours of activity. This resulted in an outstanding 3084 Student hours.

MEETING, On Friday, April 17, 2009:

- Fire School Coordinator and Fire School Committee member Robert Sells attended a meeting at the Lancaster Public Safety Training Center with Representatives from LPSTC, HACC and Cumberland County EMA all of whom work to present training to their first responders of South Central Pennsylvania. The goal of the meeting was to establish a cooperative collaboration between all parties involves to improve the delivery of training to First Responders of our area. The 4.5 hour meeting resulted in several common interest established and a goal or coordinated training programs to assure availability and quality. Another meeting will be scheduled in June.

LODD Investigation Presentation:

- In April of 2007 the Prince William County (Virginia) Department of Fire and Rescue (PWCF&R) experienced the Line of Duty Death of Technician I, Kyle Robert Wilson in a residential fire. Now the PWCF&R is graciously offering to have members of their LODD Investigation team to come here to York County and present on their findings. The LODD Investigation team produced a 179 + page report of their detailed investigation and recommendations. The presentation is approximately 3 Hours in length. Persons who have attended these presentations before highly recommend it for its content and format. The Class will be Held this August, on the 12th @ 19:00
 - Your Fire school has a copy of the report and the accompanying NIOSH report
 - Let us Never Forget, Let us always Learn, Let us reduce the number of LODDs by building on the experiences of others

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.

☞ **On Wednesday April 15th it happened.** *We had a class in Trench Rescue Awareness scheduled 18 students were signed up for this class (this does not count the two students – who called our office the day of the class and had to withdraw). When it came time for class, 11 Students showed up, this IS WELL BELOW the minimum to run the class. We contemplated canceling the class but fortunately for the rest of the students, one donated a significant sum toward making up the cost that BUCKS will bill the Fire School so the class could run. To me, the 7 students who failed to attend class after signing up for it displayed a callus disregard for their peers. It is examples like this that makes me support the efforts of the Fire School committee to establish a fee structure for our classes here. Part of me hates to see anything that could impede a student's attendance, but with the frequency of this behavior and the impact it has on both the Students and Instructor who make efforts to be here and seek an education to improve themselves and their ability to serve their community.*

☞ 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:

☞ Fire Instructor William Staub has begun the ELFG class that **was scheduled April 11.**

☞ 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).

- **Instructor Staub May also have some opening available in his “EL” series**

☞ 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.

Current and Future Schedule:

☞ There have been several recent updates and revisions to our course Catalogue recently, please be sure to check out our web site. We are still working on even more offerings for the school.

☞ 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.**

☞ York County Fire School will host a class 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) will present a 2 day class on the tactical use of TICs. The class would be product specific to MSA

Thermal Imaging Cameras (this company is recognized by MSA to present this training). The class and the efforts to bring it here to you in York County are the direct result of your feedback requesting additional training in Thermal Imaging.

- **THE CLASS IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 15 & 16, 2009**

☛ **COOPERATION IS KEY – the FIRE SCHOOL's schedule is packed tight this year, several weekends we have multiple classes going on. The Fire Instructors have really stepped up in their cooperative efforts to maximize training on our existing training area. Student need to recognize this also, if multiple classes are being conducted on the drill grounds, Students should follow these simple guidelines**

- **STAY WITH YOUR GROUP**
- **STAY in you designated training area**
- **FOLLOW STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY PROCEDURES**
- **BE DISCIPLINED follow your instructors direction and ALWAYS work through them**
- **ALWAYS THINK - SAFETY FIRST**

As Chief Officers and Fire Service Leaders in Your Company, the Fire School asks that you reinforce this with your firefighters BEFORE you send them to the Fire School.

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: John Sanford: There were 2 calls for the month.

OEM: Tom Graybill: No report

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Bob Boeckel: There were 3 calls for the month. 911 has cut 3 of their channels out of the template.

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: We are concerned about the radios as well. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday night, at West York.

RESCUE SPECS: Tony Myers: The body adopted the State standard last month. The State standard says that you need to have 4 BVR-Technicians or equivalent trained. The question came up, "If you have 3, does that mean you can't respond?" Chief Carlisle thinks it is too complicated to police.

A motion was made to go with the State standard and respond with 4 members trained in BVR-Technician. 1st: 1st: Tony Myers 2nd: Barry Myers. The Motion failed.

A motion was made to respond with 2 BVR-Technician trained personnel. 2nd: Linas Saurusaitis Motion passed

The Equipment list was voted on and approved off the State's Department of Health Standards. The committee was not asked to come up with minimum training standards.

For rescue qualifications, use the Operations standards for a Rescue, and Advanced for the Heavy Rescue standards. Make sure you are using the 2006 version, and not the 2002 version. Beginning March 1st, 2010, the inspections start under the new standards.

RIT COMMITTEE: Jan Cromer: The committee met about a month ago. We came up with standards, and requirements that RIT Teams would then follow. The committee would like you to review them, and it will be voted on at the May meeting.

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Tony Myers: Last month you all approved the Structure Burn Building policy. The question came up as to why it is so restricted for Live fire in the building. Our policy would follow the PA State Fire Academy standards and requirements. Yes, BUCKS & HACC have a local level training program (they follow the 1403 standard). The committee thought it was the safest for the burn building, and for the firefighters. It is not for heavy fire conditions, just heat and smoke. It is also a liability issue. If you feel something should be changed in the Policy, write a letter to the Board of Governors saying that you feel it should be reconsidered. We are not rescinding the motion tonight.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made to pay the bills. 1st: Chief Buffington 2nd: Chief Senft Motion Passed

The following are members of the Fire Prevention Committee: Chairman: Steve Tawny, Brad Dunham, & Bryan Flemmens. We still need at least one or two more volunteers. If we don't have any volunteers, President Shank will appoint someone.

Wendy Tracey, from the Firefighter's Convention handed out information packets about this year's Convention. This year it will be co hosted by the Hellam & Wrightsville Fire Departments. The dinner will be held on Friday Aug. 14th, followed by the meeting. The parade will be held on August 15th.

Chief Brenneman says that reverse 911 does not work. Ryan says that they could set up a system to text message the chiefs on their cell phones. (Kay has a 3N system, and the county it owns.) Chief Shank thinks it can work. They would text whatever phone numbers you want it to. If you do not answer it, it will continue to call you (about every 20 minutes), until you finally answer the message. They say it should work.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Tony Myers said that his son his home from the fighting the war. He wanted to thank everyone who kept him in their thoughts, and who sent messages to him. He really appreciated them.

The York County 4H is presenting a Survivor Day camp. On June 24th, kids from ages 10-12 will learn about the Fire Service. If you can volunteer, please do so. We could use all the help we can get. It is an all-day event from 8-4.

Chief Senft says the US Fire Administration has some good publications out for reading. They are very interesting and worth reading. One good one is Emergency Health & Safety Issues in the Volunteer Fire Service.

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, May 18th, 2009, at the Fire School.

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

Sincerely,

Heather Marsteller

Heather Marsteller
Recording Secretary