

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

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

May 18, 2009

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. 35 people were in attendance.

President Chief Shank thanked OSI Representative for providing the meal prior to this meeting.

President Rick Shank asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1st: Joe Yahnke 2nd: Kris Krichten

President Rick Shank asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting. 1st: Tony Myers 2nd: Joe Madzellan Motion Passed

Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the balances of the treasurer's report. There is a copy of the 990 report available for review to anyone who wants to read it.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chief John Senft: The Board met prior to this evening's meeting. Progress is being made on the pay down of the line of credit. At the rate we are going, the line of credit should be cleared by the end of the year. We are meeting this Thursday to talk about the grant of the Capital improvements. To meet certain 990 requirements, we have made them available for review. We are looking into possibly getting an outside consultant, to review the organization, and what is best in our interest.

COMMUNICATIONS: Ryan Brenneman: The committee met two separate times. The first meeting was on May 4th. We held a discussion on the talkgroups. The Radio template has changed with minor adjustments for the City. The second meeting was held on May 13th. This meeting was a conference call with New World Systems. We discussed new upgrades. Some of the upgrades include 1 page for service calls, dispatchers trading a unit for another, the nature of the call should be a little clearer. There has been a stop to all unnecessary paging when it comes to a change of address. They voted to do away with the 10 foot rule. Now a mulch fire will be a mulch fire, not a structure fire response, unless the caller advises that his vinyl siding is melting. The box can always be upgraded if need be as well. Another change is when P.D. requests for EMS only to the scene, only the EMS will be dispatched, not Fire & EMS. If the call is reported as no injuries, fire will not be dispatched, unless for debris removal or another reason. We are looking into possibly a Haz-Mat regular response & a High Response. We have no idea on how long it will take to implement these changes. It will take time. Please give the dispatchers some leniency. It was also discussed on what is a boat in distress and a water rescue. A boat floating down the river is different than one that has run out of fuel on the lake. Know you areas, and the types of water related calls. There was a hardware failure. The problem was with the Manchester site. Problem was addressed resolved that same day. The 30 day clock had stopped. The next meeting will be on May 27th, at 13:00. The Fleet maps are standardized.

Meet with the County Commissioners. They were given a list of all the issues and complaints. The Commissioners made it very clear that there is a lot of money invested into this system. They want to make this system work. They were very receptive to listening. They had stopped the clock. It will reset, but

we don't know if it has started again, on when it will start.

Bill James from the County believes that the clock has started. It was asked on which talkgroup is to be used during testing. The Ops 15 has 33.88 in it. Hanover is currently using Ops 10.

Bill Carlisle asked if anyone is accepting places to test at. Chief Shank stated to send the information to Dave Haun, and copy it to Eric Bistline. When they are done with EMS radios, they will begin working on Fire Dept. They will be doing their rounds with the programming of the radios, and supplying the chargers and new batteries. Talk to Mike Brown to get 5 radios programmed in at 911. That way you can go out and train with the radios that have the new updates in them.

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

Activity:

- ☛ For the month of April, the Fire School hosted **38** events, which accounted for **209** hours of activity. This resulted in an outstanding **3928** Student hours.
- ☛ For the first quarter of the year the school averaged **222.5** Hours of use per month or said in another way, better than **55** hours per week. This accounted for **12,991** student hours divided amongst **943** students

MEETING, (what was formerly SCESTAWG South Central Emergency Training Academy Working Group):

- The goal of the meeting held on April 17, was to establish a cooperative collaboration between all parties involved to improve the delivery of training to First Responders of our area, another meeting will be scheduled for the first week in June, the exact date and location has not been selected yet.

KUDOS:

- ☛ A huge thank you goes out to our Administrative Assistant, Heather Marsteller! Ms Marsteller has invested a great deal of time and effort to getting the Fire School recognized as a Con-ED facility for the EHSF (Federation). What this means is; EMTs taking qualifying courses can now sign up for Con-Ed credits through the Fire School. Many of the ETAs and other instructors who used to offer to submit for Con-Ed in the past have now given up this practice due to the complexity of reporting to different regions and other reasons. THANK YOU Heather for taking on this task and providing this service to our students.

FDIC (Indianapolis):

- ☛ I was scheduled to attend this year's FDIC in Indianapolis and I did make it there and attended one full day of Pre-Conference activity. Sadly, my Brother passed away on Monday night of the conference and I had to leave to attend services for him. In the brief time I was there, I did get to take part in eight hour presentation on reading smoke from Dave Dodson. This was an excellent and very well presented course which I felt was full of relevant information. I would fully recommend his class to anyone. I would also recommend this class to any agency looking to bring a quest speaker to our area.
- ☛ In the brief time I was there I got to meet briefly with some instructor colleagues of mine from Ohio and Ontario strengthening and maintaining the fire school networking abilities.

Combustible Liquids Pit:

- ☛ Maintenance man, Tim Bair, is looking into some leakage that was noted in the flammable liquids Pit. Mr. Bair notified Board of Governor, Barry Myers regarding this. It is presently felt that it will be repairable by our own staff, for further details – see Mr. Bair.

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 this presentation 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.
- ☛ 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.
- ☛ The SUMMER / FALL Entry Level Class series is scheduled to begin in June with Lead Instructor for the whole series being Fire Instructor Bill Hoover. This series of classes will meet primarily on Tuesday and Thursday with some weekend skill sessions. See below for course starting dates:
 - ELIS - Intro to the Fire Service – June 23rd
 - ELFG – Fire Ground Support – July 7th
 - ELEF – Exterior Firefighter – August 4th
 - ELIF – Interior Firefighter – September 22nd

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 you 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:** as was stated above, the Fire School is extremely busy this year. Planning for use of the SBB needs to be long range, please plan ahead accordingly and please include us in your plans at the earliest phases.

YORK COUNTY ATR: John Sanford: There were 2 calls for the month. The first one was on April 6th in North York for an elevator rescue. The second one was on April 7th in York Haven for a Confined Space Rescue. Training: there was Water Rescue. The team will also be assisting with the Confined Space Rescue class scheduled here next week.

OEM: Tom Graybill: No Report

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Bob Boeckel: There were 2 calls for the month. There is a Haz-Mat Technician class being held on June 6th, 7th, 27th & 28th. There are very few spots remaining. A Technician refresher class is being offered on June 27th & 28th. You must attend both days for the refresher class. That class is also filling up quickly.

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: No Report given

RESCUE SPECS: Tony Myers: The Committee is done.

RIT COMMITTEE: Jan Cromer: The RIT policy was given out via e-mail. Chief Shank asked if there were any questions. It was asked if you have a spare SCBA, can us use an SCBA instead of a RIT pack, if you have the proper connection. Joe Yahnke addressed the question that as long as you have the universal connection, a

cylinder, and face piece, there should be any reason why you couldn't. A motion was made to approve the RIT Policy 1st: Ryan Brenneman 2nd: Joe Yahnke Motion passed.

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Tony Myers: There is a meeting tomorrow night to discuss points. Dave Nichols asked to possibly look into making a policy for Company level training for Live fire evolutions in the Burn Building. Tony says he will take it back to the Fire School Committee. If the committee decides it is not in the best interest of the building, then the committee will not propose a policy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Business

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made to pay the bills. 1st: John Fornadel 2nd: Chris Krichten Motion Passed

If you are on the Audit Committee, please see Chief Shank right after the meeting. There have been several inquiries regarding the mapping of hydrants. If your area butts up against someone else's', you need to include that in your area. A hand held GPS is used to plot each hydrant location. There is a form used when submitting it in the Excel format. The hydrant location will then appear on your box cards.

Carl Avery stated that Mr. Bair is working back at the York County Fire School, after being on medical leave

Joe Yahnke stated that they used the Fire School flag during a memorial service for a fallen forest fire firefighter. He states that we should look into possibly getting a smaller flag, since the current flag is just too big, and can't stand wind. Chief Shank stated that the flag is at York Tent and Awning being repaired. We have looked into other ways of anchoring the flag.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Commissioner Roth stated that the past number of years, there have been fire departments out in Montana in need of fire trucks. He received a call from Montana recently. They are looking for a fire truck. If you have an old truck to give, please let Commissioner Roth know.

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, June 22nd, 2009, at the Fire School.

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2nd: Chris Krichten Motion Passed

Sincerely,

Heather Marsteller

Heather Marsteller
Recording Secretary