

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

**330 Emig Road  
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday**

June 15, 2009

Vice President Steve Buffington 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. 38 people were in attendance.

Vice President Steve Buffington asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1<sup>st</sup>: John Fornadel  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ryan Brenneman Motion Passed

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

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS:** Chief Cromer: The Board met prior to this evening's meeting. We are having trouble with Liquid Burn pit. It is in the process of being repaired. We talked about the budget for next year. Hopefully the amount will not decrease any from the County. We are on the final stretch of the State Grant. The County has the Lead, and we are behind them. In the next 6 months, we will hopefully be working on some new projects.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Meeting with the county. No new unit designations were approved. The next meeting will on Thursday, June 17th at 1300 hours.

Eric Bistline: On the Paging System, we have completed the 30 day period, and it is in a stable condition. Every site is checked, and the microwave has been checked as well. We completed Round 2 of the circuit merit testing. This included random test site buildings. We tested 79 buildings. We also ran 5 "Can you hear me Now?" tests. Paging dispatches were occurring every 5 minutes on the pagers. There were only 3 failed pages in a total of 2 days. We are looking to finishing up programming the Fire radios by the end of June or the beginning of July. The training video will be available this week. It will be uploaded onto the website. Copies will also be available at the 911 center to anyone who cannot get to the website. They are installing software codes. We will do all the portables and the base stations. They will change out all of the single units and the multiple unit chargers and the batteries. We are looking to cut over at midnight July 15<sup>th</sup>. We are looking to have mobile radios installed by the beginning of November for the mobile radios for the fire trucks. We have made the change at the Iron Ridge site. We have put two radios in each hospital for the EMS personnel. We are looking to cut over to the new paging system on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

With the system on Hanover Hospital, there should be more coverage in some places now, than without the system. There was talk about using the old system for the Hanover & Penn Twp. areas.

It was stated that the CC Scan may not be working if your radios have not been updated.

The Knox boxes have been tested. Chief Shank has a Knox box in his vehicle.

Dave Nichols asked about the wires and cables for the headsets & intercom.

It was asked how long to get portables back? It has been three weeks now, and some departments still do not have their radios back. Answer: They noticed another problem while programming the radios. All programming

stopped until the issue was fixed. Then, all the radios that did not have the latest updates had to be re-programmed again.

If you have any issues with the radios, email Chief Buffington at: [sbuffingt@yorkcity.org](mailto:sbuffingt@yorkcity.org)

If your department would like an "All Call" dispatched for your department only, you need to speak with a shift supervisor. Dispatchers are not allowed to do the "All Call".

There was a comment made that a department received a structure response for a vehicle smoking near a structure. This type of call should be changed from a structure call, to a vehicle near a structure. The 10 foot rule no longer applies.

Call responding on your assigned talk groups. If you cannot communicate with 911 on your portables, use your mobile radios.

Your old portables will work on 33.88 only.

A problem was discussed regarding having a unit dispatched in place of a unit placed out of service. It was stated not to place a unit out of service if you have one to replace it with. If you have 2 Engines, and 1 is out of service for a little while, run the second engine in place of the first one.

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

**Activity:**

- ☞ The month of May was by far our busiest month so far this year; the Fire School hosted **65** events, which accounted for **370** hours of activity. This resulted in an outstanding **5494** Student hours.
- ☞ 370 Hours of use translates into **on average** of 11.9 hours of use **EVERY DAY OF THE MONTH!** *This total does not include hours for office or maintenance staff*

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

The group met on June 1, 2009 at HACC. One of the main goals of this meeting was to try to develop coordinated scheduling between those groups involved that would work toward an scheduling of Major Classes such as the EL series so as to be mutually beneficial to all and avoid direct conflict between providers and increase availability to students

**Combustible Liquids Pit:**

- ☞ Board Member Barry Myers and Mr. Bair have come up with repair plan and hope to initiate it shortly

**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 **Presentation will be Held this August, on the 12<sup>th</sup> @ 19:00** There is no preregistration for this event, it is open to ALL THOSE INTERESTED in FIREFIGHTER SAFETY and LODD prevention

- 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

**THERMAL IMAGING CLASS**

**CHANGE OF DATES**

☞ York County Fire School will host a class from SafeIR. It is titled Tactical Thermal Imaging Training for Firefighters. Will present a 2 day class on the tactical use of TICs. Day 1 does not have a class limit and will be strictly class room. Day 2 of this Session will have a limit of 15 and will be HANDS ON Training in the Burn Building. IF DAY ONE of this class is heavily attended and successful, we will look into scheduling another HANDS ON DAY (limiting factors will be availability of the Burn Building and Finances) 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~~ has been changed
- **NEW DATES is AUGUST 22 & 23, 2009**, This change was made to accommodate the County Convention being held in Helam

**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!**
- ☞ 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 ELEG class that **was scheduled June 23, 2009**
- ☛ 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 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 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - This class is FULL and there are 16 on the stand by list, Your Fire School is looking into options for the stand by students.
  - ELFG – Fire Ground Support – July 7<sup>th</sup>
  - ELEF – Exterior Firefighter – August 4<sup>th</sup>
  - ELIF – Interior Firefighter – September 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Current and Future Schedule:

- ☛ There have been several recent updates and revisions to our course Catalogue recently, please are 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](http://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**.
- ☛ **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.
- ☛ We are working on putting the finishing touches on a course for York County Fire School *Structure Burn Building Facilitator Program* and hope to be offering it soon. This program will presented to those who are selected to be a SBB Facilitators. More details will soon follow on this

Kris Krichten brought up the concern that in the past several months, his department has been asked if they could supply a piece of apparatus for a class being held here at the school. It was also mentioned about compensating the departments for their efforts. Maybe a policy could be put in place. This matter was passed over to the Fire School Committee to look into, and then brought back to the Board of Governors.

The Elevator shaft of the new burn building is locked. There are pallets stacked up in the shaft. Don't bring your own pallets or straw here to the fire school. We get the straw and pallets in. Use only what we have provided.

**YORK COUNTY ATR:** John Sanford: There were 2 calls for the month. The first one was with Jacobus (18) that was water related. The second one was a structural collapse with New Bridgeville (39). Some attended the Confined Space Rescue class that was held here at the Fire School on May 30th & 31st. Just a reminder: With the summer months come thunder storms. If you think you may need the ATR team, call them early. That way they can get their resources together and in place.

**OEM:** Tom Graybill: No Report given

**HAZ-MAT TEAM:** Bob Boeckel: No Report Given

**FIRE POLICE:** James Robertson: There is a list of 11 fire departments that have not paid dues or handed in an active roster yet.

**RIT COMMITTEE:** Jan Cromer: Everything has been accepted. If your department is looking into being inspected contact Rick to set up a time and date.

**FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:** Tony Myers: We have met since last meeting. We were asked to revisit the policy. To protect the instructors, we are waiting to hear the verbiage back from the State Fire Academy and Commissioner Mann's office.

Fire Prevention: No Report Given

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No Business

**NEW BUSINESS:** A motion was made to pay the bills. 1<sup>st</sup>: Joe Madzellan 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kris Krichten Motion Passed

**REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

It was stated that during the Water Rescue last week in North Codorus and Seven Valleys that guys were showing up in their Turn out Gear. When you are on the scene of a Water Rescue, get out of your turn out gear.

Augusts' meeting will be New Apparatus Night here at the Fire School. If your department bought a new piece, and would like to display, you are welcomed to.

After the meeting, there will be a demonstration on oil dry material in classroom 2.

It was asked about the update on getting a new Engine for here at the Fire School. Abbottstown is not looking to have delivery of their new one till November.

The Audit Committee will be meeting tomorrow morning at 09:00 in classroom 2.

Next monthly meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at Mt. Wolf's Fire Department. An e-mail will go out when the location is known for sure.

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kris Krichten. Motion Passed

Sincerely,

*Heather Marsteller*

Heather Marsteller  
Recording Secretary