

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING  
THIRD MONDAY

June 20, 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. Thirty-three people were in attendance. President Rupert introduced Bernadette Lauer from the York County Office of Emergency Preparedness. Bernadette did a short presentation on CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management).

- Team is available 24/7. During business hours call 840-7493 and ask for Bernadette. After hours call the 911 Supervisor at 840-7555 and request the CISM team.
- Anyone who would like to join the team there will be a class on June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>, contact Bernadette for more information.
- Bernadette is also the County PIO if you should need her for an incident.

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

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

- A facility use agreement was adopted. (See attachment to this email).
- General Association financial issues were discussed.
- Renovations and additions (additional storage areas).
- Class attendance and enrollment.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**RADIO COMMITTEE:** Chairman Chief Shank reported that the committee met on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The following designations were approved, Engine 37-2, ATR officer designations, and Utility 49.

- Be patient 911 is still training the dispatchers not to use the HAZMAT dispatch for debris removals. It will however be used for all types of fuel leaks.
- The alerting tone for the May Day response has been decided. 911 will use one long alert tone. The Committee will be asking, under new business, for permission to allow the use of the next greater alarm on all boxes for a May Day until the policy can be completed and finalized.
- The Zone Meetings for the radio project were poorly attended. On July 20<sup>th</sup> representatives from Police, Fire and EMS services will be traveling to Montgomery County 911 to see their system in use and then meet with their end users and discuss how the system works for them.
- Reminder – if you have a radio problem call it in, it cannot be fixed if no one knows about it.

The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Meeting Room #4 at the Pleasant Acres Annex.

## **911:**

Operations Manager Audrey Rychalsky reported:

- The CAD contract is to go before the County Commissioners for approval this coming Wednesday.
- The Incident Types from the fire policy have all been clarified with the dispatchers. A meeting was held with them on June 15<sup>th</sup> and the incident types and problems were reviewed. Please call if problems are still occurring.

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

**Statement:**

**Fire Fighter I testing:**

July 15 & 16, 2005 are the dates of the Firefighter I certification testing to take place here at your Fire School. We have had very few returns as of yet. IF we do not meet a minimum of 15 prepaid registrations for this TEST will be cancelled. Candidates who's application have been accepted (if we are forced to cancel) will have the opportunity to take the open Firefighter I certification test in August at HACC. Firefighter I testing is your option to take. It can help your department obtain grants and it also provides a national registry of your qualifications as a Firefighter. Candidates must have a minimum of a current **Hazardous Awareness** this also applies to **First Aid** and **Professional Rescuer CPR**. They should also make sure they have a **DOCUMENTED Structural Burn Session**. The fee is \$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 sheets to help them in their studying for the test. The FIRE SCHOOL CANNOT TELL YOU, which 12 Stations will be selected.

**Administrative Assistant:**

Our Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Catherine J. Litsikas has taken advantage of a job opportunity and has moved on to her new employment. Cathy has been putting in some evening hours in an attempt to help us keep ahead of paper work. We are currently awaiting a decision from the board of governors as to how we proceed.

**Curriculum and Teaching Issues:**

I have been informed that the new Essentials program that is to be adopted by the Commonwealth has increased to 166 Hours versus the current programs 88 hours. This is an 89% increase in the hours of training required to complete an Essentials program. As this is relatively new information it is unclear what the exact implications will be for the fire school. One possibility will be a reduction in the number of Essentials Classes from our current 4 per year to only 2 (possibly 3, if we can figure out a way to squeeze 166 hours of training into the time available). It should be noted that the new Essentials is a series of modular classes that provides a graduated curriculum. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005, I met with HACC staff and we discussed future educational projects with them. We will be working on sharing schedule information to help alleviate course conflicts. Our next two Structural Burn Session will be scheduled through HACC and will run on a Tuesday, Thursday evening, all day Saturday Schedule The dates will be August 16, 18 and 20, for our next one and our last one of this year will be November 29, December 1 & 3, 2005. It is hoped this will help in paper work processes for Fire Fighter one testing. The York County Fire School is here to serve the Emergency responders of York County. I will keep this in mind as we strive to improve the cooperative relationships with ETAs and other Fire schools in our area.

**Mason-Dixon Extrication Challenge:**

Both Skip Rupert and I are scheduled to be Judges at the Tri –County Extrication Challenge to be held in Stephensburg, N.J. on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. As always we will be looking at their program to see what ideas we can bring back to our event. We are also going to loan them some of our props as a mutual aid effort to promote better competitions for all. Also Skip has told of an event he attended recently where a good deal of their expenses was covered by corporate sponsorship. I feel we need to look into this. We have the expertise to manage the event; we need some help in prevent area such as seeking sponsorship and corporate support. I would like to see a committee appointed and empowered to help us organize an event better event for next year.

A couple of weekend ago Andy Stevens of Union Fire Company, Station 23, came to the Fire School and donated 2 sets of polycarbonate Patient Protection Boards, This came from ideas he saw at the extrication. It is my understanding that Station 23 and 24 now carry these devises. Some persons still have trouble seeing the educational aspects associated with the Extrication Challenges. One definition of Education is to affect and behavioral change. Andy's example of improved patient protection is an example of just such a behavioral change. I am sure there are others that have and will affect York County as well as other Counties as a result of our event.

**Basement Wall:**

The Manchester Township codes officer consulted with us on our basement wall project. Due to lack of handicap access we cannot consider this a classroom area. However, since potentially sensitive documents are stored in this area, we will continue to seek estimates and move to selecting a contractor.

### **Burn Building and Flammable Liquids Area:**

The Board has reviewed the report and is seeking estimates to conduct the suggested maintenance of our burn building. Also the flammable liquids area has been drained and is awaiting maintenance and upgrading. The Program Coordinator has no further information at this time.

### **Fire School Activity:**

The activity at the fire school has dropped some this month with an actual usage of 176.5 hours. This is down from the previous month's total of 319 hours. In June we are rebounding with a projected use of 464 hours. This dramatic increase is due in large part to use by HACC for their Day time EMT program and the Department of Emergency Services 9-1-1 Training. We have also begun our daytime essentials class which has also bolstered our hour. Couple this with use by local Law enforcement agencies we have witness a dramatic increase in hours. It is also noted that more local fire companies are taking advantage of our training facilities for Drills and local level training. YOUR Fire School strongly encourages the use of our grounds for such training.

On a less positive note The Fire School has seen a disturbing trend continue lately of persons preregistering for a class then not attending. There is discussion by the board as how to address this issue. The Fire School CANNOT accomplish this alone; we need the continued and strong support of the Fire Chiefs and Training Officers of York County to make our school successful.

### **Extrication Workshop for Junior Fire & Rescue Personnel:**

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. I know the York County Junior Fire Fighters Association is currently working on training to help them participate this fall.

### **Community Service:**

Recently we have had two persons associated with the Criminal Justice System, and one other person, working at the Fire School on (school-based) community service projects. This "free" labor has gone a long way to spruce up things at the Fire School; items that have been worked on are: Painting of the Yard Hydrants, PIV, Sprinkler Simulator, Hose Stations, the Exterior of the Smoke Maze as well as cutting weeds and various landscaping jobs. The Fire School is a willing host in all forms of Community Service; please feel free to contact us at anytime.

### **Current Schedule:**

The initial 2005 schedule 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 continue to send out training announcements monthly. This may be delayed slightly until we replace our administrative assistant. 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 are the training announcements?" We will be e-mailing periodic reminders of individual courses and information throughout the year. 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.

### **Upcoming Courses**

July 5	Haz-Mat Awareness Refresher 18:30 -20:00 ** Instructor pending, may have to be rescheduled
July 5 & 7	Haz-Mat Operations Refresher 18:30 -21:30 ** Instructor pending, may have to be rescheduled
July 9 & 10	Ropes/ High Angle Rescue 08:00 -17:00
July 15 & 16	FIRE FIGHTER ONE CERTIFICATION TESTING, Friday 19:00- 22:00 Saturday 08:00 -17:00
July 16 & 17	Basic Vehicle Rescue Operations 08:00-1700
July 18, 29, 25 and 27	Incident Command System, 18:30 – 22:30

**YORK COUNTY ATR:** Chief Myers reported that 18 members attended the Manchester Twp. drill. There are several members currently re-certifying in collapse.

**HAZMAT:** Tom Graybill reported that he received information from Greg Noll on Radiological Classes in Nevada sponsored by the DOJ.

- The South Central Region Task Force is sponsoring a 6-day NFPA Command and Control Course that will be held at HACC.
- CART will be holding a large animal rescue over the weekend.
- HazMat Team members attended classes in Maryland and Philadelphia.

President Rupert asked Tom if he had heard anything more on the mutual aid issue and HazMat teams. Tom said he heard at one of the conferences he attended that Mr. Murray is investigating the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania at this time.

**FIRE POLICE:** Jim Robertson reported that a memorial service was held for 13 members that had passed. There are 14 fire companies that have not paid their dues or turned in their rosters. The next meeting is on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Nashville Station 11.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion to pay the bills by Chief Cromer, seconded by John Fornadel. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Chief Shank asked for permission from the body to temporarily dispatch the next greater alarm if a May Day is called, until the committee can finalize the policy.
  - Chief Cromer responded he would like to see the committee complete the policy and not have a temporary policy.

This seemed to be the agreement of the body and the committee was sent back to continue working on the policy until completion.

- Next month's quarterly meeting will be held at Parkville Station 49-1 on Baltimore Street.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

- Chief Dietz mentioned that VFIS was hosting another bus orientation with Bailey Coach. He said it was an excellent presentation well worth the time to attend.
- Chief Senft announced the County Convention Parade would be on Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>. He has auto magnets for sale as a fundraiser \$3.00 each. The parade registration forms have been sent out.
- Chief Deller asked how everyone felt about the 166-hour essentials mandate from the State.
  - Carl Avery said he does not know much about it. He does know the 88-hour course will no longer be offered. The last 88-hour class will be held in September.
  - Skip Rupert (speaking not as the president) suggested everyone make his or her issues/opinions known to the state fire commissioner.
  - Chief Deller asked about making a stand individually as well as through the association. Discussion followed. It was decided to invite Ed Mann or Gary Rickenbaugh to attend our meeting and address our concerns. President Rupert will contact the state fire commissioner's office and extend an invitation for someone to be at the August meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Bowman seconded by Chief Dietz. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

The following stations still owe dues for 2005/2006 – 8, 11, 42, 44,

Next quarterly meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, June 18, 2005 at the Parkville (49-1) Fire Station on Baltimore Street in Penn Twp.

Sincerely,

*Cindy A. Dietz*

Cindy A. Dietz  
Secretary