

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

June 21, 2004

President Skip Rupert called the regular monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order. Forty-four members were in attendance. Following the pledge to the flag Tom Murray from PEMA was introduced and gave a short presentation on how the Hazmat System works in Pennsylvania. A questions and answer period followed.

- President Rupert asked if a Hazmat call is received in the southern end of the county and Hazmat 91 is dispatched and has 2 hours to respond, why can't the Hazmat Team from Baltimore Co. also be dispatched at the same time?
 - Mr. Murray advised that ACT 165 states you may not enter into a mutual aid agreement without approval from the Governor. Maryland also does not have any PA State Certified Teams.
- President Rupert asked if ACT 165 prohibits an out-of-state unit from responding in the Commonwealth.
 - Mr. Murray stated it does not however; Commissioners from Baltimore Co. must give approval for PEMA to inspect their apparatus and records. Once they are certified by PEMA they may respond as a secondary team to assist.
 - Tom Graybill stated that he has letters from Harford Co. and Baltimore Co. and they do not wish to certify in PA. He also said that it will take Baltimore Co. longer than 20 minutes to respond and they do not respond with minimum requirements.
 - Mr. Murray reported that the plan for the future is for the Governor and Dave Sanko to sit down and write into law how mutual aid from state to state will work. This problem is not only occurring in York County but also in many of the other counties in PA that border other states as well.
 - Tom said he is working with Cindy to tighten the Hazmat dispatching policy. Other teams will be dispatched after a certain time criterion is met. Departments will not have to wait until the 2-hour time limit elapses for that to occur.

Minutes of the previous meeting were then approved as posted. Bob Bowman presented the treasurer's report. There was a motion by Chief Joe Stevens seconded by Ken Royal to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

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

- Facility – Blacktop overlay for the parking surface
- Budget Preparation
 - Long term investments
- Certifications and Standards
 - Rescue Units in particular

COMMUNICATIONS:

- President Rupert read a letter from Liz Boyle, Ladies Auxiliary for the York County Firefighters Association, regarding the \$500.00 scholarship they are awarding. Any male or female who meets the requirements of the application may apply. Applications have been mailed out to the stations.

- President Rupert read an invitation to the group for someone to attend an upcoming meeting being held by the Fireman's Legislative Federation of Pennsylvania, at the Clarion Hotel on June 25th. At this meeting Tom Gordon, Audit Manager, Bureau of Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Association Audits, will be the guest speaker. The new number to contact the Fireman's Legislative Federation of Pennsylvania is 1-866-534-3473.
- President Rupert read correspondence from Captain John Shire, Springettsbury Twp. Fire Department regarding the status of Engine 16's inspection to meet light rescue specs. Skip advised that Engine 16 is now certified as a light rescue and he will respond back to Captain Shire.

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chairman Rob Bissey reported that the committee had met on June 9th. One application was approved for Tanker 37.

- Mayday response tabled until further discussion may be had with other fire departments.
- Working Fire response tabled for further discussion.
- QA Issues –
 - Do not call on the radio and advise, "Copied the call waiting on a crew". You should only be calling to advise you are responding.
 - When things are not working properly call in and notify the supervisor immediately after the call.
- Next Meeting August 12th at 7pm at the 911 Center.

911:

Bob Fasick reported:

- June 22, 2004 will be the first meeting of the radio subcommittee. Some things to be discussed are:
 - New radio types
 - Costs & how the radios will be paid for
 - Standardization of equipment across the County.
- Departments will be receiving a three-question survey it must be completed. May possibly be a web-based questionnaire. (Totals will be needed from each department on the number of pagers, portables, and base stations you now have in service).
- Tower work is still ongoing.
 - Chief Nichols asked when the Greenwood Rd. tower would be taken down to replace the ladder? The crane showed up today.
 - Audrey will check with Ryan and call Chief Nichols with the information.

Audrey Rychalsky reported:

- Met with Lancaster Co 911 personnel twice regarding sharing 33.90.
 - Lancaster Co is currently dispatching 80,000 EMS calls and 25,000 Fire calls on 33.90.
 - York Co 911 has purchased 3-tiered lights to attach to the fire dispatch positions. One of the lights will indicate when Lancaster Co. is dispatching.
 - Lancaster Co is looking to program their new Zetron paging system so they will know when York is dispatching. Lancaster is also looking into the possibility of the tiered lights.
 - Lancaster Co. will be switching to UHF for dispatching EMS in about 5 years.
- The purchase order for work to be completed at the Wrightsville water tank will be going in tomorrow.
- Introduce Paul Zimmerer, new Technical Manager who oversees, Information Technology, MDC Program, Radios, and Telephony. Paul is a retired year fire captain from Baltimore County.

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

Statement: We continue to see an increase in use of our facility. In the month of May the School was in use for classes, meeting, and the like for a total of 188.5 hours. This is a 9% increase over April and 28% increase since January. Some of this increase can be attributed to seasonal changes. With all this in mind, it is still good to see the School experience such growth. Total Student hours for the month of May was 1247.5. We are continuing to meet with mixed results regarding our Pre registrations for class some classes have proven to be very successful while others have not. Also, there seems to be no common predictor in what classes will be successful and what will not. For example we had excellent attendance (15) at our Basic Fire Police School held early in May, but when the advanced class came around in the beginning of June, we had a very Low attendance (5). Bucks County Community College has worked with us in a strong effort not to deny training to anyone seeking to attend our classes. However this cooperative effort can only go so far. For us to get the best use out of our Fire School it is critical we have the attendance required. Representatives from Bucks Community College will be at the next monthly Association meeting to help us all be aware of the training opportunities available. The Fire School has recently sent out, by US Mail, an updated copy of our course calendar for 2004, we are currently working on updating our web sight www.yorkcountyyfireschool.org and we continue to send our e-mails with class offerings to those on our e-mailing list. Still we are missing some of the Fire and Emergency Responders in the County. It is of vital importance to the training programs we offer that people "share the word" of what is going on here at YOUR FIRE SCHOOL

Coming Events:

Basic Vehicle Rescue- Awareness,	June 26 & 27, Instructor Dave Nichols
(Can anyone supply a Rescue Truck for this class?)	
Pump Operations I,	June 26 & 27, Instructor Lane
HACC Day Time EMT Class (M, W, F) starts	June 28, Instructor Kottmyer
Pump Operations II	July 10 & 11, Instructor Lane
Legal Concept for Fire Police,	July 17 & 18, Instructor Anthony Ricardi
Vehicle Fire & Other Emergencies,	July 17 & 18 Instructor Butler
Basic Vehicle Rescue-Operations,	July 24 & 25 Instructor Baker *
Basic Vehicle Rescue, Technicians	July 31 & Aug 1 Instructor Nichols*

Fire Ground Operations Module B, Scheduled to Start July 6th. The scheduled instructor had to withdraw – watch your e-mails or call our office for updates

* The Basic Vehicle Rescue Classes are part of a series and there are prerequisites for taking both of these (Operations and Technicians) classes.

The current scheduling of these two courses reflects a change from what was originally posted on our calendar. Please watch for e-mail in the near future from this office regarding the change in schedule.

Projects:

We are still awaiting action on Emergency Medical Equipment and Automated External Defibrillator(s) We have repaired one of our smoke machines at a cost of \$ 219.61 and have discarded the second as it was beyond economical repair. The machines that we did have were inadequate to provide sufficient artificial smoke for training in our Burn Building and Smoke Maze. It is recommended that we purchase a new, larger Smoke Machine. Please refer to the attached quote from Moul Enterprises for various options.

The School may have an opportunity to obtain a MSA Thermal Imaging Camera [TIC] (the Evolution 4000 model). The unit is approximately 2 years old and is equipped with the Quick Temp Option and will include 110 volts AC Charger. The cost to the school would be approximately \$4500.00. The School feels that it is important to the future that Firefighters of York County have an opportunity to train with up to date equipment and techniques. As such, the Fire School strongly recommends we consider pursuing an opportunity to obtain this or another TIC to upgrade our training

The York County E.M.S. Training Institute has provided us with a LCD Projector; this is a most welcome asset to our facility. It is time though that we conduct a thorough review and up grade of our Audio Visual Equipment. This is a key component to virtually every class and several of the meetings that we have here. I do not have a specific proposal at this time. I am requesting the Board of Governors input as how to proceed they would like to proceed.

The Fire School has, with the assistance of the York County E.M.S. Training Institute, made a major upgrade to Radio Communications here at the fire school. We currently have 12 Motorola HT 1250

portable radios with 7 channels assigned. This will significantly improve our training program coordination and operations.

Heat Resistant replacement tiles have been purchased for the Burn building at a cost of \$2,044.27

Other:

The Fire School has had the pleasant experience of having Mrs. Catherine Litsikas as our Student Extern from York Technical Institute since April 20 of this year. Mrs. Litsikas' position as an Extern will come to an end on July 15th of this year. There will not be another Extern available until January of 2005. Cathy has been a very willing and most competent addition to our team. Her skills and dedication have proved valuable numerous times. The efforts she has put forth in the areas of filing, communications and organization have really upgraded our operation. I would like to propose that our group consider offering her a part time position (six to eight hours per week) so that she can help us maintain the advances we have made in our communications and office operations. I therefore suggest that we consider this as item to be tabled for action at the next meeting of the board of governors.

Bernard Anthony reported on the following:

- On June 6th the Fire School Committee met.
- Those who have been using it are leaving Burn Building in good shape.

Jan Cromer reported that there would be a work detail on July 10th to work on lighting in the meeting room. Anyone who is available to help should show up.

Chief Nichols asked if the Fire School has a First Aid Kit and an AED on site? Chief Senft said it is part of the Boards plan to acquire these items. Chief Nichols stated that West York EMS has a Lifepak500 AED for sale at a reasonable price. Chief Senft suggested we should inquire about it.

YORK COUNTY HAZMAT: No Report

YORK COUNTY ATR: Tony Myers reported:

- The Team responded on one standby for a water rescue.
- Rescue 61 responded into Maryland to assist in Hereford.
- Several team members attended a Confined Space Refresher.
- Sixteen members recertified in Swift Water Rescue.
- The Team should be put on standby or on the road early; they can always be cancelled if they are not needed.

EMA: No report in lieu of earlier presentation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- President Rupert read the Funeral Policy to be voted on under unfinished business and asked for questions.
 - Chief Barry Myers stated that it should no longer be a problem with the tiered lights the County is purchasing.
 - Audrey stated that it would still be a problem because we would still be using airtime.
 - Tim Haller asked why the announcements were limited to Current and Past Chiefs and Presidents and not other members who had been involved for many years.
 - Rob Bissey stated that was the way the old guideline was set up by the Association.
 - Tim Haller made a motion to dispose of the proposed guideline. Chief Barry Myers seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
 - Tim Haller asked that a new guideline be written. President Rupert asked Tim to write the new guideline. Tim accepted.
- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion to pay the bills made by Ken Royal, seconded by Tony Myers. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bob Bracken with the Junior Firefighters Association of York Co. gave a short presentation on their Association. They currently have fifteen active stations at this time and they are trying to expand throughout the County. Members must be fourteen years and older to join.
 - President Rupert said that the Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association will support this group and they should ask if they need any assistance.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Chief Barry Myers presented a check, on behalf of Yoe Fire Company in the amount of \$4000.00, to the Fire School to pay for lighting and the sign at the school.
- Glenn Daniels from Jacobus wanted to make it known that Jacobus Fire Company was becoming accredited for Water Rescue and would be available to departments in the southern end of the County for water rescue calls.
- Glenn Daniels also spoke about having issues contacting PennDOT and municipal road crews. He wanted a callout list for PennDOT.
 - Cindy Dietz advised Chief Daniels that PennDOT has gone to a one-call system and it works well. 911 would not give out individual numbers. When 911 is under emergency conditions it does not mean that 911 won't call PennDOT, that is still considered an emergency call and all requests for PennDOT notification are honored. If the state police cover a certain municipality, the fire department would need to contact PSP to have a road crew for that area called out or have the 911-dispatcher contact state police for them. 911 does not maintain municipal road crew call out information for state police territory.
- Chief Joe Stevens made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

The following station still owes dues for 2003/2004 – DDSP-LF – Station 69

Next quarterly meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, July 19, 2004 at the Airville Fire Company, 3576 Delta Road. Light refreshments will be served.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary