

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

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

July 20, 2009

President Richard 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. Fifty-two people were in attendance.

President Richard Shank asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1st: Chris Krichen 2nd: Tony Myers Motion Passed

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

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chief Senft: The Board met prior to this evening's meeting. We discussed several points regarding the state money. We have an HRG consulting firm coming into review documentation. This is part of the process of the site work. We are paying more towards our line of credit. There are a few facility maintenance issues. We approved to have a Non-profit organizational analysis performed.

COMMUNICATIONS: Steve Buffington: I met with Eric and Cindy. We got them to agree on a change on the cutover date from midnight of the 29th, to 22:00 on the 29th. This way there is no confusion on when we are switching over to the new portables. There was a problem in the South with 33.88. The problem has been located, and is in the process of being fixed. The dispatchers have started using an alert tone for all dispatches. Ops 15: can no longer be scanned due to a patch that was put on. They have agreed to look into dispatching on 33.88 instead of 33.90, since most departments no longer use 33.90. They understand the problem.

There was a question regarding the status of 33.88 after the 29th. Chief Shank stated that it will be discussed on the 22nd.

It was stated that it is faster at times to dispatch off the old system with voice that it is to dispatch using the digital system. Seconds count, and originally we were told it would take a few seconds to dispatch using the new system. Why is it taking so much longer than? Chief Brenneman stated that you should go to the 911 Center and have a test page sent out. That way, you know just how long it is taking for the page to be received and the sent out.

The installation of the mobile radios should start by the end of this month, and continue through the month of November.

Several Chiefs addressed concerns during their installation process. They scheduled themselves to be there at their station at a specific time to have their equipment installed. They were late, or no one showed up. One Chief stated that they were scheduled to come back a day or two later, and failed to show up on any of the other dates.

The maps are on the website. The password is the same for everyone.

Dispatchers are not monitoring the Fire Police channels.

The issue came up that there was a digital page sent out updating everyone about the cutover to the new pagers. No updates were sent out though regarding the cutover to the radios.

Concern was expressed on if/when the new system goes down, what will happen? The concern needs to be clarified.

There is another Radio Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday at 1:30, at the 911 Center.

It was asked if there is a Protocol on canceling stations while enroute. It was addressed that many stations are not getting the updates, or if they are, it is hours after the call.

When we go to the cutover, you will get a reminder on the 28th, and several more on the 29th, if Chief Shank has anything to do with it.

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

Activity:

- ☛ The month of June the Fire School hosted **48** events, which accounted for **232** hours of activity. This resulted in an outstanding **4921** Student hours.
- ☛ So far this year we are averaging approximately 242 Hours a of use a month or approximately 60 hours a week with a student hours average of 4098.9 Hours per month
 - The Fire School and its staff are aware of the excellent support the York County Commissioners have provided us. We are proud of the activity levels we are maintaining as a return on investment of the Tax dollars directed our way. We continue to strive to improved our usage levels and support of all Emergency Service providers in York County.

Fire School Recognized:

- ☛ This afternoon the Fire School was recognized by the Adult Probation Department of York County for its support of the training of their personnel

EVOC REMINDER:

- ☛ Sponsoring organizations are RESPONSIBLE to provide vehicles and if need be, authorized Drivers, for the students they send to our EVOC classes. Please remember when you sign off on a student pre-registering for the EVOC class – *IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY – NOT THE FIRE SCHOOL'S*

My apologies:

- ☛ I am not in attendance at tonight's meeting due to some medical issues that are being addressed. I fully anticipate joining you all for the August Meeting.

NEW Apparatus Night:

- ☛ Once again our August Meeting will play host to New Apparatus Night, Please plan on bringing your new (or new to you) Equipment

Combustible Liquids Pit:

- ☛ Repairs are proceeding

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 12th @ 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**

- ☛ As of Saturday 7/18/09, **We have had only one person sign up for this class**, Please get your pre-registrations in as soon as possible or we may have to cancel this class

- ☛ 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. 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 Hellam

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 **FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS CLASS SCHEDULED to begin on July 15, 2009 HAD TO BE CANCELED** the beginning night of the class because only 11 of the 16 persons who pre-registered for the class showed up, One way for the Fire School to reduce the number of canceled classes is for those who sign-up to SHOW UP!

The ENTRY LEVEL Program:

- ☛ Fire Instructor William Staub has begun the ELEG class that was scheduled June 23, 2009
 - **Instructor Staub May also have some opening available in his "EL" series**
- ☛ The SUMMER / FALL Entry Level Class series began in June with Lead Instructor for all four components in the 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:
 - 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 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 , 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.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Barry Myers: There was 1 call for the month. It was a Water Rescue which involved station 12, and the relocation of out out-of-county boat/water rescue agencies to help cover York County during the flash flooding event. There are several trainings coming up in the 3rd quarter. We have a Confined Space 2 at Dallastown High School, Structural Collapse and a Ropes 2 class.

OEM: Tom Graybill: No Report

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Bob Boeckel: We ran a Technician class with 21 new students. 20 students attended the Refresher. The County has a Decontamination trailer, but it is not a County asset. It can be dispatched, but your department will not be the ones setting it up and running it. When the trailer is deployed, so is the Strike Team.

On August 8th, 2009, the Decontamination Task Force will be involved in a training being held here at the Fire School. There will be the three different trailers set up. These trailers however are not set up for firefighter gross decontamination. It is more for the civilians.

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: We met in Nashville last month. There is a new Certification for Traffic Units. 2 Companies are still working on reaching their certification level. Once those two companies are ready, they will then be inspected. Their certification will be valid for three years. The York County Fire Police Association will be doing the inspections.

RIT COMMITTEE: Jan Cromer: No Report

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Tony Myers: We are working on facilities issues

FIRE PREVENTION: The committee is in need some more volunteers. Ryan Brenneman & Steve Miller have volunteered to be on the committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Business

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

AUDIT REPORT: The committee met on Tuesday the 16th. We reviewed several months for the 2008 year. The months we looked at, all deposits & checks matched up and balanced. President Shank thanked the committee for the hard work.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Dover Boro is hosting a water battle this year. For more information on the upcoming event, go to:
<http://www.unionfireandhose.com/flyers/2009/waterbattlerules.pdf>

Chief Buffington thanked everyone who helped with the City Fire last week. There was a total estimate of \$2.6 million dollars in damage. There were some injuries reported, but everyone is recovering.

It was asked on how the Chiefs' Association would feel on trying to start a Fire Police Task Force. A few ideas were mentioned. This includes using 5 geographical locations (Metro, North, South, East, & West). There was also the idea of dispatching Fire Police in Alarms, like 3rd, 4th, & 5th alarm. The ideas could be thought out a little more, and then pass them along to the Communications Committee.

It was asked when Med 10 is down, why can't only the Chief & Duty Officers be informed of the update, instead of waking everyone in the county? Answer: It would take forever to single out only the Chief & Duty Officers. It also informs those who may get to the station first that the radios are down, and you can't use them.

The City of York needs Fire Police for the Motorcycle Rally.

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, August 17th, 2009, at the York County Fire School

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2nd: Dave Nichols. Motion Passed

Sincerely,

Heather Marsteller

Heather Marsteller
Recording Secretary