

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

August 15, 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. Forty people were in attendance. President Rupert thanked Dave Huffnagle and Lori Gillon for providing refreshments for the meeting, as well as those who brought their new apparatus to show.

President Rupert introduced George from the Salvation Army who had their new canteen on display for the meeting. George proceeded to tell the body about the new canteen and that the Salvation Army, in working with the Red Cross, saw a need for an additional canteen in the County. He said the first goal of the Salvation Army canteen is to aid the first responders. At this time they are recruiting and training volunteers. They will be working with the Red Cross and County Control in the coming months to establish a dispatch method and criteria.

President Rupert introduced Ed Mann (State Fire Commissioner) and Tim Dunkle. Commissioner Mann began by talking about Gary Rickenbach who is our representative from the state fire commissioner's office. Gary is currently having some health issues he is dealing with and Bob Bechtel will be covering for him in the future, until he returns. Commissioner Mann then turned the conversation towards the new Essentials program, which he began by saying would be very flexible.

- The modules may be completed however the department chief sees fit. Some members may not be required to complete all four classes depending on their responsibility within the department. Ex- someone who is a driver only may not need to complete all four modules.
- A Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness class is built into Module 1.
- Hazmat is built into Module 2.
- Module 4 has the flexibility of a structural burn being built in or not, depending on the structure of the class.
- The new program is designed to be one stop shopping and you will no longer need to take separate classes for WMD and Hazmat once your Essentials are completed.
- Fire Fighter I and II certification may be requested at the beginning of the class and tested for at the end, depending on how the class wants to proceed.
- Money from the Regional Terrorism Task Force may be used to purchase workbooks for the class.
- Currently the State obtained an ALCOA Grant and purchased 1600 workbooks. They will be free to the first 1600 students who take the new program. It is unknown if an additional grant will be forthcoming to pay for future books.

Questions and Answers

- Q – President Rupert asked if someone already had Hazmat and WMD would they need to retake those sections on the new Essentials program.
- A – Commissioner Mann stated they would need to complete the sections again for the sake of setting a standard.
- Q – President Rupert asked if there was a recommended amount of time to complete all four modules.
- A – Commissioner Mann stated it is recommended that the entire course be completed within two years.
- Commissioner Mann said there would be a 1-year grace period to finish up any modules from the current modular program that is in place.
- Commissioner Mann stated that anyone who has been certified under the 44-hour or 88-hour Essentials program does not need to start over. Those certifications will still be recognized.

Commissioner Mann talked briefly about the "Courage to be Safe" program. It is a 3-½ hour class that deals with "Everyone Goes Home". There are 21 classes scheduled across the state. It is part of the academy on the road program. If we would like to have the class in York we need to contact his office.

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

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

- Several documents for the Secretary.
 - PennDOT Agility Agreement - ratification
 - Proposal for NPDES Permit Testing
 - Contract with CS Davidson for Engineering Services

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chairman Chief Shank reported that the committee met on August 11th. Rescue 4 submitted a renewal application, which was approved pending inspection approval by the Board of Governors. The request for a PSP Fire Marshal designation was denied.

- Montgomery County trip – group of chiefs went and got answers. See a committee member if you have questions.
- Completed Monaghan Township fireboxes.

The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, September 8th at 7pm at the York Water Company.

911: Executive Director, Eric Bistline reported on the following aspects of the Emergency Services Center Project:

Radio –The Radio RFP (request for proposal) will be going before the County Commissioners on Wednesday 8/17 and then released to prospective vendors. At this time there are two qualified vendors, Motorola and MA/Com, E.F. Johnson may also have a product ready by the time they are ready to accept bids. Representatives from the vendors will most likely be campaigning soon, as there is \$43 million dollars at stake. Director Bistline encouraged the Presidents and Chiefs of the departments to listen to the vendors if they were contacted. He stated he anticipates having a contract signed or in principle by the end of 2005. The Montgomery County visit was a candid discussion between paid and volunteer chiefs from Montgomery County and York County on digital alerting. He stated the County is going to digital alerting, but wanted to make it clear that voice dispatching on the radio would still occur.

Building – The building plans were submitted to Springettsbury Township and returned. The ground level of the building was raised 12" – 18 " due to pinnacles. The building is running on schedule.

CAD – The CAD project is running behind schedule due to prolonged negotiations. There is now a CAD build team in place and a second kickoff meeting will occur on August 30th.

Courtyard of Honor – Director Bistline stated that there are plans for a sitting area outside of the new Communications Center with benches. He would like to place some type of memorial (plaque) for line of duty deaths in this area. This would be for Fire Fighters, Fire Police, EMS, Law Enforcement, and Sheriffs. He requested anyone who may have information on an individual who should be included on this memorial to get it to him.

Everyone did a great job returning the surveys that were sent out. 89% were returned. Anyone who has questions regarding the project should contact him, Rob Sterner, Audrey, or Cindy.

Chief Walker asked if there would still be a "Show and Tell" with pagers before they were purchased. Director Bistline stated there would be demos closer to the end of the project.

Chief Nichols asked if it was in the RFP for vendors to provide an affordable solution for in building coverage issues. Director Bistline said that it was addressed in the RFP but in building coverage will be a municipal cost.

Cindy Dietz brought up a discussion, that was held at the Radio Committee meeting, regarding going next due on second or additional alarms after a station previously failed for a piece of apparatus on an earlier alarm (same call). The decision of the radio committee members was that 911 would dual dispatch for the failed station and immediately go with next due piece of apparatus from the resource list.

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

Statement:

Extrication Workshop for Junior (Explorer Post also) 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, Time is getting short. 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. This event costs your Fire School approximately \$1000.00 to conduct; we need your participation to make this return on investment worthwhile. PLEASE, if you have a Junior or Explorer program that would like to participate let the school know as soon as possible

Fire Fighter I testing:

The July 15 & 16, 2005 Firefighter I certification testing was **canceled** due to **lack of enrollment**. Candidates who's application had been accepted were given the opportunity to take the open Firefighter I certification test in August at HACC. Firefighter I testing is your option to take. Your Fire School strongly supports Firefighters who choose this goal and the Companies that support them. Your Fire School has copies of the skill sheets (Pro-board) for all 26 Stations, 12 of which (6 are randomly chosen) will be on the test. Candidates are welcome to get copies of the skill sheets to help them in their preparing for the test. The FIRE SCHOOL **CANNOT TELL YOU**, which 12 Stations will be selected. We have been contacted by BUCKS County Community College about the possibility of using our Facilities as a TEST SITE for some of their Certification testing (IFSAC). Your Fire School is taking the position of whatever works best for the Emergency Personnel of York County and its surrounding area. IFSAC and "Pro-Board" (National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications) certification are reciprocal. Both Colleges have worked well with us and there is no preference given by the school. We are willing to work with either and/or both systems to provide the Firefighters of our area the best opportunities to fulfill their goals of becoming Firefighter I

Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Litsikas has left our employment for another position. She has continued to help us with **some** evening hours in an attempt to help us keep ahead of paper work. Please be advised that confirmation of pre-registration and mailing of certificates will be affected by her departure. We are attempting to fill in as best we can. However her absence leaves a sizeable void in our organization. Her position has not been filled as of this time due to budget constraints. We are currently researching what other options we have to help us fill this void.

Curriculum and Teaching Issues:

The new Essentials program (a series of four Classes / Modules) that is to be adopted by the Commonwealth will increase 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. Tim Dunkle, Administrator of the State Fire Academy and possibly other representatives from the Commonwealth are scheduled to attend this months meeting to answer our questions and to give us some insight on the new program. As I learn more about these offerings, we will have to reconsider the structure of our program offerings. One possibility is there will be a reduction in the number of Essentials Classes from our current 4 per year to only 2 (possibly 3, if we can come up with a way to fit the 166 hours of training into the time available for the summer day time Class). It should be noted that the new Essentials is a series of modular classes that provides a graduated curriculum. This may make the new programs easier to accomplish.

Our next two Structural Burn Session will be scheduled through HACC and will run on a Tuesday, Thursday evening, all day Saturday or Sunday Schedule The dates will be August 16, 18 and 21 <-Sunday, for our next one and our last one of this year will be November 29, December 1 & 3 <-Saturday, 2005. It is hoped this will help in paper work processes for Fire Fighter one testing Through HACC. 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:

I have begun looking for corporate sponsorship for the Extrication Challenge. At last month's meeting, President Rupert asked for volunteers to form a committee to help us organize the event better for next year. We have the expertise to manage the technical aspects of our event; we need some help in areas such as organizational and support aspects of this event. This event is a major undertaking that provides educational opportunities not only for the teams that participate (We are hoping to see some Local team in 2006) but for the spectators as well.

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. It is my understanding that the Board of Governors is having difficulty in receiving bids for the repairs and corrective actions needed.

Fire School Activity:

The activity at the fire school has dropped some this month with an actual usage of 272 hours. This is down from the previous month's total of 464 hours. With our essentials class and EMT Classes coming to a close the hours of scheduled use are anticipated to take a downward trend however our overall trend continues well above last year. In comparing this year's hours used to last year we are already at 91% of 2004 total and that is with only 75% gone. We do anticipate exceeding last year usage by a significant amount. On a less positive note The Fire School has seen a disturbing trend continue lately of persons pre-registering 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.

Current Schedule:

The initial 2005 schedule available online at our web site 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 and we will see that you are added to the list.

Upcoming Courses:

Incident Safety Officer (ISO) 16 hours, August 22 & 24 18:30 – 22:30, August 27 08:00 to 17:00

IFSAC / Buck Community College **FIRE POLICE CERTIFICATION TESTING**, August 24 1830 to??

Pa Essentials of Fire Fighting (EBM), September 6th to November 19th (T-Th Evenings) 18:30-22:30

General Fire Service Rescue (FRES), September 7th to November 9th (Wednesday Eve) 1900 -2200

Basic Vehicle Rescue Operations (BVR-O): September 10 & 11, 0800 -1700

Firefighter Survival (SURV) September 17 &18, 0800-1700

Managing Company Tactical Operations Decisions (MCTO-D) September 24 & 25 08:00 – 17:00

Junior Firefighter / Explorer Extrication Workshop October 1 & 2 08:00 – 17:00

COMMAND SCHOOL (2 – 1 day Classes) Includes NIMS training, Sponsored by York County EMA and SCPaCTTF Contact OEM @ 840-7494

Chief Dietz asked if maybe the Association wanted to cancel the 88-hour Essential course in light of the information from the Commissioner earlier this evening. Discussion followed. President Rupert said we would not be canceling the September class.

Tim Bair said that Joanne Borgel still collects the soda tabs, so please continue to save them and drop them off at the school. He also said that J & K Salvage has been very helpful and going out of their way to supply vehicles for extrication classes.

President Rupert presented framed certificates to Dave Gemmill, Dave Huffnagle, and Lori Gillon for their assistance and donations during the Extrication Challenge in May.

YORK COUNTY ATR: No Report.

OEM: Tom Graybill reported that Bernadette Lauer issued a press release today on National Preparedness Month. There are free seminars planned on September 7th and September 28th on Preparedness.

- September 8th from 0900 – 1300 - NIMS IS-700 Introduction Course at Pleasant Acres. N/C.
- September 24th from 1830 – 2130 – NIMS IS-700 Introduction Course at Pleasant Acres. N/C.
- September 20th from 1400 – 1700 and 1830 – 2130 (repeated) – Methamphetamine (The Newest Drug Threat) Edgar Square room #148. N/C.
- October 21 & October 22 – 0800 –1700 (select one session) – Abbottville at Pleasant Acres. N/C.

If anyone is interested in any of the above classes contact the Office of Emergency Management for more details. 717-840-7494.

President Rupert asked Tom if the Hazmat Team had recently acquired any new toys? He asked if Tom could provide any information at next months meeting. Tom said he would check with Kay Carman and get back to him.

FIRE POLICE: No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Chief Shank reported that the May Day Committee has a meeting scheduled for September 12th. He has received a lot of email, which the committee will be discussing. He cautioned that the body should not hold up the policy just because the communications center is unable to commit to monitoring the zone channels 24/7. There needs to be something in place when a May Day is called regardless.
 - Chief Walker said he heard that 911 is now staffing the second fire position on all shifts fulltime. Cindy Dietz advised that was not correct, nothing had changed; the second fire position is staffed on 1st and 2nd shifts and utilized as a relief position, as needed. It is not staffed on the 3rd shift.
- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion to pay the bills by Chief Shank, seconded by Chief Keith Miller. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chief Dietz asked if the Association was purchasing fire prevention posters this year. Discussion followed. Chief Shank made a motion we purchase 52 tubes of posters this year. Chief Dietz seconded the motion. Motion carried. President Rupert delegated Carl Avery to order the posters.
- Chief Dietz stated he thinks the Association should buy a brick at the Emmittsburg Memorial. Discussion followed. No decision was made. President Rupert asked Chief Senft to look into it until next meeting and have the Board of Governors handle it.
- Dave Gemmill stated that he thinks the Association should send letters to all members of the House of Representatives and the Senate in York County, asking them to support Senate Resolution 60. Chief Shank made a motion to write the letters, seconded by Chief Nichols. Motion carried.
- Dave Gemmill also stated we should write to the same group about re-upping the grant program and include the Governor on that correspondence. Chief Shank made a motion to include this with the first motion. Commissioner Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried. President Rupert will write the letter and get with the Secretary.
 - Chief Dietz stated all departments should also write their own letters, in addition to what the Association sends.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Chief Dietz asked who the current Fire Representative for York County was, for the Terrorism Task Force. He would like to ask them to put in for money for the new Essentials books. Chief Shank said he was the representative and he would take care of it.
- Chief Senft said the County Convention was being held in York City this week. The parade leaves the fairgrounds at 1300 hours on Saturday and proceeds through the City. Everyone is welcome.

Motion to adjourn by Chief Dietz seconded by Bob Bowman. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

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

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, September 19, 2005 at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary