

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

August 16, 2004

In the absence of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Chief John Senft called the regular monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order. Fifty-four members were in attendance.

Chief Senft introduced Steve Lyle, Director of the Emergency Health Service Federation. Steve presented the Fire School with an AED Lifepak 5000. Steve then led the body in the pledge to the flag.

Minutes of the previous meeting were then approved as published. The Treasurer's report was not available and will be read at next months meeting.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chairman John Senft reported the Board met briefly and the following items were discussed:

- Insurance issues
- Vehicle purchase (to be discussed under new business)

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chairman Rob Bissey reported that the committee met and approved the following apparatus designations E25-1, Ser 25-1 (fire police), Ser 25-2 (salvage van), Car 25, E19-1, and E55-4.

- 911 has completed the EMS Designation Policy and reached an agreement with EMSA. Effective September 21, 2004 the following designations will be observed on the EMS Radio. These designations replace Captain, Chief, Lieutenant, and a myriad of other self imposed titles from over the years.
 - EMS + Ambulance Service # (indicates the highest ranking EMS Officer, Chief or Captain)
 - EMS + Ambulance Service # +A (indicates a Captain or Lt)
 - EMS + Ambulance Service # +B (indicates a Lt)
 - EMS + Ambulance Service # +C (indicates a 2nd Lt. if needed)

ALS and QRS personnel will follow a similar pattern.

- Paul Zimmerer from 911 gave a tower site improvement report at the meeting. (Will be given under the 911 report at this meeting)
- VRS units are tying up the radios when changing frequencies.
- Next meeting will be held at Station 24-2 at 7pm on September 9th.
- Rob thanked Dave Hufnagle for all of his help with licensing issues this past year.
- Chief Nichols noted that under the new NIMS regulations that medical sector has been changed to medical group.
 - Cindy Dietz acknowledged and will make that correction to the EMS Policy.
- Chief Nichols asked if a Fire Officer has access to Med 10 can he converse on that channel, due to the shortage of EMS personnel and not always being able to send a representative to standby with command.
 - Cindy advised not at this time, due to the extreme amount of traffic on the MED 10 radio it would not be a good idea to add any additional.

911: Bob Fasick thanked those who completed the radio surveys. The following companies still need to send their information in to be counted.

- Heidelberg Twp (Porters Fire Company) – Need Fire Department and Fire Police totals.
- Springettsbury Twp – Need Fire Department and Fire Police totals.
- West Manheim Twp – Need Fire Department totals.
- Glen Rock Borough – Need Fire Department and Fire Police totals.
- Lineboro – Need Fire Department totals.

Audrey Rychalsky reported:

- Gained approval for a part time program at 911. Looking for fulltime applicants as well. Next fulltime class will start September 20th.

Paul Zimmerer reported:

- Work in Wrightsville began on August 5th.
- The microwave dish at Pleasureville has been moved 30 – 40 feet up the tower to augment the shot between Pleasureville and Pigeon Hills.
- Trees were cut down at Pleasureville to improve the shot from Pleasureville to Reesers Summit.
- It has been identified that the 33.88 receiver at Pigeon Hills is possibly getting some bleed over from the radio station WGTU.
- When calling in and reporting a radio problem be very specific as to what the problem is, weather conditions, what else is occurring at the time of the problem.
 - Neil Doyle said that in his area the transmissions on 33.88 have become garbled. Activation is hit or miss, and they have just recently been getting dual toned. On the south side of Pigeon Hills there is no pager activation.
 - Station 53 reported having the same problems.
 - Chief Nichols said it would be helpful if notification were being made to companies a few days prior to tower work being done.
 - Chief Walker requested a follow up call occur when a problem has been addressed and corrected. He said they receive no feedback and do not know if their problems are being handled or not.

Cindy Dietz reported:

- All 911 Policies and Procedures can now be reviewed at the following URL. The URL is private and while the Policies and Procedures Section is part of the Department of Emergency Services website you cannot get to them by just going to the site, you will need the URL. She will not be producing new Guideline Books for the fire departments this year. Everything can be viewed/printed from the site.
 - <http://www.ycdes.org/html/policies.html>

FIRE SCHOOL: Carl Avery (not present) submitted the following Monthly Report:

Statement: I apologize for my absence from this meeting. I am in Bethlehem, Pa supporting the Junior X team from Glenrock as they participate in the First National Junior Extrication Challenge. On Tuesday the 17th I will be updating my Regional Certification as an Extrication Evaluator.

With the close of the month of July some of our most active programs are coming to a close. This summer, with the Day Time Essentials Class and the Daytime Emergency Medical Technicians Class, the school has been a busy place. Now that we have entered August we expect to see a slight dip in usage of the facilities. This will be a transition period as we head to fall and the classes scheduled then.

I do not know if it is the weather or what the circumstances are, but we have had a couple of classes with high pre-registrations, which have failed to meet expectations when the first class was held. If this trend persists, we may see the need to add a processing fee to help assure attendance. As always, we need students. We have the facilities and we are working on updating and improving them all the time. We have access to some of the best instructors in the country. But, with out students we have nothing.

The Fire School is thinking about revamping its curriculum for next year with an emphasis and Basic and Advanced Courses and leaving more of the intermediary/Company based training to the individual Fire Companies. Classes such as Engine Company Operations and Aerial Operations may be better suited to Classes held in station. Of course the Fire School and its facilities will always stand ready to assist in supporting such local classes through the **SCHEDULED** use of our Burn Build, Training Tower and other resources we can deliver. The Fire School would appreciate your feed back on such ideas. Please e-mail (yorkcofireschool@aol.com), write, or call this office with your constructive opinions.

The Rescheduled Pumps II class only had three persons pre-register and was canceled.

The Module D of Fire Ground Operations has been canceled due to declining enrollment in the Module C. The Module C program was canceled when a minimum number of students failed to attend the first nights class. We did have enough pre-register but actual attendance failed to meet the threshold to conduct the class.

The meeting, sponsored by HACC, of area county fire training programs that was to be held on July 27th was postponed and is pending a rescheduled date. The purpose of this meeting was to work on ways where the area county programs could work cooperatively to promote fire service training and to avoid duplication of efforts that result in negative impacts on all our programs

INJURY AT THE FIRE SCHOOL: On Saturday, August 7, 2004 a firefighter received a burn injury during a training exercise. The firefighter was treated at the scene and transported a Local area hospital for further treatment. The Firefighter is at home recovering from his injuries.

BREAKING NEWS: On August 11, 2004 a new Lifepak 5000 was delivered to the Fire School. We are currently working on the necessary protocols and appropriate storage of the unit. It is our intent to make this unit easily accessible. We look forward to taking this BIG Step in improving the safety of the environment of the fire school.

Coming Events:

- Confined Space Rescue, September 4 &5, Instructor Lane (0800-1700)
- Haz-Mat First Responder Awareness, September 9th, Instructor: Lane (18:30-22:30)
- Wilderness Search and Rescue, Search Responded, September 11 & 12, (0800-1700)
- PA Essentials of Fire Fighting (EBM), September 14 – December 11, Instructor: Anthony (16:30-22:30)
- Basic Vehicle Rescue-Technician, September 18 & 19 (0800-1700)
- Principles of Building Construction –Noncombustible, September 25 & 26, Instructor: Lane (08:00 17:00)
- Haz-Mat Operations Level Annual Refresher, October 2, Instructor: Lane (08:00 14:30)
- Fire Arson Investigation, October 2 & 3, (08:00-17:00)
- Foam Fire Fighting Technician, October 2 & 3 (08:00-17:00)
- Challenge the Future, Extrication 2004, October 9 & 10 Instructor Dalrymple and others
- Fire Fighter I test, November 20, administered by HACC

Projects:

1. The Computer upgrade for the office assistant has been accomplished.
2. We have made an initial contact with the alarm service, we do not have any more information on upgrading our as of this time.
3. An AED for the school has been obtained. We are still working on Oxygen and other EMS Equipment (See report above re AED)
4. The MSA Thermal Imaging Camera [TIC] (the Evolution 4000 model). We have previously reported on has become available. 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. The Board of Governors will be provided with information points regarding this potential purchase for their consideration
5. While we have made substantial progress with our Teaching environment here at the school we still need to continue our upgrades in the audiovisual adjuncts. I intend to in the next month get bids on VCR/DVD Players for the two Classrooms and a dedicated television for Classroom two. We still have need and room for improvements in this area.
6. With the increased use of our facility for EMS/EMT training we will start to revamp and update storage for the teaching aids that accompany this.

Other: The Fire School in looking forward to Our Assistant returning as an employee on August 30th. Mrs. Litsikas will be a valued employee and an asset to the Fire Service of York County

Carl also submitted for publication the following:

Executive Summary for the period of January through July 2004:

The York County Fire School has been involved in a dynamic period of transition. During the first half of this year the school has experienced a change of day-to-day management staff. Mr. Paul L Schaefer, the School's original Director completed his retirement from the facility in Mid-January. At that time the Program Coordinator, Carl D. Avery, assumed

the responsibility for the School's day-to-day operation. Mr. Avery was hired in October of 2003 with the intent of transitioning in to the position of Operations Officer at the facility. Mr. Avery has enthusiastically taken on the challenge of building upon the Foundation laid by Mr. Schaefer and the members of the Fire Chief's and Fire Fighter's Association of York County.

The Fire School's Program Coordinator has worked with Local Fire Instructors, the Fire School Committee of the Association and the Board of Governors to chart of path for positive growth and enrichment of the 12 acre facility. The School's rich, Twenty-five plus year, history has laid a strong foundation for future development. We have twelve different buildings and training areas on our campus that are in various stages of development. All of our facilities require maintenance and upkeep to keep them available for the most up to date and efficient training for our Emergency Responders. Please note we stated Emergency Responder. The Fire School is the lead agency for training Firefighters in York County. We also provide access to our facilities to Emergency Medical Providers, Police and even Search and Rescue Dog teams as well as our long-standing commitment to Hazardous Materials Response. It has always been the school's goal to provide a high return on the investment of the monies spent here. One way we see to do that is to open our doors to all of those persons who the residents of York County may have to call upon when an Emergency strikes. Our guiding principles are forged around our mission statement: The York County Fire School's mission is to manage and provide training opportunities while maintaining access to safe, realistic, and consistent training facilities for the Fire and Emergency Service providers of York County and its surrounding area. The York County Fire School has committed itself to a process of continuous quality improvement in its Facility, Course Offerings and support of Emergency Services Education in York County

Classes and Training Sessions - Attendance:

911 Center training for the Fire Service - 74
Essentials Class, – 60
Fire Ground Operations - 20
Haz-Mat Operation Review – 167
Haz-Mat Awareness Review - 2
Haz-Mat Operations – 11
Haz-Mat First Responder Awareness – 7
Emergency Response to Terrorism, Basic Course – 11
Principle of Building Construction, Combustible – 4
Incident Command System – 8
Incident Safety Officer – 4
Truck Company Operations – 7
Structural Burn Seminar – 18
Confined Space Rescue – 7
Aerial Apparatus Operations – 11
Basic Fire Police – 14
Advanced Fire Police - 5
Arson Detection for the First Responder – 6
Basic Vehicle Rescue, Awareness – 28
Basic Vehicle Rescue, Operations – 15
Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician - 15
Company Level Burn Sessions – 51
Emergency Vehicle Operations – 12
EVDT Train the Trainer - 14
Initial Response to Terrorism (Bomb Class) -32
Pump Operations I – 19
Emergency Medical Technicians Class – 23
Legal Concepts for Fire Police – 15
Vehicle Fires and Other Emergencies – 13

Through the end of July the Fire School will have served over 673 Students. The above information does not reflect any uses of our facilities by the Law Enforcement Community or Specific Training conducted by and for the County Haz-mat Team under the office of the EMA or the County's CPR training for its Employees The facilities were in use for over 1168 hours.

In our spirit of continuous quality improvement the School Staff, the Fire School Committee and the Board of Governors reviewed our assets and responsibilities and have set forth on a quest of upgrading the fine facility we have. All of this while maintaining a due regard to fiscal responsibility. Generally speaking Projects have fallen into one of three categories. The first category is Safety, the next is upgrading the educational environment and the last being efficiency and appearance. All three of these categories intertwine to one degree or another. It is also noted that the synergy of the there does tend to produce outcomes greater than the sum of the parts.

Projects Accomplished

	Project	Safety	Educational	Efficiency
1	Remodel / Update Office area, add instructors office			XXX
2	Establish tool Cache, to assure proper maintenance of the Facilities			XXX
3	Improve communications, add phone line and improve computer access, upgrade fax, establish web sight, upgrade Mobile phones			XXX
4	Update and increase Radio communication capabilities on and around training grounds	XXX	XXX	XXX
5	Purchase heat resistant panels to continue maintenance on ort Live Fire Burn Building	XXX	XXX	
6	Add Computer for office assistant, improve communications and record keeping			XXX
7	New Storage facility on Extinguisher training area, To centralize and organize our extinguisher training equipment		XXX	XXX
8	Improve maintenance and monitor of run off water containment pond	XXX		
9	Improve Security, Phase one of Alarm System upgrade and re key buildings	XXX		
10	Improve utilization of Break room area			XXX
11	Dispose of unneeded and unwanted items, Clean up facility	XXX	XXX	XXX
12	Install window blinds in class rooms, to promote better use of existing audio visual equipment		XXX	
13	Repair One artificial Smoke machine, Upgrade replace other artificial smoke machine	XXX	XXX	XXX
14	Major overhaul and up grading of facility lighting, including better more efficiecent illumination of Training Grounds, Upgrades to class room 1 (old class room) and better light of facility entrance and sign	XXX	XXX	XXX

Projects Pending

	Project	Safety	Educational	Efficiency
1	Automated External Defibrillator, The school is working on obtaining 2 to provide for the safety and well being of our students, guests and employees	XXX		
2	Improved Emergency Medical Response Kit, see above	XXX		
3	Improved Classroom adjuncts projectors computers DVD player etc		XXX	
4	Upgrade/Replace our outmoded Thermal Imaging Camera	XXX	XXX	
5	Redesign and upgrade various aspects of our Flammable liquids area	XXX	XXX	XXX
6	Remodeling project to Create a Office / Command Post on the training grounds	XXX	XXX	XXX
7	Make improvements to bring Class room 3 up to usable status		XXX	XXX
8	Number Building and Install a Directory		XXX	XXX
9	Build a Forcible Entry Simulation area		XXX	XXX
10	Install a Fire Behavior Simulator	XXX	XXX	
11	Improve Seating and Rehabilitation areas through out the training grounds	XXX	XXX	
12	Improve Vehicle Rescue training area with Concrete pads, and props to improve realism of training	XXX	XXX	XXX
13	Improve/Upgrade Technical Rescue Area (including Haz-mat training area	XXX	XXX	XXX
14	Repaving Project to maintain and upgrade existing facilities			XXX

FIRE SCHOOL CONTINUED: Bern Anthony reported he has Structural Burn certificates to distribute tonight. An ID Tag for Josh Landis from Nashville has also been turned in and can be picked up.

YORK COUNTY ATR: No Report

EMA: Tom Graybill read a report from Emergency Management Director, Kay Carman on where and how the Homeland Security money is being spent and how departments can obtain funding. Anyone interested in further information on how to get involved should contact Chief Rick Shank, Fire Representative, for the South Central Counter Terrorism Task Force.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Chief Senft advised that in the Treasurer's absence the financial report would be given at next month's meeting.

- Chief Shank brought up for discussion the Mayday Policy that has been tabled for the past few months. He stated that the National Standard is to dispatch a full second alarm. What are the body's thoughts? Discussion?
 - Chief Senft appointed Chief Shank chair of a committee to investigate the possibilities and come back to the group with a recommendation.
 - Mayday Committee Members: Chief Rick Shank (chair) (Manchester Twp), Chief Dave Nichols (West Manchester Twp), Deputy Chief Kevin Hale (New Freedom), and Ken Royal (Red Lion)
- Chief Senft called on Deputy Chief Haller who was ready to present his Funeral Announcement Policy. It was decided not to read the policy but to send it out with the minutes so everyone could read it and discussion would follow next month. Deputy Chief Haller will email the policy to the Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chief Nichols asked if there was any thought given to purchasing an AED Cabinet so the AED was readily available if it was needed. Chief Senft advised the Board was still deciding exactly where the AED would be placed.
- Dave Gemmill voiced concerns on the Junior Extrication on behalf of the Junior Fire Fighters Association. He said the main concern was that there are no mandatory requirements to compete. Chief Senft will advise President Rupert to contact Bill Hoover, Bob Bracken, or Cory Gemmill regarding this issue
- Chief Shank asked who is Tanker 74? Why were they operating at the Fire School? Chief Senft advised they would be checking with Carl when he returns.
- Fire Commissioner Roth made a motion to purchase a new pick up truck for the fire school and dispose of the old one. Chief Keith Miller seconded the motion. Discussion followed.
 - Tony Surtasky asked what kind of truck?
 - Chief Senft replied it was a Chevrolet, 92 GVW, with a four wheel drive package as well as the snow plow prep package, cost \$20,347 plus the cost of a plow, if bought under state contract
 - Bern Anthony asked if the current truck is really that bad that it needs replaced now?
 - Chief Senft advised the current truck needs a new transmission for a cost of approx. \$2000.00+ and it has 79,000 miles on it.

Motion carried to purchase a new truck.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Chief Senft advised Dale Laughman from Seven Valleys Fire Company passed away – keep him in your thoughts as we leave tonight.
- Deputy Chief Chuck Riley advised Stations 3 & 11 were hosting the County Convention this weekend. The last few information packets that were put together did not have the rules and regulations inside. They will be available on Saturday if anyone needs a copy. On Saturday registration will be from 0800 to 1200 at the Spring Grove Intermediate School Complex. The parade route has changed and maps with the new route will be provided. Mugs, T-shirts, and Ceramics are available tonight if anyone would like to purchase them.
- Chief Ira Walker advised on July 9th Wayne Schaefer was diagnosed with pancreatitis. Anyone who would like to help or send a word of encouragement you may log on to www.waynestewartstown.com.
- Chief Senft thanked Lori Gillen from VFIS and Dave Hufnagle for providing refreshments for the meeting tonight.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The following stations still owe dues for 2003/2004 – DDSP-LF.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, September 20, 2004 at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy Ann Dietz

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary