

# Fire Chiefs' & Fire Fighters' Association Of York County, Inc.

**330 Emig Road  
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday**

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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. Thirty people were in attendance.

President Richard Shank wanted to thank every fire department that participated in a 9/11 Memorial. He also wanted to scold those that come to the Chiefs' meetings that did not pass the message along to their members of their fire departments. Chief Shank received at least two phone calls from people complaining they knew nothing about the Memorial being held at Prospect Hill Cemetery. It was a specific fire department invite only. It was for all departments that wanted to participate. It has been discussed at numerous Chiefs' Meetings prior to the event.

President Richard Shank asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1<sup>st</sup>: Chief Steve Buffington 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chief Tony Myers Motion Passed

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

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS:** Chief John Senft: The Board met this evening prior to the meeting. The Board discussed Fire School issues. We also discussed finances, and approved the Rescue Certification design. We also briefly met in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Erik Brown: 1. When command is established, they need to remember to use that command identity when calling York. (Example: Command abc to York) Some departments are in the routine of just calling "command to York." Currently one dispatcher may be listening 2 or 3 operation channels and it gets very confusing for them, especially during high traffic times. (storms) 2. If you are operating a large incident and you need additional ops channels, PLEASE ask for one. DO NOT assign yourself channels. It is the job of the dispatchers to keep control of the radio system and if you go and assign yourself channels, they not only lose control of the system, but you could be putting your people or people from another incident in danger if that channel was already assigned to a different incident.

Deputy Chief Tim Mooney mentioned issues that were experienced during the recent storms. He expressed concern during Phase 1 Emergencies, resources should not be limited to just one Engine depending on the type of call. He also mentioned that they were on their way back from a call, and never knew 300 yards behind them was a water rescue emergency going on. This particular incident was never voice dispatched. If it was, they would have turned around and responded to the call. Erik will look into the issues. Hopefully someone from 911 will be at next month's meeting.

**FIRE SCHOOL:** Administrator Richard Halpin: We had 220 hours of training conducted here last month. We had several cancelations due to the hurricane and flooding. I want to thank everyone that came out to the 9/11 Ceremony at Prospect Hill Cemetery. Everything went well. There were some that said they knew nothing about the ceremony. The easiest way to receive updates from us is to be on our emailing list. If you want to be on the list, see to it that Heather or I get it, and we will get you on the list. Currently there are about 160 email addresses on the list. This is a good way for us to send out important information for everyone to see. We are looking to run a Firefighter 1 Certification Academy here. The students that were in the last Delmar Series are

going to be the test group. The test is scheduled for April of next year. In the end, if they are successful, they will each come out with First Aid / CPR, and ProBoard certifications in Haz-Mat Awareness, Haz-Mat Operations, and Fire Fighter 1. The cost right now would be \$440 a student. We are also working on next year's training subscriptions. Packets should be sent out no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. We are also working on next year's classes. We have some new ones scheduled like Attic and Basement fires.

Chief Steve Buffington mentioned that his department recently had a death of an active firefighter in his department. He was told to always push to have an autopsy performed. Results from the autopsy prevented the family from receiving death benefits from the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation. He thought it would be good to have the class "Taking Care of Our Own", as this class was offered years, back, but it seems things may have changed slightly. Richard will look into getting the class here.

**YORK COUNTY ATR:** Chief John Sanford: We had 4 calls for the month. One was a High Angle Rope Rescue with station 39. We had a Vehicle Accident with Structural Collapse with station 21, and two Confined Space Rescues with station 99. For the year, we have had 21 calls. Just a reminder to the Chief Officers, firefighters should not be entering swift moving water in TOG. They should also be wearing PFDs as well.

**OEM:** Tom Graybill: Keep all your records and receipts from the flood if your department incurred any damages to your equipment or if you had to feed your personnel during the emergency. If you have everything well documented, you may be able to get some money back. There is no guarantee that you will receive any, but it does not hurt to try to and see if you can receive some type of reimbursements. Also,

**HAZ-MAT TEAM:** Tom Graybill: We had 7 calls for the month. We have had 29 calls total for the year.

**FIRE POLICE:** Hayden Mitchell: The next meeting is scheduled for this Monday at Yorkana Fire Co. (Sta. 38).

**RESCUE INSPECTION:** Deputy Tim Mooney: We have one more inspection. The stickers are coming.

**FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:** Chief Steve Buffington: The last meeting was canceled, so there is no report tonight.

**RIT:** Chief Joe Yahnke: No Report

**FIRE PREVENTION:** Chief Shank: Steve is not here tonight, but the posters are in. If your department requested posters, please make sure they get picked up.

**FUND RAISING:** No Report

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Tim Stoner of New Cumberland River Rescue wanted to clarify issues that were brought up from last month. It was stated that the organization is not Fire Police, but the department was a member of the York County Fire Police Association. There was concern about liability. New Cumberland River Rescue is working with the State to get Worker's Compensation. They are waiting on the letter yet. As far as self dispatching, Tim stated that every time they respond, it is because they were asked / okayed to respond. Chief Shank stated that if they wanted to respond to certain municipalities, they would need to have a written agreement with the Fire Company and the municipality they are responding to. This was not an Association issue.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion was made to pay the bills. 1<sup>st</sup>: Chief Jan Cromer 2<sup>nd</sup>: Deputy Tim Mooney Motion Passed

Chief Steve Buffington stated that one Engine has been placed out of service. We are in the current process of redoing our box alarms.

#### **REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

Bob Bowman stated the annual York City Christmas ornaments are in. This year is the Eagle Fire Station.

Next month's quarterly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at New Bridgeville Fire Co. (Sta. 39).

Just a reminder that November's meeting will be held on November 28<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month) due to the PFESI dinner this year.

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chief Steve Buffington Motion Passed

Sincerely,

*Heather Grove*

Heather Grove  
Recording Secretary