

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

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

September 21st, 2009

Prior to the start of the meeting, John Waters gave a presentation of "Fire Sprinklers, Are they right for Pennsylvania".

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. Forty-three people were in attendance.

President Richard Shank asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1st: Joe Yahnke 2nd: Joe Stevens 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 authorized the payment of \$18,000 + interest to pay off our line of credit. The Pass through agreement was reviewed and is ready for signature to be one step closer to receiving the state payment.

COMMUNICATIONS: Steve Buffington: I have been a little occupied this past week.

Paging Issues: As far as Chief Buffington was aware, there were no complaints reported over the week-end. If you have any issues, get a hold of Chief Shank or Steve Buffington. Let them know that you are having a problem. If they are not reported, they can't be fixed. The Commissioners are meeting sometime this week. It would be nice to see some of the fire personnel at their meeting. The next Radio Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday at Lincolnway.

Eric and Cindy stated that everyone should be getting additional information about your calls.

Chief 63 stated that during a page, the lists of cross streets are very confusing. One example he gave was I-83 North at mile marker 12, I-83 South at Mile are 8. "Well where is the accident? Is it north bound or south bound?" Cindy stated that there is a program that can make the Cad work. They are trying to work on a solution.

It was suggested that maybe in order for this paging system to work better, a group should be formed with radio committee members, and dispatchers. This way suggestions can be made. If the issue can't be resolved one way, maybe it can be fixed another way. That way, we as emergency responders are getting what we need, but we understand where the dispatchers are coming from, and could compromise.

The dispatchers are having issues with the alert tone. Chief Shank asked to see a dispatcher send out the alert tone. After seeing how difficult it really, Chief Shank agreed to eliminate the alert tone as of tomorrow. You will no longer hear the alert tone anymore.

Eric stated that the installation is process going well. Mike Brown is now in charge of the process. He understands your needs. Currently we have 4 groups installing the radios throughout the county. One crew is leaving the

process. We are trying to backfill them with another team. We are finished or about finished with numerous departments.

We are currently reprogramming the radios to be more user friendly. We have the template. Things are going well. So far, 747 portables have been reprogrammed. There are still 18 companies that have not scheduled to have their radios re-programming yet.

Someone stated they were having problems with base stations. They can't program like a mobile. An issue occurs when you are on the scan. You can listen to dispatch, scan, and then all of a sudden it drops the scan. So then you miss everything the dispatcher may have stated. The issue will be addressed on Wednesday.

Because of time, if you have any issues or concerns, that were not addressed this evening, please email them to Phil, so we can move on.

Nick & Dan from 911 did a short demonstration on how use the web based system to send out station pages. The I.D. is issued to the Chief of the department only. The Chief is held responsible if any issues occur with improper use or abuse of the system. The dispatching of calls will take priority before individual station page requests are actually paged.

Someone stated that they were having problems with the portable radio batteries. The indicator would show half of the battery life still available, but you could not send or receive any messages.

Someone asked, "How are the patches coming along for the other counties?" Eric stated they had a patch for the State Police, and Lancaster. They are working on an agreement with Cumberland County. We had to apply for a license for Adams County. Adams County will pay for this process. The three counties in Maryland had all agreed, but were stopped by the C-mart group. We as a County are ready. We are getting delayed by the other counties that are not ready.

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

Activity:

☛ During the month of August, the Fire School hosted **59** events, which accounted for **308** hours of activity. This resulted in an outstanding **4,538** student hours. So far this year, your Fire School has provided over **2,244** hour of use for classes, meetings, drills and practice. We have also been the site responsible for More than **36,000** student hours of training since January, currently averaging over 4,000 student hours a month.

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*

NEW OFFERING

☛ Your Fire School, working together with Paradise Fire Equipment, will be brining "Captain" Dave P. Fornell, author of the "*Fire Stream management handbook*" as well as numerous articles in magazines such as "FIREHOUSE", "FIRE CHIEF", "FIRE ENGINEERING", "FIREFIGHTER'S NEWS" and "FIRE & RESCUE" to York County on November 14th. His Seminar is entitled - *Commanding the*

Initial Attack This engaging program will feature:

- Size-up, Planning and Attack Strategies
- How to manage the initial attack with limited staffing
- Lightweight construction and its impact on the Attack
- Tactics for fire combat in Lightweight construction

☛ Registration fee is **\$20.00 and it includes Lunch**

Fall Technical Rescue Classes added

☛ Structural Collapse 1 – October 28

☛ Confined Space Rescue - Awareness – November 6

☛ Confined Space Rescue - Operations – November 7 & 8

☛ **BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS**

The ENTRY LEVEL Program:

- ☛ Fire Instructor William Staub has begun the ELIF class that was scheduled August 15, 2009
 - **Due to an unanticipated DROP in attendance, Instructors Straub's and Instructor Hoover's ELIF Classes are going to combine for their Final Exercise. Hopefully attendance will be such that these classes will be able to have Live Interior Fire Combat as part of their class final.**
- ☛ 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 date:
 - ELIF – Interior Firefighter – September 22nd – tomorrow night!

Current and Future Schedule:

- ☛ Our Course Catalogue is updated on an ongoing basis, please be sure to check out our web site. Be sure to check it often.
- ☛ 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

☛ **Courses coming up over the next month:**

<u>Course</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Pre-registered</u>	<u>LOW</u>	<u>MINIMUM (+)</u>	<u>FULL</u>
EL – Interior FF, Hoover	9/22/09	17		X	
Ropes and Basic Rigging, Cadden *	10/3/09	4	X	<CANCELED	
Haz Mat Ops 472, Lane	10/5/09	7	X		
Foam Technician, Lane	10/7/09	8	X		
Trench Rescue Awareness, Cadden	10/7/09	2	X	<CANCELED	
Aerial Ladder, Extended, Lantz	10/10/09	10	X		
Pump Ops 1, Lane	10/14/09	2	X		

- ☛ **THERE STILL IS TIME TO SIGN UP FOR most of THE CLASSES THAT ARE BELOW MINIMUM, BUT DO IT SOON or they may have to be CANCELED**
- ☛ For more information on these classes and a pre-registration form please go to our web-site: www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org
- ☛ We are working on the 2010 Schedule at this time, any input is welcome. Please contact your fire school with your suggestions and constructive comments.

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. Students 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 your 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 be presented to those who are selected to be a SBB Facilitators. More details will soon follow on this.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Barry Myers: There were 4 calls for the month. The first was a Trench Rescue with Station 23. The next call was for a Water Rescue / Stand-by for Station 5. The last two were both Water Rescues. The first was with Station 61 and then Station 59.

OEM: Tom Graybill: No Report

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Tom Graybill: There were 6 calls for the month.

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: Nothing to report on.

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Tony Myers: No Report

FIRE PREVENTION: There is nothing to report. Carl Avery asked, "What are we doing about posters?" No one stated that their department couldn't get fire prevention posters.

FUNDRAISING: George Boyer, Ryan Brenneman, John McDonald, or Bob Bowman: No Report

RESCUE COMMITTEE: Joe Yahnke: As far as a committee, we believe our job is done. We made the recommendations as a committee, and the general assembly voted, and accepted them. Now there should be another committee formed to plan and do the inspections. Chief Shank asked for volunteers who would like to serve on the Rescue Inspection Committee. If anyone is interested in volunteering on the committee, please let Chief Shank know.

RIT COMMITTEE: Joe Yahnke: The committee met tonight. Those departments with a RIT team, look for a mailing that will be going out this week or next week. We are planning on conducting inspections starting in October.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Business

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made to pay the bills. 1st: Joe Stevens 2nd: John McDonald Motion Passed

President Shank stated that he met with numerous school districts throughout the county recently, and stated that the schools liked the suggestion of numbering each doorway of the exterior of all of the school buildings. The numbers are to be 6" and either white or black reflective. This helps identify which doorway emergency personnel are using to enter the structure. The main entrance is number 1, and it continues in a clockwise pattern, for however many doorways there are in the school. It would have been nice to have them also put on the inside, so you know which doorway you are at inside, but the schools thought that it would look tacky, and the numbers would take away from the appearance of the school.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

There are fliers in the back informing everyone that the 911 Center will be holding their Open House on Saturday, October 3rd, 2009 from 12-6 pm. It would be nice to have a few pieces rescue equipment on display.

Each year the York City Fire Department selects a station and has a Christmas ornament made. The 2009 ornaments are in. If you would like to purchase one, see Bob Bowman or Albert Schaeffer.

Best wishes to Nick Coby from the 911 Center. Thank you for all of the work you have done. We will miss you.

There is a Get Well Card going around that is being signed. John Fornadel had surgery, and will be laid up for a few weeks. If you would, please sign it.

The York County Fireman's Association is still looking for a fire department to host the 2010 Fireman's Convention Dinner / Meeting / Parade.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, October 19th, 2009. No exact location has been determined, but an update will be passed along once the location has been selected.

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2nd: John McDonald Motion Passed

Sincerely,

Heather Marsteller

Heather Marsteller
Recording Secretary