

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

October 17, 2005

President Skip Rupert called the quarterly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order and led the pledge to the flag. Red Lion Fire Company President Ken Royal gave the welcoming address and President Rupert gave the response thanking the Red Lion Fire Company for their hospitality and congratulating Ken on the newest addition to his family, a baby boy. There were forty-seven members in attendance.

Roll call was taken. Twenty-seven out of sixty-five stations were represented and reported.

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

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

- Burn building is failing – not usable at this time.
- Working with the Fire School Committee
- Budget for next year submitted to the County Commissioners.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chief Shank reported the committee met on October 13th. The next scheduled meeting will be on November 10th. The following items were discussed.

- Designations for Engine 44-1, Brush 52 and R41-2 were all approved. R41-2 was inspected and approved as a light rescue per Skip.
- When requesting out of county units for mutual aid you must request the units through York County 911.
- Hold off on box alarm changes – meetings will be occurring with every department to review the CAD boxes. Changes may be made to the CAD boxes before they are entered in the new system.
- NIMS – looking at apparatus typing requirements.

911: Cindy Dietz introduced Bob Bragg the new Radio Administrator for York County 911, and Radio Technician Nick Coby. Bob and Nick encouraged the body to contact them directly with any radio concerns; they are looking forward to meeting the Chiefs in York County.

Cindy Dietz read the following information provided by Rob Sterner, ESC Project Director, who was unable to attend. (The information was also emailed to all Chiefs earlier in the day).

A question was asked at the September Fire Chiefs meeting regarding house sirens and civil defense sirens. The question has two parts: Should fire companies' re-license existing sirens on low band? And what is going to happen to the civil defense sirens as part of the radio project?

Below is the position of the Department regarding these issues:

- Yes, Fire Departments should apply to re-license their existing sirens on low band. The County will continue to alert on low band until a date yet to be determined by the Executive Director. That date will not be prior to 1/1/08.

- During the second and third quarter of 2007 the County will begin the transition to digital alpha- numeric alerting at 450 MHz and activating sirens at 450 MHz. As stated above, we will continue to alert on low band through the transition period. If a Fire Department wants to maintain their house siren they will need to purchase the associated equipment (decoder etc.) that will decode the digital signal and activate their house siren. Estimates for this decoding equipment including labor charges, etc. varies widely. However, for budgeting purposes the County is recommending that Fire Departments budget on the high end of the estimates (\$3,000).
- During this transition Fire departments should decide whether or not they would maintain their house siren independently of what the County decides to do with the civil defense sirens. The County has not made any decisions regarding the civil defense sirens at this time and is not part of the scope of this project.

Chief Jan Cromer said that a pros and cons list from the County, should be provided on digital paging, based on the Montgomery County trip. He stated that in addition to house sirens, he was concerned about how lights, doors, and Gamewell systems will be affected. He feels there has not been enough discussion on alerting and how costly it may be.

Chief Shank will contact the Chiefs who participated in the Montgomery County trip and ask for their input and then provide a list of pros and cons to the membership based on their feedback.

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

Statement:

Burn Building and Flammable Liquids Area:

The Burn Building has been deemed unsafe. On September 25, 2005, a steel shutter fell off the side D/A corner of the second floor during a class. Fortunately, no one was injured. However, a complaint was made to Manchester Township. After inspection by their codes officer, the "structure was deemed unsafe for use, until such time all structural evaluations and repairs have been approved and a certificate of use has been issued by Manchester Township." The Engineers who performed our inspection in November of 2004, and issued their report in April of this year, has made an onsite review of the Building. **NOTICIBLE DETERIORATION** has occurred since their initial exam. The Board has met with the Engineers. From their initial survey, consideration of the nature and extent of all the repairs, a consideration of a NEW Burn Building was deemed economically feasible. There is a strong desire to make sure that we have a facility in place in as short a time as feasible. 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. If you can help, please contact the Chairman of the Board of Governors

Structural Burn Session for November 29, December 1 and 4 (Note new last day):

In the absence of our Burn Building we had one of two choices for our last SBS classes this year. We can either cancel the class, or make arrangement for another Burn Facility. We are in the process of selecting a lead instructor and securing the use of the HACC Burn Building. Please watch your Emails for more details.

Essentials Class:

The Fire School's last offering of the Essentials Class Continues to go well. There have been some relatively minor discipline issues as with most of our Essentials Classes. I would like to remind Chiefs and Training officers that the Fire School does have a policy for conduct unbecoming. It reads as follows: Conduct Unbecoming, Any conduct (either by act or omission) that may cause people in the community to see our Fire School as less than the PROFESSIONAL PLACE of LEARNING that it is. If a participant conducts them self in a less than Professional manner, they may have their *privilege* to *attend* the YORK COUNTY FIRE SCHOOL SUSPENDED

Extrication Workshop for Junior (Explorer Post also) Fire & Rescue Personnel:

This outstanding opportunity for Junior Fire Fighters and Explorers was postponed due to lack of enrollment. A date may be set for March or April of next year. Mr. Rupert and I want to thank York City Fire and Rescue Service Explorer Post and Glenrock Fire Company for their support and interest in the Program. Your Fire School continues to stand ready to support any Junior, Cadet, or Explorer Post who wants to get involved. Call the school, and we will help you prepare for the next Workshop.

Local Area Networking Comes to YCFS:

Through some donated hardware and some IT Services, Your Fire School has added a Local Area Network and some other related features to its computers. The network is both a wired and wireless type. This new feature should be barely noticeable to our students. As we continue to grow and evolve, it should become a great aid to our instructors. We have established an Instructors Section, available on the main computer, which allows them to access ONLY items in the training folder on the "N" Drive. We have already populated the Training folder with PowerPoint Presentations and electronic versions of form required by both HACC and BUCKS, so the instructors may have ready access to these features.

Administrative Assistant:

We are very please to announce that Heather Marsteller of Stewartstown (a member with North Hopewell/Winterstown FD, Sta. 45) is contracting with the Fire School for the position of Administrative Assistant. The Board of Governors was able to secure funding for this position until the end of the year. At the beginning of next year the position will be reviewed and a determination if adequate funds exist for this valuable assistance. The new position will be for Twelve Hours per week, with a Flexible schedule. Ms. Marsteller can be contacted at the fire school by phone 717-767-4097, or by e-mail at YCFSHMM@aol.com

Fire Fighter I testing:

We have NOT scheduled another Open Firefighter One test for this year. We are working with Red Lion and Buck's Community College to conduct an IFSAC Firefighter I and Firefighter II tests. It should be known that we are more than willing to work with any individual or group of departments who want to schedule a test, and use our facility. We have a very good working Relationship with Both Bucks and HACC (HACC is Pro-Board Certification). We are willing to work with all parties to facilitate testing here at your fire school. PLEASE REMEMBER both IFSAC and Pro-Board Certifications have Reciprocity.

Curriculum and Teaching Issues:

The new Essentials program (a series of four Classes / Modules) that the Commonwealth is adopting the first of the New Year (2006), is an area of concern for me. While Commissioner Mann's and Fire Academy Director Dunkle's presentation answered most of the questions I had, **The Fire School** is still left with developing how we will present the new program as part of the Fire Schools Curriculum. I will be working with Both HACC and BUCKS and Local instructors to determine how best to schedule these new classes. We **MAY** have a delay in getting out our Yearly Schedule at the beginning of 2006 as a result of this. 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. As of this time I anticipate running 3 or 4 Structural Burn Sessions next year (2006). I am currently considering sticking primarily with our core programs of the Basic Fire Series, Pump, Haz-mat and EVOC for 2006. I do believe the Fire School has the opportunity to offer so much more, but without students, we have no class. IF a **Fire Company or Group of Fire Companies** contacts me with a request for specialized training, Your Fire School will work to get the program. **ALSO**, we have established a very good working relationship with classes being held off campus, and then using the Fire School Campus and its resources to supplement the local departments facilities.

Mason-Dixon Extrication Challenge:

I have begun looking for corporate sponsorship for the Extrication Challenge. To date with Sponsorship coming from Drover's Bank and Memorial Hospital we have \$500.00 Ear Marked to make this event **HAPPEN**. We can use more. At the August meeting, President Rupert asked for volunteers to form a committee to help us organize the event better for next year. We still need **VOLUNTEERS**. We have the expertise to manage the technical aspects of this 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.

Fire School Activity:

The tally for hours of fire School usage September was down from last month's Estimate but we are still over the total number of use hours of the school, comparing this year to last year (year end total) September's use hours were 272 Hours of usage. With the closing of our Burn Building we are definitely loosing hour of use, however with the 2 Essentials Classes and the EMT course at the school the projection for October is 312 hours of use. Skip Rupert and I are planning on visiting **Local Fire Houses** to get your input as to how we can make us more available and more attractive to you for your Fire Service Training needs. Please remember, 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 2005 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, and it will take you directly to the listing of classes. We continue to send out training announcements monthly via E-mail. With the replacement of our administrative assistant, we hope to get back to mailing information to the individual fire stations again. 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:

COMMAND SCHOOL (2 – 1 day Classes), by YCEMA and SCPaCTTF Call OEM @ 840-7494
Basis Vehicle Rescue-Technicians, November 5 & 6, 08:00-17:00
NIMS Training, October 24, 25 (18:30-22:30) and 29 (0800-1700)
Haz-Mat Awareness Refresher, November 9, 18:30 to 20:00
Haz-Mat Operations Refresher, November 9 & 10, 18:30 to 21:30
Structural Burn Session (SBS), 16 hours November 29 & December 1 1830 -2230 and Dec 4 0800 to 1700
Forcible Entry (TFE), December 3 & 4, 0800 to 1700

Chief Cadden asked if notices would be sent out again now that there is an administrative assistant at the school. Carl said that they would work on it.

Joe Yahnke thanked Carl for his assistance to the Red Lion Fire Company.

President Rupert named the Fire School Committee for 2005/2006. Members are as follows:

Chairman - Scott Vinup

Committee Members:

Joe Mazdelan	Brad Dauberman	Josh Young
Joe Yahnke	Ira Walker Jr.	Barry Myers

YORK COUNTY ATR: Chief Tony Myers reported 6 calls for the quarter. Trench Weekend 2006 is being held in Manchester Twp. the first weekend in May.

OEM: Tom Graybill reported on the new Hazmat equipment acquired by the OEM for the Hazmat Team. Tom provided a list of the items to President Rupert, who will have copies made and distributed to the body.

FIRE POLICE: Jim Robertson reported that the fire police met on September 26th in Windsor.

- There were two fire police who had passed away in the last month.
- Fifteen people attended the Fire Police Certification class at the Fire School.
- Nominations were held. Eighty members from thirty-seven stations were present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- President Rupert stated that there are three stations 8, 11, and 42 that are delinquent in paying their dues for 2005/2006.
- President Rupert gave the first reading of the by law change that was proposed at the September meeting. Carl Avery will post the change.
- President Rupert asked Cindy what she had found in her research of the minutes, regarding a spending limit for the Board Of Governors. Cindy advised she had checked the last five years of minutes and was unable to find a motion.
 - Commissioner Roth made a motion that the Board of Governors be authorized to spend up to \$10,000.00 without approval from the body, to maintain the Fire School. Second by Ken Royal. Motion carried.
- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion to pay the bills by Kerry Herman, second by Ken Royal. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- President Rupert named the following Nominating Committee: Curvin Wolfgang, Rick Witten, and Troy Snyder. Let anyone on the committee know if you are interested in running for an office in 2006.
- Lori Gillon talked about bricks that are for sale at the National Fire Fighters Memorial. A letter will be going out. An application will be in the PA Fireman. Lori also has applications for anyone interested.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Lori Gillon announced that the Robert Little Safety Award went to the Dover Township Fire Department this year. They received an honorable mention and \$600.00.
 - Lori recognized Chief Dave Markle from Lincolnway Fire Company, for their participation in the Operation Safe Arrival program. The department pledged and had no incidents for the year.
 - Lori also recognized Thomasville Fire Company for their participation in the same program.
 - Lori said that the SR60 program is now available on VHS.
- Dave Gemmill stated that while President Rupert currently was unable to submit a letter in support of legislation on behalf of the Association, there are provisions in the by-laws to make changes. He encouraged individual stations to send their letters.
- Chief Dave Nichols stated he thought there should be a state instructor on the Fire School Committee. President Rupert asked if there was anyone interested in serving.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Bowman second by Chief Dietz. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Tuesday, November 22, 2005 at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary