

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

October 18, 2004

Fire Company President Rick Lehman welcomed the Chiefs Association Members to the Shrewsbury Fire Company.

President Skip Rupert then called the quarterly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order, and led the pledge to the flag. Forty members were in attendance. Skip introduced John Moore from the Ginn Group Inc., based in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Moore was representing a Fire and Emergency Services consulting agency. He spoke about Fire Service Accreditation and how he was looking to put together a plan for departments in York County. He was looking for a group of interested departments to go together and commit 24 months to sponsoring a workshop to become accredited. Mr. Moore's consulting agency would act as a private contractor and assist with the accreditation through CFAI (Commission on Fire Accreditation International).

Fire Commissioner Roth gave the response to Chief Lehman's welcome and thanked the Ladies Auxiliary and Fire Company for hosting the meeting and preparing dinner.

Roll call was taken. Twenty-one out of Sixty-five departments were represented.

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 John Fornadel. Motion carried.

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

- Personnel Issues.
- Future projects for next year.
- Budget completed and submitted to the County Commissioners for approval.

COMMUNICATIONS: President Rupert read a thank you letter from Leffler Energy.

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chairman Bissey reported that the committee met with only two members present on October 14th. This was not enough to hold a meeting so the applications and funeral policy have been put on hold until next month. Rob reminded all departments to submit new applications on all replacement pieces, as well as any new equipment. Next meeting scheduled for November 11th at the 911 Center.

911: Rob Sterner introduced himself as the 911 Project Director. Rob reported that the radio recommendations for the project have been given to the Commissioners, but no action has been taken yet. Rob then reported on the following items:

- They are moving on the CAD recommendations. The CAD RFP has been released. There was a pre-proposal conference last week for prospective vendors. Out of 18 vendors 10 have filed the "intent to propose" document. Final proposals are due by November 17th. The CAD Committee will then narrow down the selection to three vendors in November. The chosen top three vendors will do a formal four-hour presentation for the CAD Committee and a separate three-hour demo for first responders. The demos for first responders will be held on December 8th, 13th, and 14th from 1800-2100 hours in the Pleasant Acres Auditorium. A different vendor will demo on each date. All are welcome to attend.
- Radio survey results will be sent via email within the next 10 days so that you may check your individual totals for accuracy and confirm the numbers. Be sure to include fire police radio totals.

- Paging - a consultant from L. Robert Kimball will be present at next months meeting to answer any questions on digital paging.
- At a future meeting information will be put out on grant information, to assist in reimbursing any uncovered radio costs.
 - Working on setting up a grant-writing workshop for responders.

Chief Walker asked if it would be possible for each department to get a total amount that the radios will cost them so they can have an idea on how to budget for the new radio system.

- Rob said that they would try and get something together such as a total amount for all radios for each department based on the reported totals. He would not be able to give exact prices for each radio due to the bidding process, and wanting to negotiate the best possible prices.

Discussion followed on Alpha Pagers. (Attached to this email are responses to questions on alpha pagers supplied by Rob Sterner.)

Audrey Rychalsky reported that the Wrightsville is now up and operational.

Cindy Dietz reported that Firehouse Software version 6 is now in the early stages of distribution. Anyone who has not renewed their maintenance contract will not receive the update and will only have a limited time before they will be unable to send their reports to 911 and stay in compliance with Pennfirs. Version 6 will accept the later versions of 5.0 right now, but as there are updates to version 6 it will not accept the 5.0 versions. This was confirmed with the State Fire Academy as well as Firehouse Software. Please keep your maintenance contracts and software up to date to avoid problems.

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

Statement:

Challenge the Future; Extrication 2004 took place on October 9 & 10, while our attendance was less than hoped for. Those who did attend received excellent training both in the Classroom and in the Hands on Evolutions. On Saturday the Fire School had over \$300, 000 dollars worth of new vehicles on loan to us including a Hybrid Toyota Prius and a Hybrid Honda Civic for the new car portion of the program. Instructor Dave Dalrymple of Roadway Rescue gave the class the some excellent information on what we can expect when dealing with the latest in automobile technologies. It was especially good to see local vehicle rescue instructors Tony Clouser and Rick Witten participate in this class. The format of Sunday's Challenge was designed to make this a LEARNING experience for all involved. Our event was a new twist on the idea of Extrication Competitions. All scoring and ranking were removed from the competition format and the evaluator trainers rendered assistance as needed during the scenarios as well as engaging the team in a post exercise debriefing, This new format for training received enthusiastic support from those in attendance and the evaluator trainers. There were 3 teams, one from the City of York Fire and Rescue Services Explorer Post, one from Milton Fire Department, Milton Pa and one team from the Glen Rock Fire Department. The teams received challenging scenarios and had strong support from the from the evaluator trainers. The members of the committee that brought this Extrication Challenge Workshop to life look forward to holding another one next year. It is hoped that now that the initial program has been run that some of the fears that held back participation may be diminished and attendance at next year's event will be higher.



We continue to work on a Firefighter One Certification Test to be held here in November on the 19th and 20th. This too is a significant task. The Fire School Staff and has organized an advisory committee and have met with Perry Pierich from Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC). HACC and YCFS will be working together to bring this test to York County. Please note that there are prerequisites for this test and Firefighters should make sure they are up to date with Professional CPR, First Aid, Haz-mat Awareness and a Structural Burn Session before the test date. We have spoken with Bucks Community College and they will expedite The Structural Burn Session Certificates so that students in need may have them for the Test

In September we saw the monthly School use hours increase to 239 from 189 hours in August. This is an increase of 50 hours. October promises to be our busiest month this year with the 911 Center using our facility for training and the Fall Essentials and EMT Class as well as Haz-mat and Blood Borne Pathogens classes. We anticipate the Scheduled usage of the school to taper off towards the Holidays.

The Fire School is will be revamping its curriculum for next year with an emphasis on Basic and Advanced Courses. This would leave more of the Intermediary/Company based training to the individual Fire Companies. Classes such as Engine Company Operations and Aerial Operations can be held in local Fire Stations, the Fire School and its facilities will always stand ready to assist in supporting such local classes through the SCHEDULED use of our Burn Building, Training Tower and any other resources we can deliver. The Fire School will be looking into more advanced course such as Fire Officer I. Please e-mail (yorkcofireschool@aol.com), write, or call this office with your constructive opinions



Our New EMS Cabinet

The Lifepak 500, Oxygen and an EMS bag are now stored for easy access near the main entrance to the Classroom and Administration building. This life saving equipment is stored in cabinet with a red frame and Plexiglas window. A three-inch star of life decorates the door. Please make sure you familiarize yourselves with the location of this life saving equipment.

The Time has come for the Association to consider and, if appropriate, make arrangements for sending persons to the 2005 FDIC in Indianapolis. There are excellent programs there and it is strongly recommended by the Program Coordinator that we continue the practice of sending representatives from the county to attend. I further recommend that we encourage our candidates to strongly consider the weeklong program. The H.O.T. and other pre-conference works shop are the real highlight of this event. I recommend prompt action on this so the desired classes and hotels may be reserved and so that we can take advantage of any early bird discounts.

At the request of the Board of Governors, The Fire School Program Coordinator has completed an initial draft of the Facility Use Guidelines for Company/Departmental Level Training Section 1 Structural Burn Building. While these guidelines are derived from those in use by HACC, This office has made some changes to have the document to better suit our facility. This Document will be turned over to the Board of Governors for their review, comment and input at tonight's meeting. As Program Coordinator, I recommend that a version of this document be made available to all Fire Companies and Departments in the County for their review and comment prior to implementation. I further recommend that each member of the Board of Governors signify this as Official Association Policy, by signing the finalized version.

Coming Events:

- Blood Borne Pathogens & Infectious Diseases, October 22, Instructor: Page (There will be an AM and PM course offered 0800 to 12:30 and 13:00 to 1730)
- Highway Incident Scene Safety and Traffic Control, October 23 &24 (0800 to 1700)

- Farm Rescue, October 30 & 31, (0800 to 1700)
- Rural Fire Ground Water Movement, November 6 & 7 (0800 to 1700)
- Structural Burn Seminar, November 6 & 7 (0800 to 1700)
- Haz-Mat Operations Refresher, November 9 & 10 (1830 to 2100)
- Haz-mat AWARENESS, November 11, (0800 to 1230)
- Incident Command System November 13 & 14, (0800 to 1700)
- Street Survival for Emergency Personnel (0800 to 1700)
- Fire Fighter I test, November 19 (1830 to 2230) 20 (0800 to completion) administered by HACC
- Advanced Fire Police November 20 & 21 (0800 to 1700)

Projects:

1. The Fire School, Manchester Township Fire Department, Lowe's Hardware and A B C News Channel 27 will be working on a special project using the Fire School's burn building. The Segment, which is anticipates being aired sometime in November, will focus on the value of closing doors to control Smoke and Fire Spread
2. The alarm service is working on upgrading our alarm system. We do not have any more information on upgrading ours as of this time.
3. The MSA Thermal Imaging Camera [TIC] (the Evolution 4000 model). That was approved at last months meeting is now in the Schools possession. Instructors are being encouraged to incorporate this piece of equipment into their Class. It is there to be used and trained with, do not hesitate to become familiar with its capabilities and potential uses and to put it to use. The cost to the school was \$4500.00.
4. Initial research and planning for the remodeling a portion of the existing ladder shed into a Command Post/ Field Office has begun. This will be a project scheduled for completion in 2005
5. The new pick-up/ plow truck has an anticipated delivery in the next 30 or so days. The board has held discussion and at the recommendation of the fire school staff a spray on bed liner is planned for the new vehicle. The Fire School Staff is also going to recommend that a frame mounted trailer hitch that matches the vehicle's towing capacity be added after the vehicles delivery.

YORK COUNTY HAZMAT: Tom Graybill reported one call in York City and two stand bys for the month.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Tony Myers reported:

- The Team did two presentations this month. One for 911 and one at a fire station.
- Responded on a couple weather related water rescues and stand bys last month.

EMA: Tom Graybill introduced Bernadette Higgins, PIO/Planner/Trainer with York County EMA. Bernadette wanted the opportunity to let the departments know who she was and that she was there to help. She offered her services as PIO to the departments when they had large-scale events. Bernadette advised she was also the CISM Coordinator and she was looking to recruit members, anyone who is interested in joining the team should contact her. President Rupert thanked Bernadette for her help with the Media and the Explorers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the bills. Motion made by Ken Royal to pay the bills, seconded by Chief Keith Miller. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Commissioner Roth made a motion that the Association sends 2 –4 people to FDIC next year. Chief Keith Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Rupert said that the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute Dinner would be on November 22nd this year so we will not need to change the meeting date next month.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Rick Witten said that next Wednesday (October 27th) Station 31 would be hosting a Department of Agriculture, Food Preparation Course, for volunteer operations, anyone interested in attending should contact Rick.

- Lori Gillen from VFIS advised a Rollover Prevention Class would be held on October 23rd. No cost for interested VFIS clients.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The following station still owes dues for 2003/2004 – DDSP-LF – Station 69

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, November 15, 2004 will be held at the York County Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary

