

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

November 22, 2005

President Skip Rupert called the regular monthly meeting of the Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association of York County Inc. to order and led the pledge to the flag. Twenty-five people were in attendance. Carl Avery had placed flyers at the tables regarding a website for near miss reporting www.firefighternearmiss.com. President Rupert passed around a card that was brought in by Jim Robertson for Moses Baker, who is not doing well.

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

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

- Spoke with the Chief County Clerk regarding the fire school budget, it is not finalized but we should receive the same amount as last year with the possibility of an incremental increase.
- Services of the County Grant writer were offered.
- Burn Building issues

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chief Dietz reported the committee met on November 10th. No radio applications were acted upon. The next scheduled meeting will be on January 12th. The following report for the radio committee was submitted:

The meeting began with an overview and demonstration of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) equipment located in the 911 Center. W. James from 911 gave the presentation.

There was a brief discussion on the 800Mhz radio update within the 911 Center. This doesn't affect the Radio Committee or the Association. This is a PEMA/Penn DOT issue.

N. Coby and B. Bragg reported that twelve (12) amplifiers have been ordered for the radio towers. These will be installed to replace the aging "tube type" amplifiers.

They reported that they would be raising the 33.90 radio antenna on Pleasureville Tower by 21 feet for better coverage.

They reported they would be working on an in house backup system for the paging system over the next two (2) months.

C. Dietz reported that initial data entry has begun for the CAD system. Their personnel will be receiving additional training on December 5. Data entry for the CAD Fire Boxes should began after that training. Special note: all fire chiefs must contact Cindy or Brandy at 911 to get the CAD Fire Box information reviewed and confirmed. There will be no changes after this.

P. Zimmerer reported that the radio department now has all the county radios installed in them. This increases their ability to conduct field research, testing and problem solving. It is important for personnel reporting problems to give the time and location of where they are experiencing the problem, so that the radio department can go out and try and pinpoint the issue.

It was noted that the radio project bids would be opened on Monday, November 14, 2005.

We then held a lengthy discussion on NIMS Resource Typing. One of the biggest rumors and concerns we have been hearing is that we will have to rename our Tankers and call them Tenders. From what we could find this is incorrect. Resource typing will not necessarily affect our radio designations.

E. Brown stated that he felt we needed to revisit the Rescue – vs – Squad issue. After lengthy discussion and some good points made by E. Brown, J. Fornadel, and P. Zimmerer, we feel that this issue does warrant revisiting. C. Dietz advised that if we were going to make a change, it had to be before December 5, when data entry would begin. It was decided that the large number of Rescue vehicles in the county and the fact that they are not designated as light or heavy rescue in any resource manual or document available to dispatchers or fire personnel, warrant a possible change in radio designation. After discussion and review of surrounding counties and state designations, it was proposed that we designate light rescue vehicles as “Rescue” and heavy rescue vehicles as “Squad”. Because of the importance of addressing this issue in a short time frame, with CAD right around the corner, an e-mail will be sent to association members advising them that this issue will be discussed at the association meeting on November 22, 2005, and that a decision will be made at that meeting.

The final discussion was on the next radio committee meeting. It was decided that there would be no scheduled meeting for December. However, if J. Welty needed to have a meeting with us regarding NIMS Resource Typing, we would schedule a meeting for this purpose.

Chief Senft stated that NIMS document ICS420 covers the Tanker versus Tender issue.

911: Project director Rob Sterner gave the following update on the ESC Project:

Building – Springettsbury Twp. has recommended the land development plan. The building goes out for bid in mid December. Bids will be in by January. Building phase is projected to start the first week of March and be completed by September 2007.

Radio – The RFP bids are back. Motorola and M/Acom have both submitted comprehensive bids. There were other vendors who bid on specific portions of the RFP i.e. microwaves, pagers. The RFP’s are very lengthy. They are in the process of being reviewed. M/Acom submitted four options and Motorola submitted one option in their respective packages. County staff and the Communications Subcommittee members will conduct interviews with the prospective vendors. The interviews will take place on December 1st, 6th, and 8th.

CAD – Phase I is underway, the GIS map layers are being prepared. Run card training is set for December 5th – December 8th. Go live date set for mid May.

Cindy Dietz asked that Chiefs do not email Quality Assurance, if they need a call researched, or they have a complaint. Quality Assurance does not handle those types of issues, and they are not in the office after hours or on weekends. Please contact the on duty shift supervisor for these things.

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

Statement:

Burn Building:

The Burn Building was deemed unsafe in September; a steel shutter fell off the side D/A corner of the second floor during a class no one was injured. An inspection by Manchester Township codes officer resulted in the structure being 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.” After due deliberation, the consideration of a NEW Burn Building was deemed economically feasible. While there is a strong desire to make sure that we have a facility in place in as short a time as feasible it is likely that we will be with out a burn structure for up to two years. Your Fire School will work with neighboring facilities to maintain the availability of LIVE FIRE TRAINING during this time.

Flammable Liquids Area:

The flammable liquids area is in need of maintenance and upgrading. We have an urgent need for a mason who can repair and reset the brickwork in the pit. We are working with other resources to replace the vertical prop (Tanker). Possibly with aircraft Fire and Rescue simulator, this would be dependant several factors, including obtaining certain grants and funding and if we can provide adequate space for a small plane prop. PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN- the Longer we wait to repair our flammable liquids pit, the more expensive it will be to finally repair. If you can help, please contact the Chairman of the Board of Governors

Important UPDATES

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

Our last SBS class for this year will be held. John Ramstad will be the Lead instructor. The November 29th and December 1st Sessions will be held at the York County Fire School. And we have been able to arrange for the use of the Burn Building at HACC the Live Burn Portion of this program. HACC has been very supportive of the Fire School in this time of need (with our burn Building closed) and is deserved a thank you for their help.

Future Classes Requiring Burn Building Facilities:

Until we can secure a safe replacement for our Burn Building we will be working closely with HACC and other similar resources to continue to provide training on as much of a local level as possible. What this means, most likely, is that we will hold most of the class room session at the fire school making for ease of attendance and then securing the services of HACC, or others for the live burn part of the classes.

Essentials Class: **NEW INFORMATION**

ONE LAST CHANCE... THIS TIME IS THE LAST TIME... STARTING December 15th 2005, we will conduct one more 88 Essentials Class. This Class will conclude in March of 2006. This Class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday Nights with Dan Hoff as the Lead instructor. As of Sunday November 20th we had 20 registered for the new class.

The two Fall Essentials Classes that the Fire School thought would be the last offerings concluded on Saturday November 19th. With over 30 Students completing these courses Lead instructors Eash and Gunnet have much to be proud of. The Fire School would like to acknowledge the outstanding cooperation these two instructors showed in making these classes available to the as many students as they did. Thanks to the support of Bucks Community College we were able to obtain the use of the Lancaster Public Safety Training Center for their last class.

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. The Fire School is going to approach the York County Junior Firefighters Association to ask them to join us in sponsoring this effort. Our Workshop brings Rescue Instructor/Evaluators in from throughout the northeast to work with teams of juniors on vehicle extrication. Its format is based on the vehicle extrication challenges as conducted by TERC. However our event is focused on the education of and exchange of idea between the instructor evaluators and the teams as well as amongst the teams themselves. The Fire School feels that the expense involved requires us to set a minimum attendance of 6 teams of 6 (teams are not restricted to York County, but York County teams will have a preference). The tentative date is April 15 and 16 but is subject to change, watch for updates on this outstanding opportunity

Local Area Networking Comes to YCFS:

As reported last month, the Fire School has been fortunate enough to gain its own Local Area Network (LAN). As we develop our LAN we hope to expand our services to the instructors in making better access to document and teaching programs. Our LAN is a combination of wired and wireless, which offers us a great deal of flexibility and high performance to our users. We continue to populate our "N" Drive with programs that could assist our instructors to deliver better classes.

Administrative Assistant:

For those of you who missed last months report, 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 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. Heather is already

making a positive contribution to our continuing effort to improve our services the Fire and Emergency Service providers of York County. Our Web Site has been updated and we have increased our mail outs to help keep all departments better informed. Thanks Heather!

Fire Fighter I testing:

The Fire School recently provided a test site for Red Lion and Stewartstown Fire Departments to conduct a closed Firefighter I, and II and Haz-Mat Operations Certification exam. There was approximately 97% Success rate for the 30 plus candidates for this weekend long test series.

Curriculum and Teaching Issues:

The Fire School plans for the new Essentials program (a series of four Classes / Modules) that the Commonwealth is adopting the first of the New Year (2006), are as follows: The Fire School will plan to run two tracks of the new essentials program. One will be a Sunday/Weekend Day time track (0800 to 1700), the other will be a Weeknight Track (most likely Tuesday-Thursday) 1830-2230. Each Track will offer several of the New 16 hour Classes INTRODUCTION to the Fire Service. This like all other courses in the series is prerequisite for the next in the series. It should be noted this class is also considered to be an excellent class for those starting out in EMS. This class will be held through out the year but the highest concentrations will be at the beginning of the year. Next to follow will be the 48 hour Fire Ground Support Class. This will follow along shortly after we have enough persons complete the Introduction class. As we have stated before we plan on running this class in two tracks one on Sundays or Weekend and on Weeknights. After we have run several of these courses, we will launch the Third in the series, Exterior Firefighter. This 42-hour class will then lead to the Interior Fire Fighter Class, which again the school plans, on running one of each of the Interior Firefighter classes for each track (Weekend and Week nights). Please be patient with us through out this. The NEW COURSE is RADICALLY different in many ways. We all will have to make adjustments to make this work. I advise Training Officers and Chiefs to feel free to contact my office if they have any questions, or to get copies of the Minimum Standards for Accreditation for each course. It should be noted that EACH STUDENT will be responsible to demonstrate satisfactory completion of the skill in EACH Course before the can move on to the next course and graduate the program.

We **MAY** have a delay in getting out the completed Yearly Schedule at the beginning of 2006. As we develop our Schedule we will update our website. So please check it often for update. Soon as we get a yearly Calendar completed we will mail them to every Fire Station and make them available from our website. As of this time I anticipate running 3 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:

We continue to be busy though our hours are dropping off as we enter the Holiday Season It be noted if all classes continue as planned (Pre-registrations indicate that they will) our facility will be in use for 797 MORE hours than in 2004. This translates to roughly 20 more weeks (based on an 8 hour day/5 days a week) of training than in 2005. We work hard to assure the County and the Firefighters of York County a good return on their investment!

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:

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
88 Hour Essentials of Fire Fighting (EBM) Starting December 15th 1830-2230 will conclude in March of 2006
Meets Tuesday and Thursday Evenings

Chief Bill Hoover gave an overview of the 166-hour Essentials Course.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Chief Tony Myers reported Trench Weekend 2006 is being held May 5th, 6th, & 7th. Members will be re-certifying in Surface Ice Rescue in January.

OEM: No report

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Still need people to run for office. See Curvin Wolfgang if you would like to run or to nominate someone else.

FIRE POLICE: Jim Robertson reported that the fire police met on October 24th at York City Station 9.

- Sixty-one members attending represented thirty-two companies.
- Drive Safe Agenda was the topic for the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Second reading of the by-law changes. Changes were posted on the board. Chief Dietz made a motion to accept the by-law change, second by Chief Witmer. Motion carried. By-laws will be changed to reflect the following: Article XXI of the by-laws dealing with Hazardous Materials Response will be removed and the section will be eliminated. Article XXII will be renumbered as Article XXI.
- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion to pay the bills by Chief Stevens, second by John Fornadel. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- President Rupert announced that Carl Avery has drafted a safety resolution for implementation at the fire school. The resolution will be posted on the board at the school, as well as being emailed out with these minutes (see attachment). Resolution will be acted upon at next months meeting.
- Chief Dietz brought up rescue unit designations for discussion by the body. After much discussion on the subject Dave Gemmill made a motion to leave the designations as they are until further NIMS information is available, second by Curvin Wolfgang. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Chief Senft advised that the York City Fire Police are hosting an Advanced Fire Police Class in January.
- Audrey Rychalsky reported the 911 Center is having problems getting email out to responders who have AOL and MSN as their providers. The 911 technical staff is working on a resolution.
- Dave Gent, Vice President of the York County Junior Fire Fighters Association, spoke about their program and their mission. He asked for support from the County Chiefs and help with training if anyone could assist.
- Lori Gillon from VFIS brought 2006 calendars for the members present.

Motion to adjourn by Chief Dietz second by Chief K. Miller. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, December 19, 2005 at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary