

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

**330 Emig Road  
York, PA 17406**



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

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

President Joseph Yahnke 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. Fifty-five people were in attendance.

President Joe Yahnke asked for a motion to accept the minutes as published. 1<sup>st</sup>: Tony Myers 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chief Buffington. The minutes were approved.

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

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS:** Chief Senft: The Board met prior to this meeting this evening. They discussed the State funding. As of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we are one step closer. Our application is now under review. We do not have a time frame as to when we might receive the money. A week from Wednesday, the County budget is to be approved by the Commissioners. They are reviewing a Structural Burn Building Policy that the Fire School Committee came up with.

**911:** Eric Bistline & Rich Shank: We met with Committee last week. There have been programming changes to improve the user friendliness and to address other issues. It was stated that there have not been too many dispatching complaints. Several Chiefs addressed their issues that they have been having.

Dispatching will be as follows: 33.90 dispatch with sirens, but no voice. Then 33.88 dispatch and voice. Then the digital dispatch.

It was expressed that many Chief's were calling in to state the issues they were having, but they never knew if anything was actually being handled or solved. It was asked if Cindy could go back to 911 and ask that all complaints receive a work/ticket number, and that the issue be followed up within about 3 days, with either a phone call, e-mail, or fax, to the fire chief that the issue was acknowledge, and being handled. If you have an equipment problem, a trouble ticket is then created and the issue should be addressed by the equipment supplier, not 911.

The Talk Group layouts: There have been so many requests, that if everyone was granted, it would be uncontrollable. Bank E is now the Police Dept. There are now 16 Municipal channels in Bank H. 911 does not monitor those channels.

Main is now in the number 16 spot. Numbers 1-15 are Operations channels. 16 is the Main.

There has been a change with the emergency button. Mike Brown, from Tyco, which is formerly Maycom, stated to call a Mayday, the person will hold the button for 2.2 seconds. The Talk Group which that person is will start making a bunch of noise. Every radio on that scene goes silent, and the person calling the Mayday will have 10 seconds to state their Mayday to 911. During that time, all the consoles in 911 will light up, and it will record the message. If the person calling the Mayday is on a different channel from the Chief, Operations, or Command Officer, and no one on the scene is monitoring that specific channel, the Mayday will not be heard by the Commanding Officer.

The Talk Groups Operations Channel 1, 2, 3, & 4 are going to now be named Central, North, West, & East. Nothing is really changing, they are just being named, instead of being numerical channels.

The Committee has approved Utility 21 as a designated piece.

There was a discussion about the Mayday issue, and with the recent changes to the radios, that training will need to be done with the radios again. There was talk about setting up mock Mayday training at the 911 Center so that Chief's can see how things are being handled when a Mayday is called. The Committee will look into making it possible in the future. Eric Bistline stated that there will be plenty of time to do training on the radios before the cut over date.

Batteries & Chargers: There have been system issues with the chargers when you go to stick a battery into the charger and there is a steady flashing red light. This is the result of a smart charger talking to a dumb battery. There are some solutions:

1. Maycom will replace all the single chargers, and fix the multiple chargers at their expense. They would take back all the batteries and fix the batteries.
2. We could trade the old batteries for a Nickel High Dri battery. They keep a little longer charge for about 12 hours. Some Police Departments are already using them, and say they are working better.
3. 911 could work out a deal that we purchase new chargers and a battery from Honeywell that makes a Lithium Palomer battery. The preliminary testing done on this battery shows that the battery can hold a single charge for up to 24 hours. Not much research has been done on this battery, since it is brand new.

A motion was made that 911 research and does preliminary testing on the Lithium Palomer batteries, and to come back with their recommendations in a month. 1. Dave Nichols 2. Ryan Brenneman Motion Passed

A motion was made that Dave Nichols rescind his motion for 911 to do their research and testing on the Palomer batteries and charger. 2. Ryan Brenneman Motion Passed

The Radio Committee will look into and research the Lithium batteries and come back with their recommendations, since they are so new, and not much is known about them.

**RADIO COMMUNICATIONS:** Rick Shank: Nothing else to add.

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

**Activity:**

- ☞ For the month of November, the Fire School hosted 24 events which accounted for 100 hours of activity. This resulted in 1,148 Student hours. For the year 2008 to December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Fire School has accumulated 2,562 hours of use and approximately 34,809 student hours. With a recent decline in attendance and classes, we are now averaging 2,900 student hours per month.

**The ENTRY LEVEL Program:**

- ☞ The Spring Series of the Entry Level Program (ELIS, ELFG, ELEF) is currently **FULL**. We are still accepting pre-registrations **ON A STAND-BY BASIS** (*This means, if for any reason a student who was preregistered does not show up for the first day of class, there spot will be filled by somebody on the stand-by list*).
- ☞ The fourth segment of our Spring Entry Level Series, Entry Level Interior Firefighter is scheduled to begin on May 30<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate this class filling rapidly.
- ☞ **REMEMBER the ENTRY LEVEL PROGRAM is a series of 4 courses, the ELIS (Introduction to the Fire Service) course is a prerequisite for Fire Ground Support which is a pre-requisite for Exterior fire fighter which is prerequisite for Interior Fire Fighter.**
- ☞ **Each of these classes is a standalone Course and may be taken at anytime – If you have any questions about this please call the Fire School.**

**New Classes Scheduled:**

- ☞ An **Engine Company Operations** Class has been added to our schedule with the following dates: **December 15 (going on currently) and 18 – 18:30 to 22:30 and December 21 – 08:00 to 17:00. We have 29 persons preregistered for this program.**

**ALSO IN THE WORKS:**

- **An 8 hour class on Railroad Emergencies (in 2009)**
- **Fire Officer 1** (*Due to State Budget issues this WILL NOT BE AOTR. We will be looking at either BUCKS or HACC to bring this to us in the fall.*)

- We are working with the State Fire Academy to bring the "**National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System**" program to our York County Fire School. This is a new program that is operating under a grant (not affected by State Budget issues.) This four hour program is **tentatively scheduled** for February 28, 2009 09:00 to 13:00 – **Please watch your minutes and the School's website [www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org](http://www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org)** for further information.

#### **Current and Future Schedule:**

- 📧 The 2008 & 2009 schedule is available online at our web site [www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org](http://www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org) , just click on the [Click Here to See Available Classes](#) link on the home page.
- 📧 The 2009 Schedule has been published. **We are constantly updating it.** Watch your department / **company Mailings for Updates and New Classes.** We will also **update our Website with new additions (including 2009) as they come along.**
- 📧 One of the classes we are working on is a two day course from SafeIR. It is titled Tactical Thermal Imaging Training for Firefighters. This well respected company (they have presented at FDIC; some members from local departments have attended their presentations and speak highly of them). The class would be product specific to MSA Thermal Imaging Cameras (this company is recognized by MSA to present this training). The cost for this course is \$3,000.00 your Fire School is working on grants to fund this program. – This Class and the efforts to bring it here to you in York County are the direct result of an e-mail requesting some additional training in Thermal Imaging.

#### **Burn Building:**

- 📧 **SCHEDULING THE NEW BUILDING:** The Fire School Committee is scheduled to present its proposed new "Use Policy" for the Structural Burn Building at tonight's Board Meeting. As soon as a policy has been adopted, we will start to consider scheduling the building for Live Fire Training. NON-LIVE fire training that uses the SBB is being scheduled now.

**ATR:** John Sanford: There was 1 call for the month. It was a 46 box for confined Space. Cap codes are in.

**Haz-Mat :** Tom Graybill: OEM No Report

**FIRE POLICE:** James Robertson: No Report

**RESCUE SPECS COMMITTEE:** Josh Young: Josh presented to options. The first choice is that we could redo the Rescue Specs that we have already worked on, or go with the Pennsylvania Department of Health Standards on Rescue Specs. The Rescue Specs will be attached to the minutes. Please review them over the next month, and it will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

**RIT COMMITTEES:** Dan Hoff: No Report

**FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:** Tony Myers: Progress is being made.

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE:** Nominations are still needed. Contact Chief Shank: [r.shank@mantwp.com](mailto:r.shank@mantwp.com) , Rick Witten: [ffsgtfd@yahoo.com](mailto:ffsgtfd@yahoo.com) , or Scott Henry: [chief35-1@firehousemail.com](mailto:chief35-1@firehousemail.com) if you are interested in running for an office.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The bills were presented. A motion was made to pay the bills. 1<sup>st</sup>: Commissioner Roth 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jan Cromer Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** It was expressed that the Emergency Response Guide with Emergency Contact numbers that 911 provided is not helpful. A Chief stated that phone calls are being made, but nothing is being done. Cindy Dietz expressed that during weather emergencies, 911 cannot make the phones calls for you. They are just too busy. That is why everyone was provided the proper numbers. It was also expressed about dual dispatches with the 1st due company which may not be the closest station, as well as having EMS on Fire boxes. Cindy stated that this issue deal with the Chiefs, and how they have their box alarms set up, not how 911 dispatches.

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

Tony Myers expressed his concern with the "All Call" function. He said be careful with what you call for. He also stated that he was getting the Fire Police All Call, and stated that should be fire police only.

Chief 63 thanked everyone's help and support last month with the back to back funerals.

Treasurer Bowman stated that last month he brought up the information on the tax credit. He stated that he found that there is a limited amount available. The form is in a Excel spread sheet.

Heather stated that the Fire School received a Thank You letter from the Northeastern High School. Back in October, a class took a tour, and participated in several firefighter challenges, and they wanted to express their appreciation.

The next Annual meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at Hellam's Fire Company (Sta. 21). Dinner starts at 7:00.

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tony Myers. Motion Passed

Sincerely,

*Heather Marsteller*

Heather Marsteller  
Recording Secretary