

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING  
THIRD MONDAY

December 19, 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. There was a moment of silence for Victor Whyland Jr. who recently passed away; he was a fire police officer and member of Station 19 for the past twenty-five years. Thirty-six people were in attendance.

President Rupert introduced Kerry Smeltzer from York Area RACES. Mr. Smeltzer introduced several Hamm radio operators who were present. He then gave a short presentation on what his group has to offer emergency services in the way of communications. He stated they work with the Office of Emergency Management on many different types of incidents. There was a demo on how pictures could be transferred via radio waves. Their mobile command unit was on display in the parking lot. Mr. Smeltzer said the vehicle was available to the fire chiefs in the county if they were needed on the scene of an incident.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as published. President Rupert asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Rick Witten 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:

- Burn Building progress/options.
  - Dave Diamantiss was retained as a consultant to see the Board through the process.
  - An engineering analysis of the burn building is being done

**COMMUNICATIONS:** President Rupert said a Christmas card was received from Dave Huffnagle with a donation to the Fire School.

**RADIO COMMITTEE:** No Meeting held in December.

**911:** Radio Administrator, Bob Bragg talked about the trouble ticket reporting system and how to best report and identify your radio and paging problems to the 911 Center. He stated he would now be the one sending out the weekly fire report update.

Deputy Director, Cindy Dietz advised that there would be a change forthcoming in the FTP site where the NFIRS reports are currently sent. The new FTP address and password will be sent out via email within the next week. The current site will be terminated by the end of the month.

Deputy Director, Paul Zimmerer advised that the Department of Emergency Services was upgrading to a VOIP phone system next month. Phone Administrator, Phil Treffinger will be the January meeting to go over the changes with everyone.

Chief Randy Angel voiced a complaint about the dispatches at the 911 Center. He advised they were not getting the same information on the fire radio that was being provided to the police and EMS. He cited two calls. He was asked to email Cindy or Audrey with the details and the calls would be investigated.

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

**Burn Building:**

The Burn Building has been 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 Board of Governors and The Fire School Committee are reviewing all options to Repair, Refurbish and/or Replace the existing Structure. In the mean time your Fire School is working 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 still 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 is dependent on several factors. 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 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

# Important UPDATES

**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:**

The Class that was scheduled to START December 15<sup>th</sup> 2005 was postponed till December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 PM (due to inclement weather) and will continue on the previously established Tuesday - Thursday schedule. We had approximately 50 Students sign up for this class; it has to be limited to 30. First to pre-register will be the First Served, if there were any vacancies from the First 30, they will be filled on a stand-by basis This Class will conclude in March of 2006. Application for the Introduction to the Fire Service were available at the First Class

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

The Fire School has approached the York County Junior Firefighters Association to ask them to join us in sponsoring this event. Our Workshop brings Rescue Instructor/Evaluators in from throughout the northeast to work with teams of juniors on vehicle extrication. This 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 however we are waiting for a reply for the Junior Association before we proceed further.

**Fire Fighter I testing:**

The Fire School recently provided a test site for Wellsville Fire Company (station 66) along with some others to conduct a closed Firefighter I. Combining this test with the one earlier in the year has yielded almost 50 Certified Firefighter I added to the rosters of York County Fire Companies. We will continue to support Firefighter I testing and Prep classes for those in and around our County

**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 have most of the 2006 Yearly Schedule done, we are still filling in some areas and hopefully we will have it published and in your hands by next meeting. We have a provisional schedule on our updated website ([www.yorkcountyyfireschool.org](http://www.yorkcountyyfireschool.org) ). We will continually work on updating it 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 2 - 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:**

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 816 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 and up coming Schedule:**

The 2006 **PROVISIONAL** 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, 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](mailto:YorkCoFireSchool@aol.com) and we will see that you are added to the list.

#### **Upcoming Courses:**

1/10/06, Haz-Mat Awareness Level Annual Refresher Training (HMAR), 1.5 Hours

18:30 - 20:00

1/10 & 11/06, Haz-Mat Operations Level Annual Refresher Training (HMOR), 5.5 Hours

18:30 – 21:30

1/14/06, Carbon Monoxide Detector Responses (CORE), 3 hours

09:00 – 12:00

1/17,18, 21, 25, 26/06, Haz-Mat First Responder Operations – NFPA 472 , 24 hours

18:30 – 22:30 except January 21 08:00 – 17:00

1/19/06, Carbon Monoxide Detector Responses (CORE), 3 hours

19:00 – 22:00

1/28 & 29/06, Introduction to The Fire Service (ELIS), 16 hours

08:00 – 22:00

1/30, 31,2/1, 2/06, Introduction to The Fire Service (ELIS), 16 hours

18:30 – 22:30

Rick Witten asked for clarification on the burn building being out of service. Carl Avery said the building was out of service for everything.

**YORK COUNTY ATR:** No Report

**OEM:** Tom Graybill reported that PEMA has cut a purchase order for a new Hazmat Vehicle. Chief Barry Myers asked what is the minimum response of personnel on a call for the Hazmat Team. Tom said that the statistics are showing 9.5 persons per call. Hot calls generally get the minimum number of 10 persons to respond.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The nominating committee reported the following persons were on the ballot at this time for January: President, Skip Rupert, Vice President, Steve Dietz, Secretary, Cindy Dietz, Treasurer bob Bowman, Board of Governors, John Senft, John Fornadel, Keith Miller. Anyone interested in running for an office contact Troy Snyder or Curvin Wolfgang prior to the January meeting.

**FIRE POLICE:** Jim Robertson reported that the fire police met last month.

- Mike Dalpezzo gave the members an update on classes.
- Elections were held. Nelson Brenneman is the President.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- President Rupert asked what the wishes of the body were in regards to the Safety Resolution. Motion by Chief Shank to adopt the Safety Resolution, second by Chief Cromer. Motion carried.
- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion to pay the bills by Commissioner Roth second by John Fornadel. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- President Rupert stated that last year they pre-registered two people to go to FDIC in 2006 to save money. He said the body needed to decide if they wanted to send people next year or forfeit the pre-registration. President Rupert suggested Carl be one of the persons allowed to attend.
  - Commissioner Roth made a motion that the Association sends four people to FDIC, second by Chief Shank. Motion carried.
    - Chief Shank suggested that instructors should be given first preference to go.
    - Chief Senft suggested that the Fire School Committee members also be given consideration.
- Chief Barry Myers reported that the County has two 18.5 KW, 3-phase, gasoline powered, generators they are giving away. See Barry if interested.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

- Chief Dietz reported that Lori Gillon is no longer a representative at VFIS. Could we invite the new representative to next months meeting? President Rupert will look into it.
- Jim Robertson said that he received a card back from Moses Baker's wife thanking him for the card and saying that it helped lift Moses spirits.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Bowman second by Chief Dietz. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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

The annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 16, 2006 at the Hellam Fire Company. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm, followed by the business meeting at 7:30pm.

Sincerely,

*Cindy A. Dietz*

Cindy A. Dietz  
Secretary