

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

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

December 21st, 2009

President Richard Shank 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. Twenty-six people were in attendance.

Prior to the meeting, Miles Warden, from Habitat for Humanity gave a presentation on Habitat for Humanity and also asked for each fire company to hold one fundraiser and give the proceeds to help support Habitat for Humanity.

President Richard Shank asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1st: Chris Krichten 2nd: Kerry Herman Motion Passed

Treasurer Bob Bowman was out of town. Chief Shank presented the balances of the treasurer's report.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chief Senft: We met this evening prior to this meeting. For the 32nd year, the York County Commissioners have elected to fund the York County Fire School. We don't have an exact amount, but we know it is in excess of \$300,000. The Board then went into an executive session.

COMMUNICATIONS: Chief Buffington: At the last meeting, we discussed calling responding. The radios are getting blocked up. The proposed dispatch procedure was brought forth. After much discussion, it was voted down by the Chiefs' Association. It will go back to the radio committee to be evaluated.

The radio committee is working on procedures that come through County about field units. It will come back to us before it goes to the policy board. By January, radio installation will be complete.

Several issues and concerns were brought up by Chiefs during the meeting.

- After the first alarm, do not ask for your assignments. Get on the scene and go to Command for your assignments. This will help free up talk time on the radios.
- The pages need to be easier to read. If you don't read the page carefully, information can be confusing, or appear not to be given.
- EMS units are not being listed on the pages involving for the fire units.
- The volume of the dispatcher is low at times. If this occurs, during free air time, kindly remind the dispatchers that their volume is low. Inform the officers of the fire depts..., they need to speak into the mic, and not have them hanging on their coat and a lot of distance between the mic and the person speaking into it.
- Why are EMS on our Ops channel? They have their own ops channels. EMS should be getting information via page, and not over the radio.
- Updates from the dispatchers should be made available to either the D.O. or the first due Engine. Some valuable information is not being passed along, when it should be. One example: If it is an A.F.A, and is known to be false, the Chief should know that information when it is known.
- The issue came up on why some ops channels that should be monitored, are not being monitored. No reason as to why the channel was not being monitored, but it should be. The dispatchers may switch

departments over to an Ops channel that is not being monitored, but they should advise you that it will not be monitored.

- The Police Officers are having the same push to talk issues. In January, that problem should be fixed.
- On Jan 15th, the new Harris D7 code should be available. This new radio code should fix the transmitting problem. The code is currently being tested. Next week, the code will be installed in select Police radios. If those work, we will work on a set-up for the Fire to have their radios programmed.

Installations: Currently there are 45 stations completed. They are currently working on 2 stations, and are still looking to finish by the 2nd or 3rd week in January. The radios should be each tested, as well as every piece of apparatus once the installation is completed.

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

Activity:

- ☞ During the month of November, the Fire School hosted **27** events, which accounted for **148** hours of activity. This resulted in **1798** student hours. So far this year, your Fire School has provided over **2,197** hour of use for classes, meetings, drills and practice. We have also been the site responsible for More than **43,000** student hours of training since January 2009, currently averaging 3,588 student hours a month.

The ENTRY LEVEL Program:

- ☞ Our Entry Level Programs have concluded for this year. Our next 4 part Series begins in January: 1- ELIS January 9th, 2- ELFG January 23rd, 3- ELEF March 13th, and 4- ELIF May 8th. This Series of classes will conclude in time for the student to be eligible to sit for The Firefighter I test we are scheduling in August. This will be followed in March by a second series of 4: 1 – ELIS March 30th, 2 – ELFG April 11th, 3 – ELEF, June 6th, 4- ELIF – July 20th. Lead instructor for this second series of classes will be Kraig Herman. We do not have dates at this time but we will be scheduling another series to begin late summer and run through the Fall

Firefighter I Certification test:

- ☞ **PLEASE BEGIN TO PLAN FOR THIS NOW.** The test will be scheduled for August 7th & 8th. A fee of \$200.00 per candidate is anticipated. The test will be conducted here at YCFS and will be administered by HACC. Please anticipate that we may be contacting area Fire Companies to assist us in the logistical support of this opportunity.
- ☞ To be a candidate for the Firefighter I test personnel must complete the application, have completed a Haz-Mat Operations Class or Haz-Mat Ops refresher within a year of the Test Date, and take part in a Live Fire training (This would include SBS or the ELIF (only if the training certificate indicates that the student participated in a Live Fire training as part of the course)). * **PLEASE NOTE – This is a very brief description of the Firefighter I Certification process. Candidates for Certification and their Chief and/or Training Officers are strongly urged to start planning NOW for this test in August. For more information you can contact your fire school or check out this website: www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=11302&PageID=574048&mode=2&contentid=http://pubcontent.state.pa.us/publishedcontent/publish/cop_public_safety/state_fire_commissioner/certification/certification_levels_presently_offered/firefighter_i/firefighter_i.html**

Education Methodology – Leading to Fire Service Instructor Certifications I & II:

- ☞ Beginning in April and concluding in early June your Fire School will host an ED METH Class with instructor Dan Hoff. This class will enable student to sit for their Certification Test as FSI I and FSI II, Please remember that FSI I is a prerequisite for **FIRE OFFICER I**.

Fire Officer I Class and Certification:

- ☞ Beginning in September and concluding in early October your Fire School will host a Fire Officer I Class with instructor Dan Hoff. This class will enable student to sit for their Certification Test for **Fire Officer I**. Please remember that YOU MUST be certified at a Minimum of **Fire Service Instructor I to take this class**.

Current and Future Schedule:

- ☞ Our Course Catalogue is updated on an ongoing basis, please be sure to check out our web site. Be sure to check it often.
- ☞ The 2009 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

Courses coming up over the next month:

Course	Start Date	Pre-registration	Low	Minimum (+)	FULL
Haz-Mat Ops (NFPA 472)	1/4	5	X		

Haz Mat Ops Refresher (HMOR)	1/6	3	X		
Entry Level – Intro to Fire Service	1/9	30 +			X
Entry Level – Fireground Support	1/23	26		X	

☛ **THERE STILL IS TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES THAT ARE BELOW MINIMUM, BUT DO IT SOON or they may have to be CANCELED**

☛ **For more information on these classes and a pre-registration form please go to our web-site: www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org**

☛ **EVOC REMINDER:**

- Sponsoring organizations are RESPONSIBLE to provide vehicles and if need be, authorized Drivers, for the students they send to our EVOC classes. Please remember when you sign off on a student pre-registering for the EVOC class – *IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY – NOT THE FIRE SCHOOL'S*

☛ We are working on the 2010 Schedule at this time, any input is welcome. Please contact your fire school with your suggestions and constructive comments. Classes we are working on from your input

- Truck 1 and 2
- Confined Space
- Engine Company
- Water Rescue
 - Watch for more information on these classes in the near future

Burn Building:

☛ **SCHEDULING THE NEW BUILDING:** as was stated above, the Fire School is extremely busy this year. Planning for use of the SBB needs to be long range, please plan ahead accordingly and please include us in your plans at the earliest phases.

We are working on putting the finishing touches on a course for York County Fire School *Structure Burn Building Facilitator Program* and hope to be offering it soon. This program will be presented to those who are selected to be a SBB Facilitators. More details will soon follow on this. **YORK COUNTY ATR:** John Sanford: No calls – 1006 class. Yes it will be open to the County. Submit to John Sanford. General requirements class starting in January.

OEM: Tom Graybill: No Report

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Tom Graybill: There were 43 calls for the year. The team did a regional training. The Haz-Mat trailer is back in service.

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: The next meeting will be in West York, January 25th, 2010. Task Force boxes – letters were sent out. It is up to each Fire Chief if they want to set-up a task force on their boxes. This is not mandated by the Chief's Association.

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Bob Sells: The committee made a presentation to the Board regarding billing for classes. The Board has acted upon part of it, by billing for "No Shows". We are just waiting on the Board to decide about billing for every class that is held at the Fire School.

RESCUE INSPECTION COMMITTEE: There will be a committee appointment at next month's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Business to report.

NEW BUSINESS: No Business to report.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: If anyone is interested in running for an office, please contact one of the following members: Kerry Herman, Roger Flohr & Curvin Wolfgang. The following are already on the ballot;

- President: Chief Shank
- Vice President: Chief Buffington
- Secretary:
- Treasurer:
- Board of Governors (2 seats available): Chris Krichten, Joe Madzelan, & Joe Yahnke

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, January 18th, 2010 at Hellam's Fire Co. (Sta. 21)

Motion was made by John McDonald to adjourn the meeting. 2nd: Chris Krichten Motion Passed

Sincerely,

Heather Marsteller

Heather Marsteller
Recording Secretary