

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2021

Attendance:

Zone 1: Matt Brett, Larry Moyer

Zone 2:

Zone 3:

Zone 4: Colin Hackman

Zone 5/6: Chris Schaeffer, Brian Sierocinski, Mike Kline

Zone 7: Tom Kemery

BCFA: Roger Weidenhammer

BCFPA: Randy Minninger

Task Force:

Berks DES: Brian Gottschall, Sean Hart, Christina Wood, Michael Smith

Forestry:

Additional Attendance: Scot Landis

The meeting was called to order by Colin Hackman, Chair at 1803 hours via Teleconference.

The December 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes were emailed to the group by Chair Hackman. There were no changes requested or made. Minutes were approved.

Forestry: No Report / Attendance

BCFPA: No Report

BCFA: Roger Weidenhammer reports January meeting was moved to Saturday April 24, at 1400 hours at the Fire Training Site.

Training: No Attendance, Roger Weidenhammer reported the training schedule has been posted to the website through October 2021. Online registrations seem to be working. A new phone number for training is 610-236-8000, Ext. 8286

East-Central Task Force: No Attendance, Director Gottschall reports no information to report.

Zone 1: Matt Brett ask if a different call type could be created for trees involving wires. Currently DES utilizes the Misc Fire (MF) when wires are involved. A discussion ensued and it was recommended by Chair Hackman for each Zone to get feedback from their companies and report back at the March meeting. It may be possible to add a trees 2nd alarm based on the feedback from the companies. Christina Wood was also looking into this possibility. Larry Moyer reports he is still working on a communications path for Zone 1 companies.

Zone 2: No Attendance, Chair Hackman reported Dean Dalious had three items to be noted. 1. Apparatus responding in place of a specific piece called for (EX. U XX in place of L XX). This is not filling out the run cards as the companies made. FSWG discussed and confirmed if the apparatus states they are in place of, DES clears the other apparatus which would not get covered. This would need to be addressed from the Zone to the offending company. 2. Companies not taking apparatus Out of Service due to being skipped. There is no way for DES to know this. Recommend the companies add (Station) to the run cards which would dispatch the company and still cover the apparatus which is out of service. 3. Zone 2 is in favor of an Interactive Mobile Cad.

Zone 3: No Report / Attendance

Zone 4: Chair Hackman brought up the current Fire COVID Zoom meetings being held Sunday's at 1900 hours. These meetings are an information sharing session between Fire Departments, EMS Departments and Doctors and staff from both local hospitals. Chair Hackman also expressed the need for better communications distribution from the FSWG representatives to their Zones.

Zone 5/6: Vice Chair Schaeffer reported the Zone brought up the Water Accident call type. Chief 16 recommends a boat and/or dive team should be dispatched on all water related calls (Person falling out of a boat, vehicle stuck in water, etc.) A lengthy discussion ensued and it was reported that DES is currently working on a better mapping layer to identify water sources and also creating additional questions in the EMD Cards for incidents involving water. Zone 5 & 6 representatives would take this information back to their companies and have the Officers that handle run cards make changes as they see fit adding boats and/or dive teams.

Zone 7: Tom Kemery reports a new cadet class of 10 will be starting and they will be placing to new Engines into service.

DES: Director Gottschall reports radio updates are in progress to fix the open mic issues and activation of the GPS. All radios will need to be re-programmed when the Radio Administrator receives notification. Updates are going in alphabetical order and currently at "K". Radio Administrators should complete these updates as quick as possible.

Director Gottschall reports personnel should be patient with the COVID Vaccination process. Predictions that the Vaccination process will slow down due to a large group of responders due for their second doses over the next several weeks.

Christian Wood reports they are working on a new Run Card Form which will incorporate changes projected for June 1. This will incorporate the MVA / Unknown 2nd Alarm for companies that don't currently run MVA / Unknown or With. The 2nd Alarm will give DES the ability to add additional fire response if reports indicate the MVA involving a train, rollover, sever damage, etc. If companies don't update their run cards DES will utilize the companies MVA / Unknown With Fire for the 2nd Alarm. This would also include MVA / With Injures and the 2nd Alarm would be created off the companies MVA / With Injuries and Fire. The new Run Card Form will also address QRS responses to Medical Facilities and Class 4 and Class 5. FSWG members received a copy of the new Run Card Form and a PowerPoint which shall stay with the FSWG Members only at this time for review.

Old Business

None

New Business

Chair Hackman opened the nominations for 2021:

Chair – Colin Hackman, Zone 4

Vice Chair – Chris Schaeffer, Zone 5 & 6

Secretary – Mike Kline, Zone 5 & 6

Motion made by Mike Kline, Second by Brian Sierocinski. All members in favor affirmed with I and No Opposed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1909 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 1800 hours on Thursday March 25, 2021. The meeting will be via Teleconference and links have already been sent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colin D. Hackman, Chairman