

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

Meeting Minutes – September 24, 2020

Attendance:

Zone 1:

Zone 2:

Zone 3: Bob Martin

Zone 4: Colin Hackman

Zone 5/6: Chris Schaeffer, Brian Sierocinski

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 July 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes were emailed to the group by Chairman Hackman. There were no changes requested or made. Minutes were approved.

Forestry: No Report / Attendance

BCFPA: No Report

BCFA: Fall Meeting will be held Saturday October 31, at 1400 hours at BCFTC

Training: No Report / Attendance

East-Central Task Force: No Report / Attendance

Zone 1: No Report / Attendance

Zone 2: No Report / Attendance

Zone 3: Nothing to Report

Zone 4: Chairman Hackman brought up a request by Zone 4 to looking into a Mobile CAD for apparatus. Director Gottschall reports they are working on "Crew Force" which is a CAD Lite program which will operate off IOS or Android. Brian feels this will probably meet the needs of the Departments requesting Mobile CAD but there is still work to be done. A full Mobile Cad is unlikely at this time due to the current projects underway at DES, cost and budgeting timelines

Zone 5/6: Chief Schaeffer ask if DES would allow EMC's to have access to WebCad for operations during storms. Director Gottschall reports this should be possible if requested by the EMC's. Chief Schaeffer reports DES is now adding the assigned Talkgroup for Structure Fires to text paging. Director Gottschall confirmed this was in place.

Zone 7: Chief Kemery reports the Department is in the process of Confined Space Re-Certification, the Probationary class is on the street and interviews are being conducted for additional hires.

DES: Director Gottschall reports DES has been working on the "Stabbing" call type. Assistant Director Hart reports the EMS Working Group was in favor of the changes and presented them to the group:

Proposed Call Type Changes

STABBING (Critical)

This call type applies to reports of a patient that has been penetrated by a sharp or pointed object at close range when the injuries are believed to be significant (meeting ALS criteria). This call type applies whether the act that caused the injury is believed to be accidental or intentional.

If the act that caused the injury is believed to be accidental, and the injuries do not meet ALS criteria, use BLS TRAUMA

If the act that caused the injury is believed to be intentional, caused by another, and do not meet ALS criteria, use ASSULT / FIGHT INJURY BLS or DOMESTIC INJURY BLS as appropriate for the relationship of the parties

If the act that caused the injury is believed to be intentional, self-inflicted, and the injuries do not meet ALS criteria, use CLASS 4

All members of the FSWG present agreed and approved the changes.

Director Gottschall brought up QRS responses to Medical Facilities, Class 4 and Class 5. Currently there is an unofficial agreement that QRS would not be sent to these facilities or call types. This will be addressed in a new run card format with the decision being left to the home Agencies. This change will be coming in the near future with a Date To Be Determined to take effect.

Director Gottschall reports we still need input from Zones regarding the MVA Unknown 2nd Alarm. This would be left up to each agency to complete which would allow dispatchers to add a Fire Response (if completed by the agency) for MVA unknown with significant additional information (i.e. rollover, vehicle vs train, motorcycle down, multiple vehicles). If no response by the next meeting this will be removed from the agenda.

Director Gottschall reports Motorola and DES have approximately two more weeks of testing for the GPS firmware issue that was causing open mics. At the completion of testing, RMI will start writing updates for all radios which will need to be updated ASAP when available. This will also require Radio Administrators to update the radio software program prior to updating radios. Radio Administrators should watch for email to update software and when updates are available for radios they need to be completed ASAP.

Old Business

Still waiting for Zone 5/6 Water Rescue Task Force to provide additional information from other Water Rescue Teams on questions and concerns raised on Rescue call type versus Water Accident call type. Chief Schaeffer will reach out to Zone 5/6 for information. If no information is provided by next meeting, this will be removed from the agenda.

New Business

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1854 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 1800 hours on Thursday December 10, 2020. The meeting will either be via Teleconference or held at the Direct Link Conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colin D. Hackman, Chairman