

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2020

Attendance:

Zone 1: Larry Moyer

Zone 2:

Zone 3: Bob Martin

Zone 4: Colin Hackman

Zone 5/6: Chris Schaeffer, Brian Sierocinski, Chris Bickings

Zone 7:

BCFA: Roger Weidenhammer

BCFPA: Randy Minninger

Task Force:

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

Forestry:

Additional Attendance: Scot Landis

The meeting was called to order by Colin Hackman, Chair at 1804 hours via Teleconference.

The September 24, 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: Roger Weidenhammer reports Membership cards are available for individuals and Departments

Training: No Attendance, Roger Weidenhammer reported updates to the training website and the ability to now complete online registration for training classes. When a member completes the online application an email notice will be sent to the Department training contact for approval. Paper forms are also still available.

East-Central Task Force: No Attendance, Director Gottschall reports the situation is currently in legal council with Montgomery County to move forward.

Zone 1: No Report, Larry Moyer requested a list of Departments in his Zone. Larry will begin to reach out to the Departments to develop a communications path for information.

Zone 2: No Report / Attendance

Zone 3: Bob Martin reports they are currently working to update the Zone email list for a better communications path.

Zone 4: No Report, Chairman 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. Chairman Hackman also expressed the need for better communications distribution from the FSWG representatives to their Zones.

Zone 5/6: No Report

Zone 7: No Report / Attendance

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 "E". Radio Administrators should complete these updates as quick as possible.

Director Gottschall reports DES has a COVID Continuity of Operations Plan if they have staffing issues due to COVID. This will cause DES to implement Plan Charlie which may be in place for multiple hours at a time.

Director Gottschall reports DES will move forward to implement the MVA Unknown 2nd Alarm. This will allow DES to send a fire response on MVA Unknown with significant additional information (i.e. rollover, vehicle vs train, motorcycle down, multiple vehicles) when the run card does not call for a fire response. Unless otherwise specified by each Department, DES will utilize the current fire response for an MVA Unknown with fire.

Old Business

A lengthy discussion regarding the Rescue call type versus the Water Accident call type occurred. This seems to be more of a training issue and DES will review with staff. The Water Accident call type should be used in the event a vehicle is stuck in water from a known water source (i.e. pond, creek, river) overflowing. The Rescue call type would be utilized when a vehicle is stuck in water from general flooding not associated with a known water source.

New Business

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1902 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 1800 hours on Thursday January 28, 2021. The meeting will either be via Teleconference or held at the Direct Link Conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colin D. Hackman, Chairman