

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

Meeting Minutes – January 30, 2020

Attendance:

Zone 1:

Zone 2: Dean Dalious

Zone 3: Bob Martin

Zone 4: Colin Hackman

Zone 5/6: Chris Schaeffer

Zone 7: Tom Kemery

BCFA: Roger Weidenhammer

BCFPA:

Task Force: Scot Landis

Berks DES: Brian Gottschall, Sean Hart, Todd Boughter, Christina Wood

Forestry:

Additional Attendance: Kindall Wann, Berks County Chaplin's Network, Chuck Zechman, Berks County Chaplin's Network, Kent Himelright, Berks County Conservation District, Ashley Showers, Berks County Planning Commission, Nick Johnson, Great Valley Consultants

The meeting was called to order by Colin Hackman, Chair at 1804 hours in the Berks County Department of Emergency Services JIC room, located in the Direct Link Building, Bernville Road, Reading, PA.

Kent Himelright, Ashley Showers and Nick Johnson provided a short presentation on water contamination from Firefighting Operations. (Their information is attached and they would like to provide a presentation to all Zones)

Kindall Wann and Chuck Zechman provided a short presentation on the Berks County Chaplin's Network and the services they provide.

The September 26, 2019 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 / Attendance

BCFA: No Report

Training: Roger Weidenhammer provided the 2020 class dates from the Berks County Fire Training Committee (Attached)

East-Central Task Force: No Report

Zone 1: No Report / Attendance. Larry Moyer, Fire Chief of Muhlenberg Township Fire Department has expressed interest in becoming active in the Working Group. Chief Moyer was advised that the Zone is responsible for appointing representatives to attend the Working Group Meetings. Larry stated he would be interested in being involved and actively attempting to convey information back to Zone 1 companies which do not meet on a regular basis.

Zone 2: Dean Dalious brought a question from his Zone regarding how long DES will keep covering companies to a fire alarm reported false and if DES would accept a mutual aid Officer's request to place the system on an OIC dispatch only. DES reported they will keep dispatching until a field unit actually arrives on scene to investigate the issue. DES also reported they would not alter the response created by the primary company unless authorized by a primary Officer.

Zone 3: No Report

Zone 4: Chairman Hackman reported that Avery Leshar has resigned his position of Zone 4 delegate. Zone 4 will be appointing a new delegate at the next meeting. Chairman Hackman question the status of the 2nd Alarm Accident with Unknown Injuries for Department's that do not run unknown injury accidents but would like to when it involves a train, motorcycle or rollover. All Zone representatives are to poll their Zone for feedback. No Zone had any feedback at this time. Zone delegates should be obtaining this information from their Zones and report back at the next Working Group meeting.

Zone 5/6: Chris Schaeffer ask if DES would be able to add the assigned Operations Talkgroup for Structure Fires to text paging. A lengthy discuss occurred and DES is looking into this to see if it would be possible.

Chairman Hackman ask Chris Schaeffer if his Zone received any requests from Boyertown Area Fire Rescue regarding call types due to an email request received by Dave Shainline, Fire Chief. Chris stated no. Chief Shainline was asking about a recall policy and adding an "Appliance" call type. Some discussion was had about the call type and this already exists with Structure Fire and Structure Investigation. DES was open to discuss the parameters for Structure Investigation. Chris was going to take back to his Zone for more information.

Zone 7: Tom Kemery reported a new cadet class will start Monday February 3. Tom ask DES about radio updates sent over the air. The City had some issues with updates causing their radios not to work during the updates. DES reported these updates are very rare and they utilize "Delicate Updates" which will prompt the radio user to accept the update or delay the update if they are on an active incident. If the prompt is missed and the radio is powered off, when the radio is powered up again it will automatically go into the update.

DES: Brian Gottschall reports radio updates are actively being completed and they are doing Fire Department updates in alphabetical order and currently at "R". Brian stated when Departments are notified they need to complete the updates in a timely fashion as the radio updates need to be completed to close the contract with Motorola.

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.

New Business

Chairman Hackman reported we need to open nominations for the Working Group. Chris Schaeffer made a Motion to keep all officers the same. Bob Martin second the motion. The Working Group voted affirmatively. 2020 Fire Working Group Officers are:

Chairman: Colin Hackman, Zone 4

Vice Chairman: Chris Schaeffer, Zone 5/6

Secretary: Chris Bickings, Zone 5/6

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1934 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 1800 hours on Thursday March 26, 2020 at the Direct Link Conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colin D. Hackman, Chairman

Berks County Source Water Protection Program

In 2016, the Berks County Water & Sewer Association and the Berks County Planning Commission were developed a County-wide Source Water Protection program to combine source water protection and stormwater management activities. The program wishes to preserve and improve the safety of drinking water supplies today and into the future, while addressing historic concerns including the possibility of contamination from various sources with a focus on agricultural activities, stormwater runoff, and transportation corridors. The program includes almost 30 large -small drinking water suppliers, and protects approximately 65% of the population of Berks County.

Presentations:

1. MS4, Source Water Protection and Municipal Emergency Management
 - Ashley Showers, Berks County Planning Commission
 - Email: AShowers@countyofberks.com Phone: 610-478-6300 x6312

2. Water Supply
 - Nick Johnson, Great Valley Consultants
 - Email: njohnson@greatvalleyconsultants.com Phone: 610-375-8822 x229
 - Chip Bilger, Western Berks Water Authority
 - Email: CBilger@wbwa.org Phone: 610-678-4400 x224

3. PFAS and Emergency Environmental Management
 - Kent Himelright, Berks County Conservation District
 - Email: kent.himelright@berkscd.com Phone: 610-372-4657 x211

NOTES:

BERKS COUNTY FIRE TRAINING COMMITTEE

2020 Class Dates

MOD 1 – Intro to the Fire Service (ELIS) – February 15th and 22nd

MOD 2 – Fire Ground Support (ELFG) – March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

MOD 3 – Exterior Fire Fighter (ELEF) – April 4th, 18th, 25th, May 2nd, 16th, 30th, June 6th

MOD 4 – Interior Fire Fighter (ELIF) – August 29th, September 12th, 15st, 26th, October 3rd

Structural Burn Session (SBS) – October 10th and 11th

Haz Mat Awareness (HMA) – February 29th

Haz Mat Operations (HMO) – June 2nd and 16th, June 20th and 27th

First Aid + CPR – February 29th

Fire Fighter Survival (SURV) – October 17th and 18th

Confined Space Rescue (CSR) – TBD

Electrical Emergencies (ELFS) – TBD

Vehicle Rescue Awareness (NVRA) – TBD

Vehicle Rescue Operations (NVRO) – TBD

Pump Operations I (PUOP) – TBD

Pump Operations II (PUOA) – TBD

Intermediate ICS For Expanding Incidents (ICS-300) – TBD