

## **Berks County Fire Services Working Group**

**May 25, 2023**

**Officers:** Chair Colin Hackman, Vice Chair Chris Schaeffer, Secretary Mike Kline

Meeting was called to order at 1804 hours. There were no additions or corrections to the previous months minutes, they stand approved as read.

### **Attendance:**

**Zone 1:** No one in attendance

**Zone 2:** Blair Miller

**Zone 3:** Robert Martin

**Zone 4:** Colin Hackman, Nevin Klahr

**Zone 5&6:** Brian Sierociniski, Chris Schaeffer

**Zone 7:** No one in attendance

**BCFA:** No one in attendance

**BCFT:** No one in attendance

**BCFPA:** No one in attendance

**Forestry:** No one in attendance

**DES** Brian Gottschall, Mike Smith, Matt Stairiker, Christine Wood, Phil Salamone

**Additional Attendance:** Scot Landis

**Communications:** None

**Zone 1:** No one in attendance

**Zone 2:** Nothing to bring before the committee

**Zone 3:** Nothing to bring before the committee

**Zone 4:** Chair Hackman ask if the escalation of alarms could be changed in the CAD System, which was discussed at the previous WG meeting. Director Gottschall reported that the CAD System cannot be changed and works this way for other County's using the same system. CAD is designed to make sure the alarm is filled to a level based on the submission of each Department. A fix for RIT could be the Company responds as 85RIT and then places the apparatus busy. This would prevent the RIT apparatus from being counted on the escalation of alarms. DES will notify the IC if an additional alarm is requested and no apparatus are recommended.

Chair Hackman reported Zone 4 has two people interested in sitting on the Lithium Ion Sub-Committee with two alternative.

**Zone 5 & 6:** Vice Chair Schaeffer ask if the escalation of alarms could be backfilled by the dispatcher somehow. Director Gotschall advised that the dispatchers do not know what apparatus is on each alarm as the run cards are not standard and vary between Departments.

Vice Chair Schaeffer advised that Zone 5 & 6 is not in favor of changing a child locked in a car to a Miscellaneous Fire (MF) and it remains a Rescue. Director Gottschall reported that the call type will remain a Rescue at the request of the EMS WG.

Vice Chair Schaeffer ask if there was an update on text paging. Director Gottschall advised he would report on that in the DES report.

**Zone 7:** No one in attendance

**BCFA:** No one in attendance

**BCFT:** No one in attendance

**BCFPA:** No one in attendance

**DES:** Total visibility: Is up and running. Information was emailed out to Departments to get login information and access to the system to upload members photo's for cards. Director Gotschall advised a lot of time and money has been put into this updated system.

COVID Precautions: DES ask about going back to the pre-COVID dispatch procedures which only advised precautions on medical calls if the illness involved respiratory or fever. The FSWG members in attendance agreed that this could be moved forward.

Crewforce (Mobile CAD): Director Gotschall reported they only received a few completed Tech Survey's back from Fire Departments. Chair Hackman ask if DES could create a brief overview of Crewforce to be sent out to Departments which explains what it is and how it works. There was some discussion that Departments did not know what it was and that may be why they have not completed and returned the Tech Survey's. DES will be putting a Crewforce overview together which will be distributed to Zone representatives.

Portable Radio Hot Mic Issue: Motorola is still working on the issue with DES. When the fix is ready, all portable radios will need to be updated. Departments should make sure the radio software is up to date.

Lithium Ion Sub-Committee: DES is still looking for 2 or three representatives from each Zone to sit on this committee.

Text Paging: DES reported RAVE is actively working with DES to update their program to handle CAD text paging. When this is ready to launch, the current text paging (Swift) will need to be migrated to RAVE Alert, which will be a large task within DES.

**Old Business:** Tax Credit Sub-Committee is meeting to discuss the program thru out the county. Paul Janson with the Center for Excellence is assisting with promoting the Tax Credit. The Sub-Committee will be making themselves available to Zones, Departments and their local government to help create a program if interested.

**New Business:** None

The next FSWG meeting will be Thursday July 27, 2023 at 1800 hours via TEAMS

There being no further business to come forth, Chair Hackman adjourned the meeting at 1847 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Colin D. Hackman*