

Berks County Fire Working Group

May 27, 2021

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Chris Schaeffer

The following individuals were in attendance;

DES – Mike Smith, Sean Hart, Christine Wood, Brian Gottschall

Zone 1 - Matt Brett, Larry Moyer

Zone 2 - None

Zone 3 – Robert Martin

Zone 4 - Matt Keller

Zone 5&6 – Mike Kline, Chris Schaeffer

Zone 7 - Tom Kemery

Fire police – None

Training group - Jeff Reinert

Training

- Jeff R reported classes continue to be scheduled. Check the website for a list of current scheduled classes. A point was brought up regarding the website and visibility. Requests have been made to increase advertising of the upcoming classes.
- Each zone should be making sure the website is shared to make everyone aware of upcoming classes.

Zone 1

- Looking for a representative to the training committee.
- Larry asked if unnecessary text paging can be eliminated such as the status of CAD when there is a scheduled repair or update. Per Brian G from DES, it cannot be done. It must be all or nothing.
- A question regarding structure fire. There are times that the SF assignment is used for calls that are small in nature and can be handled with less apparatus. Larry asked if we could find a way to reduce the assignment instead of filling out the complete assignment. The answer to this would be to look at the call types again. A committee would need to be formed to look at adding additional call types or redefining current types. No further discussion.

Zone 2

- No Rep

Zone 3

- A letter was received from Frystown Fire Company requesting to be removed from the zone. A follow up to this request to be made through DES.

Zone 5&6

- Question regarding what call type would cover an odor of smoke. This would be under structure investigation.
- Why are the Incident Commands not being notified when another call is coming in for their first due? Per radio SOP the IC of an ongoing incident will not be contacted. The fix could be to add a station dispatch to the run cards for all call types.

Zone 7

- The current cadet class is 2 months from graduation.
- There has been an increase of overdoses using Fentanyl and Heroin.
- The dept had an ambulance stolen. The apparatus was recovered in Lancaster.

DES

- Total visibility-the vendor is working on upgrading the web browser. This could take up to 120 days to complete. DES is starting up the photo sessions again, would like if they could be centralized or even done by zone.
- Radio update-Motorola has acknowledged that there is problem with the firmware. All updates have stopped and are on hold. Brian has requested that Motorola provide options to the end user for the firmware upgrade since all the previous updates will have to be done again.
- A question from the Zones, if there is a chance that each dept can use more then one computer to do the radio updates. DES agreed and will allow departments with more then one station to have more then one computer for updates.
- There has been no change in the status between Berks County and Montgomery County on the radio system.
- Christine went over the added and modified call types for the new run cards. The new run cards are available. If you want the changes in by Sept. 2021 the run cards will need to be received by the beginning of July.
- Question regarding Crew Force; has there been any updates. According to DES, Tyler Technologies software is not usable with the current system.

Old business

- None

New business

- None