

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

Meeting Minutes – July 30, 2020

Attendance:

Zone 1:

Zone 2:

Zone 3: Bob Martin

Zone 4: Colin Hackman

Zone 5/6: Chris Schaeffer

Zone 7: Tom Kemery

BCFA:

BCFPA:

Task Force:

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

Forestry:

Additional Attendance: Jeff Reinert, Berks County Fire Training

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

The January 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 / Attendance

BCFA: No Report / Attendance

Training: Jeff Reinert reported the Mod 2 training will be completed over the next two weeks. Mod 3 will follow, but there will not be enough time to complete Mod 4 in 2020.

East-Central Task Force: No Report / Attendance

Zone 1: No Report / Attendance

Zone 2: No Report / Attendance

Zone 3: Bob Martin reports they are re-organizing the Zone 3 Tanker Task Force and will be conducting training in the fall.

Zone 4: Nothing to Report

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.

Zone 7: Tom Kemery reports the new cadet class is doing field training and the Department has numerous personnel retiring.

DES: Brain Gottschall reported Berks County is the only remaining County in the East Central Task Force. There are current discussions for Berks to possible join the South East Task Force. Updated information will be provided as it is available.

Brian reports DES is currently working with the EMS Working Group to address the "Stabbing" call type.

Brian reports the County has been working to secure PPE for COVID-19. The County currently has a good stock of Gowns, Face Shields and Surgical Masks. They are trying to obtain more N95 Masks and possibly Medical Gloves.

Brian reports they have found the cause for the open radio mic issue which is a Motorola problem. DES and Motorola are currently testing a firmware update which should fix the problem. All radios will need to be updated when the new firmware is available. Please advise all Radio Administrators to watch for emails relating to the radio updates. When updates are ready, the radios will need to be upgraded quickly.

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

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1849 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 1800 hours on Thursday September 24, 2020. The meeting will either be via Teleconference or held at the Direct Link Conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colin D. Hackman, Chairman