

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

December 4, 2025

Officers: Chair Colin Hackman, Vice Chair Chris Schaeffer, Secretary Blair Miller

The meeting was called to order at 1804hrs with 15 people in attendance. There were no additions or corrections to the previous month's minutes (September 2025), they stand approved as read.

Attendance:

Zone 1: Jesiah Newsome, Josh Young

Zone 2: Blair Miller, Rusty Wagner

Zone 3: No Attendance

Zone 4: Lance Parmer

Zone 5&6: Brian Sierocinski, Chris Schaeffer

Zone 7: Andrew Getka

BCFA: No attendance.

BCFT: Jeff Reinert

BCFPA: Lance Parmer

Forestry: No attendance

DES: Brian Gottschall, Christina Wood, Matt Stairiker, Michael Smith, Philip Salamone

Additional Attendance: Colby

Communications:

Zone 1: Jesiah Newsome - everyone in favor of what was put out for the call types.

Zone 2: Rusty - radio programmed to Schuylkill, will start doing more northern Berks radios.

Zone 3: No attendance.

Zone 4: Lance Parmer - nothing to note.

Zone 5&6: Brian Sierocinski - nothing.

Zone 7: Andrew Getka - Starting 1/1/26 LT's on aerals - designation "Ladder Officer." This will also be applicable to the Rescue LT. Switched to NERIS using First Due, no noted issues.

BCFA: No attendance.

BCFT: Jeff Reinert - Fire academy changing July 1, 2026 - eliminating mods, now 3 separate mods. First is fire ground support, then FF1, and then FF2. Can test out of support level before you can take FF1. In order to take FF2 you have to take the prep class.

BCFPA: Lance - requested more talk groups. Noted issues with getting members to switch to another bank to access other TGs is going to be a big learning curve. Matt S - we can use any talk group in the system. If you have an operational need for a TG, notify Berks. Making new TGs is a large project, every radio on the system needs to be touched, it's not something that can occur quickly/easily.

Forestry: No attendance.

DES: ASAP to PSAP project - alarm companies will now be giving alarms to Berks via a digital implementation with CAD. This will help with reducing phone calls from alarm companies. Soft go-live date is 12/15/2025, the only thing you will notice is how the text page looks to you. If there are any issues with the text pages - reach out to the on-duty Watch Officer to make those notifications.

Old Business: None

New Business: Blair - elections for FSWG will be completed during January's meeting. A reminder to all representatives to update contact information and forward to myself or Colin.

Good of the Order: Next meeting will be 01/22/2026 at 1800hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Miller

Blair Miller, Secretary