

Berks County Fire Services Working Group

May 28th, 2026

Officers: Chair Colin Hackman, Vice Chair Jesiah Newsome, Secretary Blair Miller

The meeting was called to order at 1800hrs with 15 people in attendance. There were no additions or corrections to the previous month's minutes (March 2025), they stand approved as read.

Attendance:

Zone 1: Jesiah Newsome, Josh Young

Zone 2: Blair Miller, Dean Dalious, Rusty Wagner

Zone 3: Bob Martin, Steve Weaver

Zone 4: Colin Hackman, Lance Parmer

Zone 5&6: Jon Matthews, Michael Blevins

Zone 7: Jesiah Newsome

BCFA: Roger Weidenheimer

BCFT: Jeff Reinert

BCFPA: No attendance

Forestry: Dean Dalious

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

Additional Attendance: Derek Kissling

Communications:

Zone 1: Nothing to report.

Zone 2: Nothing to report.

Zone 3: Nothing to report.

Zone 4: Nothing to report.

Zone 5&6: Nothing to report

Zone 7: Some operational changes - potentially adding units to a working fire incidents. Gottschall questioned if this was in addition to the meeting DES had with RFD with Chief Leonard. It was not known.

Later, Jesiah said that Getka said this was in addition to the meeting that was held between RFD and DES, they are looking to implement this in the fall. Gottschall told them this needed to be implemented into their runcards. Wood told Jesiah to have Getka reach out to her when he returns from vacation. Gottschall wanted to note that one of the things they didn't understand was if this Working Fire was for Structure Fires only or any other type of fires? Jesiah said this would only be for Structure Fires.

BCFA: Nothing to report.

BCFT: Pump I and Pump II on the calendar on the website. Working on the new essentials program which should be out July 1st, will let everyone know when it's on the website.

BCFPA: Gottschall questioned about the documents that went back and forth, and was inquiring about the status of them. Lance advised he would follow back up and will notify on at the next FSWG.

Forestry: Nothing to report.

DES: Wood - testing of geo-spatial dispatching has been making good progress and we should be moving forward soon.

Gottschall - Radio HTML document was distributed, hopefully it was helpful for preliminary work.

Weidenheimer questioned if there was a way to get documentation on the differences between the models. Gottschall said the HTML packet that was sent out should have all of that information, along with what is involved with a "Berks radio." Otherwise, users should reach out to a Motorola rep, RMI, or radio shop if they have questions that weren't answered in the document. Gottschall lastly noted that while he has some knowledge, he suggests reaching out to those resources previously noted. Some users noted there were issues with links. Gottschall asked if anyone else was having issues, none were noted.

Gottschall - runcard process documents. He thanked those who submitted input and noted that is what is out now and being used.

Old Business: Bucks County Community College - that information was sent out.

New Business: None

Good of the Order: Next meeting will be Thursday, July 23rd, 2026 at 1800hrs via Teams.

Meeting adjourned at 1820hrs with 18 people in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Miller

Blair Miller, Secretary