

**LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**SEPTEMBER 2013 MEETING MINUTES**

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**Memorial Service**

The September 2013 Lancaster County Fire Chief's Association Meeting started with a brief memorial service at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center's Memorial Garden to remember the events of September 11, 2013.

**Guests**

The meeting had no guests or presentations for the evening.

**Previous Meeting Minutes**

Approved as presented.

**Secretary Report**

No report.

**Law / Legislative**

Ernie Rojahn reported on the PA State Fire Commissioner's Fire Company grant program that opened on September 9, 2013. The grant is completed completely online. Ernie also reported on the new child labor law and how it affects Junior Firefighters.

**Fire Marshal**

Trooper Dustin Shireman was present and spoke about the changes in the Fire Marshal's office at Troop J. He reported on how to and what to notify the PSP Fire Marshal's for.

**LCWC / Communications**

Timothy Baldwin (Deputy Director) provided the Lancaster County Fire Chief's Association (LCFCA) with an update of the county's radio project using the following discussion points -

On Wednesday, July 31, 2013, the county commissioners officially approved Phase-1 testing and authorized Phase-2 to begin. This means ARINC has started to construct the rest of the county-wide system. System acceptance testing (including coverage) for Phase-2 will occur in late spring and summer of 2014.

For those interested in the actual tests conducted during Phase-1, please visit [www.LCWC911.us](http://www.LCWC911.us). Click on the Radio System box along the top of the screen, and then choose Video Series.

On Tuesday, September 3, 2013, police dispatchers and 9-1-1 call-takers began operations from LCWC's back-up communications center in Brownstown. Fire and EMS dispatchers continue to operate from the Manheim communications center. This separation of operations will continue until mid-November. There is a Pre-Alert latency and general two-way latency between the two communications centers, as they must converse via telephone, or radio.

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Renovation of the Manheim communications center began on Tuesday, September 3, 2013. The work includes new workstation furniture, new Zetron radio consoles, new electrical wiring to support redundant UPS access, new paint, and carpeting.

Contractually, Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) for mobile radios is a system requirement. LCWC has budgeted for the necessary AVL computer hardware in the 2014 budget.

Jamie Rohrer asked about the ability of the fire service to view LCWC's electronic building plan database. LCWC continues to acquire school plans from the law enforcement community, as well as SARA Title-3 facilities. Todd Zimmerman is working with the data and should be able to populate some of the files to our GIS in about two months.

For those interested in buying intrinsically safe portable radios from Relm, all that is required is a different battery costing approximately \$50.00.

At the conclusion of Phase-1 tests, some fire chiefs expressed interest in encryption capability in order to converse with law enforcement on encrypted talk groups. This feature would only be made available for portables assigned to fire chiefs. The feature is not mandatory. Keith Eshleman can provide further background information.

At the September meeting of the radio project committee, LCWC was asked to research how other counties program the "Emergency" button on portable radios. When activated, does the feature force the conversation to occur on a dispatch talkgroup, or does the conversation remain on the tactical talkgroup? Also, how many seconds will the feature force an open carrier? LCWC will contact the other counties. If attendees at this meeting have an opinion, they should contact Ron Oettel, or Keith Eshleman.

Rockwell-Collins, a major aviation equipment manufacturer, has purchased ARINC. ARINC is the systems integrator on our new, county-wide Project-25 radio system. According to ARINC, the acquisition will have no affect on the Lancaster County project, as Rockwell-Collins has planned to make no changes to ARINC for one year. It is important to note that, as a system integrator, ARINC does not make equipment used on the new system. They coordinate the vendors involved in the project. Once the system is complete and accepted, LCWC radio maintenance technicians will maintain the system just as they do our current, conventional radio system.

Do not buy radio equipment without contacting Michael Weaver, Director of LCWC. He can facilitate introduction of prospective buyers with system and contract approved vendors. Departments should use caution in arranging installation of approved radio equipment in their vehicles. Vendors may claim to offer system and contract approved installation, however that may not be the case. Call before you buy.

Operations Manager Rick Harrison gave a brief report of the Fire Police Task Force. The Task Force is now down to (3) Zones. Rick also reported that the boat task force is still moving forward.

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**Lancaster County Emergency Management**

Director Randy Gockley also reported on the Fire Police Task Force and how the Workman's Comp Insurance may be handled. He reported that Cumberland County has a similar program and they are researching how they handle the insurance issue. A question was raised about an article that was in the news about the new weight restrictions on various bridges. It was stated that fire apparatus is exempt from the weight ratings. Randy will check into the validity of that exemption.

**Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center**

Fire Service Coordinator Dave Gribble reported on the upcoming 2014 courses and that the schedule will be on the [www.lcpstc.org](http://www.lcpstc.org) website shortly. He also reported that many field program requests may be tough to complete due to the limited number of instructors and their scheduling. He also reported the drafting pond has been losing water and if anyone is planning a burn to let him know so that the LCPSTC can ensure that the water tank is full for the drill.

**Lancaster County Fireman's Association**

Ed Knight is the new fire school director for the Pequea Lane facility.

**South Central Terrorism Task Force**

It was reported that the funding has had a slight increase and the current programs will stay in place.

**Standards Committee**

The following apparatus inspections have been completed: Engine 19-1, Engine 47-2 and Tanker 32.

**Standards Committee**

Chairman Joe Mohr reported that the apparatus checklists have been updated and the committee is currently working on a standard for an ATV.

**Golf Committee**

Rick Harrison reported that the approximate profit from the golf tournament should be approximately \$11,000. A final report will come at a later date.

**NIMS**

No report.

**EAST Committee**

Craig Homan – member of the old West Lancaster Fire Co. / Blue Rock Fire Rescue recently passed away.

**Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business.

**New Business**

No new business.

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**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Rick Harrison reported that there is \$48,288 in the money market, \$17,644 in checking for a balance of all accounts \$65,932.

**Good of the Order**

Rick Harrison reported that anyone that will be holding a Tanker Water Shuttle Drill should let him know and ISO will give credit for the drill.

**Roll Call**

Roll call showed (32) in attendance with (15) Fire Chiefs, (6) Deputy Chiefs, (4) Assistant Chiefs, (5) Past Chiefs and (2) Guests representing (27) agencies.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Gribble

Secretary

Lancaster County Fire Chief's Association, Inc.