

W.C.V.F.R.A. Chiefs' Com. Minutes

Regular Meeting

Oct 2006

The Chiefs' Com. was called to order at Company 10 on Wed, Oct 25 at 1900hrs by Chrmn. Jay Brandenburg. Many thanks to Co.10 for hosting and providing refreshments.

Reps in attendance from: Co .1,2,4,6,7,8,9,10,11,16,20,25,26,27,29,49,69,DFES, OSFM & WCVFRA

Distribution to attendees included: agenda, previous minutes, proposed drivers training program draft, Incident Command Vest Color change request, DFES memo-Deployment of Firefighter/technicians, DFES memo-standardized Dispatch change requests

Motion to accept the minutes from the August meeting made by Chief Boyd (Co. 69), seconded by Asst. Chief Ginn (Co. 7), and passed unanimously.

Ed Ernst of the OSFM updated the Com. on some changes in their operations. There are some procedural changes on fatal fires that may change the staffing levels on the OSFM side. The FD may be requested to supply support, primarily for lighting. He will provide updates once the final changes have been made.

Director Latimer provided the policy for the deployment of DFES firefighters on County incidents. Currently Co 6 and 10 have requested an automatic dispatch on certain incidents. Co. 16 indicated that they would have similar documentation in place. The Com. was reminded of the availability of this resource and that the staff can be called for by officers in the field as needed. Staffing at SO20 is eager to work with the County companies to assist their operations. There was some discussion about allowing the Votech students to spend some station time at Special Operations.

Director Latimer also provided the procedure that will be used to evaluate concerns and prospective changes to the Standardized Dispatch Policy. Companies are reminded to have their positions sent in writing to Chrmn. Brandenburg by the deadline on the memo for evaluation. The evaluation committee will look at all suggestions and distribute their findings before the next Chiefs' Com. meeting, at which time recommended changes will be voted on.

Chief Mongan (Co. 9) will allow another week for input on the RIT guidelines due to an overwhelming amount of late responses. The subcommittee is evaluating the latest suggestions prior to the release of the final draft for voting. Companies are reminded of the importance of deadlines on feedback so the Com. can move forward on issues such as the RIT guidelines.

Chief Boyd (Co. 69) requested some changes to the Incident Command Vest Colors on behalf of the EMS committee. These color additions correspond to the standard issue

vest packages used throughout the County. See distribution for details. Motion to recommend this change to the Standards Com made by Chief Ringer (Co. 26), seconded by Capt. Ulrich (co. 79) and passed unanimously.

Ass't Chief James (Co.1) presented a draft of minimal driving standards as determined by the subcommittee appointed in Jan. The Com. members were requested to review this proposal and return feedback back to Ass't. Chief James or any subcommittee member to further develop this standard.

There was discussion about looking into whether Health at Work could also complete DOT physicals for responders carrying CDL licenses. Pres. Fuscick stated that Health at Works has been approached to be open one evening or one Saturday for the scheduling of physicals on a first come first serve basis. Companies should try to determine the best time for their members and schedule these sessions with Health at Works. The WCVFRA would send out information on the date each month to allow the other companies to fill in the schedule that day or eve.

*NOTE: Since the Oct. meeting, Health at Work has notified the WCVFRA that they are unable to conduct Saturday appointments because of limited staffing. November 15 was set up as the evening for appointments with Company 4 completely filling this evening schedule. The WCVFRA is paying for the additional hours of service and those failing to meet their appointments will be billed. Apparently, Health at Works will not be able to schedule evening hours in December. Please contact them with your needs for Jan or Feb as soon as possible. Remember, off hour appointments should be reserved for those with dire scheduling conflicts.

Chief Mongan (Co. 9) questioned delays in receiving documentation from County sponsored NIMS classes in the Spring. According to MFRI, documentation was sent to the Washington County Emergency Management office. Classes have been showing up on some transcripts but certificates are lacking.

Asst. Chief Ginn (Co. 7) expressed concern over the ability of Officers to eliminate replacing of units on responses prior to the arrival. During a PIA call in which Co. 7 and RE72 were due to respond, Smithsburg responded with RE72 and time was asked by FRC as to if the engine or squad was to be replaced upon "scratch time." The OIC stated to hold off on a supplement and FRC advised they couldn't comply until qualified personnel were on the scene. Asst. Chief Ginn was asking what policy prevented the OIC from taking on this responsibility. Chief Ringer (Co. 26) reiterated his request to utilize EFD-EMD information to determine the need of Squads on accidents where adequate information could be provided. Chief Munday (Co.4) added that his organization would like the opportunity to "scale back" response if additional information from FRC indicated a lower threat level. Director Latimer indicated that his office would look into these specific instances and the ability for the OIC to take on the responsibility of reduced response.

Chief Griffith (Co. 6) questioned the status of the fit testing equipment at the WCVFRA office. Pres. Fuscick stated that Will Ball and Phil Rideour went through the equipment inventory and made a list of shortcomings. All equipment is on order or has been

received. Many face pieces were damaged because the holes were not lined up with putting on filters. Please be careful of this. It was noted that some companies have AV3000 face pieces and the kits need to be upgraded accordingly. Chief Boyd (Co. 69) also reminded the committee that the N95 masks should also be fit tested and currently there is no hood to test these.

Asst. Chief James (Co. 1) brought up the issue of the alerting of fire departments on medical assists. Several incidents have occurred recently where fire stations failed on EMS assist and claim their responders were unaware of calls. Companies 1, 4, 6, and 10 have experienced these problems. In some stations pager reception is poor and in station personnel may be unaware of a call. Discussion ensued and included problems encountered with companies lacking engine drivers for "EMS calls in or near the roadway" Asst. James proposed the following motion:

When an engine company is to be dispatched on a medical assist call, FRC shall alert the engine company using all available alerting mechanisms with the exception of the activation of "house siren". When an engine company is to be dispatched for an EMS incident occurring in or along the roadway, currently requiring an engine response, FRC shall alert the engine company using all available alerting mechanisms including the activation of the "house siren".

This motion was seconded by Chief Stouffer (Co. 16) and passed unanimously.

Chief Koons (Co. 25) updated the committee on some issues involving the Air Unit

- 1) Please advise if Air Unit response is Emergency or Non-Emergency with your request.
- 2) During recent support of the "Cadet" program, several air cylinders were noticed to be close to test dates-please keep these certification up to date
- 3) Most Monday evenings the Air Unit holds training/meetings/work details--- they usually have coffee and cookies and would invite companies to visit or fill cylinders at during this time

Chief Griffith informed the Com. that Frederick County is intending to switch their SCBA over to Scott NxG2 units.

A reminder was given to everyone that probationary firefighters should have the "NC" displayed on their helmets by now. If your company needs additional lettering, see the WCVFRA office.

Motion to adjourn made by Chief Griffith (Co. 6), seconded by Capt. Ulrich (Co. 79) and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: December 13 at 1900hrs at TBA
--

NJB

11/8/06