

PINELLAS COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
May 6, 2010 - Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Lewis at 12:55 PM, no roll call was taken due to the Secretary/Treasurer's absence – there were 24 in attendance. Chief Meyer made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Second by Chief Accetta, motion carried by voice vote. No Treasurer's report was provided due to the absence of the Secretary/treasurer.

Guests /Presentations

Mark Postma introduced John Peters, Interim Operations Manager for Paramedics Plus at SunStar.

Correspondence

None.

New Business

President Lewis reported on the request from the Safe Kids Coalition for a donation from the Association to be used as the match in a state EMS matching grant application. Chief Angle made a motion to support the coalition with a donation of \$1,000 from the Save Cans for Safe Kids funds. Second by Chief Butcher, motion carried by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

Chief Accetta reported on the status of the Fire Ops 101 program to be held on May 15, beginning at 07:00. He will send out a complete agenda soon.

Committee Reports

Operations Chiefs

Chief Wimberly reported that the revised Apparatus Placement SOP will be on the June agenda for approval. The 600-21 Ventilation SOP has also been revised to reflect positive pressure ventilation tactics and will also be on the June agenda for approval.

The Operations Chiefs at the fire chiefs' request have examined the 5UF response statistics and the response modes utilized by different agencies. The Operations Chiefs recommend that all 5UF responses provide the first/closest unit to respond emergency and all other units respond non-emergency, following the response protocol in 600-14 Automatic Alarm Response.

A Mobile Data Computer (MDC) software upgrade will be coming out soon.

Fire Marshals

No report.

PALS

Chief Sayre reported that PALS has created a sub-committee to examine protocols utilized during disaster responses and mutual aid deployments. Bob Markford, Palm Harbor FR is the committee chair.

Training Officers

Chief Pilson reported that the high rise drill is going well and approximately 1,000 personnel will have participated when completed. He informed members that more artificial smoke was being used than had been anticipated and that the training officers may request that attending agencies be assessed a one or two dollar per person fee to purchase additional smoke supplies and replace what has been provided.

The training officers are planning to host another Officer Development course in November with Dan Jones, Chief of Chapel Hill, North Carolina and formerly of Pinellas Park FR as the keynote speaker.

EMS Advisory Council

Elections were held during the last meeting of the advisory council with Fire Chief Mike Wallace elected as chairperson, Fire Chief Jamie Geer as vice-chair and Deputy Chief Don Sayre as secretary.

Opticom

No report.

Fire District Contract

Dick Williams reported that the county is working through budget development at this time.

Affiliate Reports

Pinellas County Public Safety Services

EMS Craig Hare reported on the evolution of the EMD system and changes in the Code 1 nature codes to provide a more accurate pre-arrival picture for responding crews. The changes should take place in June. Work is progressing on the priority dispatch protocols and Craig is hopeful the migration of EMD responsibilities to the 911 Emergency Communications Center can be completed in 2010.

Craig also reported on the status of the EMS budget development with proposals going before the county commission in May; the EKG exchange program status; and the examination of the high-risk refusal protocols through PALS.

Communications/911 Chuck freeman reported that Jackie Weinreich has screen shots of the MDC software upgrades available for review if anyone would like to see them. He also reported that the 911 Emergency Communications Center staff was recently recognized by the county administrator and county commissioners for their outstanding achievements during very difficult economic circumstances.

Radio Systems No report.

Fire No report.

Medical Director

Dr. Romig was proud to report that the 2009 OMD Annual report is complete and available for review on the OMD web site. The report cites the many successes that the EMS system enjoyed last year and provides excellent statistics on the varying EMS and OMD programs.

SunStar

Mark Postma reported that an upgrade in the EPCR software and hardware is progressing and staff training has begun.

Emergency Management

Sally Bishop reported that the regional hurricane evacuation study is near completion. Evacuation zones have been updated and evacuation zone maps are done and available. County EM is updating public information devices and the on-line lookup tool. The evacuation shelter list will remain as is for now but will likely be modified in the future. If you would like to request the new hurricane evacuation mapping please send Sally an e-mail request of what you would like, paper, electronic or both, and she will get them distributed.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council regional hurricane guide is planned to be distributed on or around June 1. Pinellas County will utilize the existing Pinellas specific guides and insert the new evacuation maps. The plan for distribution has been sent to Emergency Management Coordinators. Sally discussed the special needs evacuation protocols for those that may have pets and outlined changes to the current plans to accommodate these instances. She regretted that Chief Wallace was not in attendance to discuss his difficulties with the proposed changes.

The Emergency Management Coordinators meeting will be May 12. The agenda is lengthy and county EM is exploring the use of webinars to reach coordinators more frequently with shorter agendas and improved attendance since travel of the attendees would not be required.

Sally reported on the oil spill response, the Coast Guard St. Petersburg standing up a command for planning purposes should the west coast of Florida become affected; issues with volunteers; and BP block grant funding provided to Florida. County EM will continue to send sit-rep updates and welcomes telephone calls from local jurisdictions concerning the spill, response and recovery.

Sally thanked Chief Angle, Dr. Romig and the members of the Pandemic COOP committee for their work in creating policies and SOP. She also thanked Chief Fant for his work to facilitate improvements with evacuation shelter First Responder EMS support.

St. Petersburg College Fire

Charlie Caruthers reported that the summer curriculum will begin May 17. All is well on the credit program side.

Jim Terry reported that upcoming courses will include Aerial Operations, Pumper Operations and Elevator Safety. The college has evaluated a disaster management training simulator and believes it has some merit, the expense of the system a concern.

Jim provided a Blue Card training update and reported on the progression of a contract with the University of Florida for a veterinary rescue program. J. C. Brock would like to introduce the new St. Petersburg College President at a future Association meeting.

St. Petersburg College EMS

No report.

Red Cross

No report.

PTEC

Greg Lanning reported on the status of CPAT and NTN pre-employment testing. CPAT mentoring is now available free of charge on Thursday evenings.

Good of the Organization

Chief Angle spoke about the Pandemic COOP committee efforts and a planned table top exercise to be conducted in July.

The Palm Harbor FR MDA golf tournament is scheduled for May 28; you may contact Chief Angle for details.

Chief Fant reminded members that Treasure Island was hosting a COOP training course on the morning of May 14; you may contact Chief Fant for details.

The safe Kids Coalition and All Children's Hospital will be hosting a pool safety media day on May 25, at the North Shore pool in St. Petersburg.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Next Meeting is June 3, 2010.