

PINELLAS COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

September 6, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Graves at 12:40 PM. Ken Cramer provided the invocation and roll call was taken with 27 in attendance.

Chief O'Neal made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Second by Chief Yaudes, motion passed by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report as of September 6, 2007:

PCFCA Checking	\$8,203.39
PCFCA Extrication	\$237.37
PCFCA Training/Ed.	\$6,013.84
SCFSK Checking	\$1,995.59
<u>SCFSK CD</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
Total	\$21,450.19

Chief Meyer made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Second by Chief Moreno, motion passed by voice vote.

Correspondence

None.

New Business

President Graves discussed the SCBA mask fit testing equipment available from the county. Seminole FR will accept the unit and offer to assist other departments with their fit testing. Dunedin, St. Petersburg and Clearwater also have this equipment.

President Graves brought up fire hydrant testing and statutory compliance. He tasked the Fire Marshal's committee to examine the laws and regulations and report at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

President Graves discussed the haz-mat contracts status – contracts are to be approved by the city councils and district commissions in September and will then go to the county commission.

The ALS First Responder EMS contracts were approved by the county commission September 5.

Committee Reports

Operations Chiefs

Mike Wallace, Seminole Fire Rescue reported that the fire report committee is winding down its work. They have created new mandatory data fields for reporting consistency.

Mike related that we can anticipate new mobile data software upgrades in October. The upgrade will allow for more status buttons, i.e., on-scene, available and patient disposition; allow for viewing second alarm assignments; and allow units to place themselves out-of-service or delayed. The Operations Chiefs will work with the Training Committee to create a training package for distribution to each agency on the upgrade changes. Chief Wallace reminded the group that the unit laptops must re-boot each morning to sync the county CAD and laptop clocks. A minor change to the Landing Zone SOP, 600-25 is being recommended to reflect changes in the aircraft now in use. Bayflite has agreed to provide aircraft safety briefings to fire agencies.

Beginning 9/10/07 the Code 1 VC will be utilized by the 911 center. Agencies may contact Jackie Weinreich to alter their run cards.

The draft SOP dealing with funeral arrangements/ceremonial duties in cases of Line of Duty Deaths and death of retirees is near completion and will be presented at the October meeting.

Education Committee

No report.

Fire Marshals

No report. Chief Angle distributed paper copies of a draft Fire Investigation SOP for evaluation and comment. He will send it electronically as well.

PALS

No report

Training Officers

Lealman Fire Rescue will be hosting two National Fire Academy courses: one in the end of October dealing with Incident Command at High-Rise Incidents and the second in November covering the Worcester, Massachusetts LODD experience. Contact Lealman FR for additional information, flyers will be distributed.

The county-wide drill is in the planning phase with a winter 2007/2008 exercise.

The Pinellas Officer Development course is scheduled for November 5 – 9, at the Largo Cultural Center. The registration cost is \$100 per student and includes the Friday seminar by Fire Chief Rick Lasky, “Real Leadership With Real People – Building Tomorrow’s Leaders and Successors”. Registration forms will be available at www.pcfca.org for the Officer Development course and also for those interested in attending the one-day Lasky seminar. Registration for the Lasky seminar is \$30 per attendee.

EMS Advisory Council

Next meeting is September 26, at 11:00 AM.

American Assembly

Marine Rescue Capabilities – No report.

Affiliate Member Reports

Fire & EMS

Mike Cooksey reported on the county fees collected for plan review is to cover county employee’s time. Current fire district contracts do not allow local fire agencies to charge. The county and fire district contractors will examine this when the contracts are negotiated again.

Mike distributed a letter from county commissioner Calvin Harris requesting fire service agencies participate in the September 18, Take a Loved One for a Checkup Day by providing blood pressure screenings at each fire station. The members in attendance supported the idea.

Craig Hare reported that the electronic PCR project is going well so far with FD units being rolled out in the near future. A software upgrade will be required to transmit the FD PCR to the SunStar units’ hardware.

Craig reported that the hospitals were beginning to request the transmission of 12-lead EKG data from the field to the hospital.

At the next PALS meeting Craig will cover the changes in the EMS contract impacting equipment and look at provider cancellation of their bio-hazard waste contracts or re-routing of bills as the county will take this service payment under the new contract.

Medical Director

Dr. Romig wanted to raise awareness and seek stakeholder help in setting dates for protocol implementation and CME programming. There was discussion that the Yahoo group e-mail now utilized by PALS is unreliable. It was suggested that the PALS e-mail group utilize the Association web page to host e-mail transmittals.

Emergency Management

Sally Bishop, Pinellas County Division of Emergency Management once again challenged the skills of the secretary/treasurer to scribe minutes during her report. She also discussed the following items:

- The state has predicted a weather shift to a La Nina condition which may result in a busy October [and November](#) for tropical storm formation. (Editor’s comment: Great!!)
- Base camp contracts have been completed with [a](#) private contractors and provide for a flexible expansion and contraction based on incident needs. Cities and districts may piggyback these contracts.

- County Emergency management is conducting focus group research to identify improvements for public education and public out-reach programs.
- Creating a draft evacuation [decision making tool protocols](#) for use by responder agencies.
- E-Team software for messaging and resource requests, funded through UASI grants, will allow local jurisdiction use.
- Ready Alert business notification system will now be available from County EM.
- County EM is moving towards requiring hotels and motels receiving a density bonus to sign agreements prior to issuance of a CO that transient guests be evacuated at issuance of a hurricane watch. Also looking at revising existing ordinance for transient accommodations to create and submit hurricane evacuation plans [by requiring all in Level A zones to evacuate at a hurricane watch](#).
- The state has begun update for [regional hurricane evacuation studies](#) of coastal counties – Pinellas is working with the regional planning council to perform a behavioral analysis update.
- [Emergency Management has](#) storm surge banners are available to [loan](#) local agencies for public education efforts.
- Chief Meyer raised the issue of local government cable TV channels being relocated to a higher digital tier and the effect on public information during disaster scenarios. Sally said she would forward any information she had from Pinellas TV 18 regarding the issue and felt the Association may have some impact through communications with Brighthouse Network officials.

Communications/911

Chuck Freeman gave a report on the recent lightning strike at the 911 center and its effects on the communications system. There was a smooth transition to back-up equipment and a rapid return to normal operations.

The new county Blackberry's are on the Sprint system and will not work with the Nextel direct connect or the paging system.

The 911 center will initiate a moment of silence at 09:59 AM on September 11.

Pam Montanari recently sent an e-mail regarding radio hardware availability and pricing.

St. Petersburg College EMS

No report.

St. Petersburg College Fire

Jim Terry reported the next minimum standards class will begin in September – Class 18 will graduate on September 13, 18:30 at the Allstate Center.

Registration for spring credit courses will begin November 15.

There will be a 9/11 ceremony at the Allstate Center at 9:00 AM.

The college is anticipating a tuition increase for the fire academy beginning in January 2008.

Pete Huffman provided a briefing on a proposed program to move fire academy graduates into an advanced program that will better prepare them for employment. The program may include: coordination of a preceptor ride-along similar to the EMS program; modules 16 – 24 hours on engine company operations, rescue rope skills, extrication skills, FF survival, EVOC, FF skills, and a 40-hour pump school. He is looking for input on the viability of such a program. President Graves suggested that the college work with the Training Officers committee to determine curriculum.

Red Cross

No report.

SunStar

The hydraulic power stretchers are now on the transport units.

Good of the Organization

Oldsmar Fire Rescue will host its annual 9/11 ceremony at station 54 beginning at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Next Meeting is October 4, 2007 at Stacey's Buffet.