

## **Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association**

Regular Meeting Minutes June 7, 2012

12:35 - Meeting called to order by President Polk

**Minutes and Treasure's Report** - Tabled for next month.

**Guests / Presentations** - None

**Correspondence** – Chief Polk - Discussion on a letter of support from the North American Rescue Association. Clearwater will host the 2013 World Rescue Challenge.

**Unfinished Business** –

a. Fire Ops 101 - Chief Polk – Discussion on letter from Joe Accetta stating that they had another good year and good turnout. They had about 18 participants and a few observers.

Staffing Shelters – Chief Graham – Is having his staff evaluate the ability of his Tierra Verde personnel to staff a shelter when they evacuate the Island. Lealman and Gulf Port will work on issue and keep Mike Cooksey advised of the proposal.

**New Business**

**PARKS AND CONSERVATION RESOURCES - WILDFIRES**

Wildfires on county park property – Mike Cooksey – Discussed staffing changes that will prevent the staff responding on nights, holidays, and weekends. Basically they can only respond during normal county business hours. The policy is not geared towards fire departments or the incident command / NIMS system. Mike pointed out that the Parks Dept. wrote this policy and he did not write the policy.

Chief Lewis – Asked why do we have them? Mike responded that part of their role is prescribed burns and mop-up activities.

Chief Polk – Discussed unfunded mandates while we are all under economic constraints.

Chief Bessler – (Chief Bessler provided his notes to add to the minutes). In addressing Mike Cooksey’s comments, Chief Bessler said that the following are points that Mr. Cooksey and I agree on:

Agree that our county parks are an important and valuable resource for public recreation

Agree that the county parks are owned and maintained by Pinellas County

Agree that the county parks do not create any revenue through ad valorem taxes to support local fire districts

Agree that the county wildfire policy does not comply with NIMS

Agree that neither the county nor the fire districts determine what time of the day or day of the week wildfires will occur in a county park

Agree that it was a county decision to reduce funding to its parks and recreation department by 55%

Agree that the county previously provided mop up assistance, but abruptly stopped without notification

Agree that two fire districts in Pinellas County receive additional funding to provide wildland protection to county parks but that the other 16 do not.

We agree to disagree on whose responsibility it is to provide wildfire mop up support for county parks

Chief Polk – Discussed having ALS engines tied up now because the county used to deal with mop-ups.

Mike Cooksey – This policy came from the Parks Department and not him, he is only presenting it.

Chief Bessler – What is Mike’s expectation on fires in county parks? Mike – put the fire out.

Chief Polk and Mike Cooksey also discussed – funding of parks may or may not benefit the FD funding, county parks are committed to support the fire service, and how we are all facing budget short falls.

Mike Cooksey – maybe a meeting with all parties involved would help this policy.

## **Committee Reports**

**Operations Chiefs** – Discussion: We will not have any new SOPs until September.

**Fire Marshals** – N/A

**PALS** – Vicky – June 13, 2012 next meeting – They are looking at an easier way to get narcotics to our units. Information is on SharePoint if we are interested.

**Training Officers** – N/A

**EMS Advisory Council** – N/A

## **Affiliate Reports**

**Public Safety Services** – Mike Cooksey – Jody is in the process of obtaining and setting up meetings with fire departments. She is gathering financial information for the study/consultant.

New director starts August 13, 2012.

**Emergency Management** – N/A

**Medical Director** – Dr. Romig – July MOMS policy will be effective July 9, 2012 to work around the holiday. New equipment Nu Mask BVM discussed. Overdose patients, category green, can go directly to the psych-facility.

**Paramedics Plus / SunStar** – N/A

**PTEC** – N/A

**St. Petersburg College Fire** – N/A

**St. Petersburg College EMS** – Nerina – Enrollment is way up on Paramedic and EMT courses. She discussed dates on EMT and Paramedic programs.

**Red Cross** – N/A

## **Good of the Organization**

Graham – Would like to thank the Clearwater Fire Department for assisting with the recent arson seminar held at station 48. They really went above and beyond in facilitating the event.

Meeting Adjourned at 13:15 hrs, Next Meeting will be on July 12, 2012...