

EMS MEETING

May 23, 2011

PRESENT: A. Silvestri, R. Serowik, J. Hardik, K. Miga, W. Miga, D. Hill, M. Belensky, J. VanKuren, C. Hoyt, M. Henry (late)

Wes summarized all of the issues from both the fire side and EMS side and asked if there was anything that he might have left out; nobody had any additional issues.

REMOVAL OF GEAR FROM RACKS: Besty stated that he had authorized the removal of the gear from the racks of members who were inactive. In the future members will be notified of this prior to removal.

GEAR FOR EMS MEMBERS: Discussion regarding whether or not EMS members should have turnout gear, especially in the case of a MVA where a patient needs treatment before he/she is removed from the car. Consensus was that if fire retardant jumpsuits are available and helmets are available for EMS members to wear (when necessary), along with steel-toed boots, this would be acceptable. Ray will look into this. Cold weather clothing needs to be taken into account.

BRAVO PRIORITY CALLS: Ray gave some statistics regarding response to EMS calls. He said that BRAVO priorities are often categorized like this because there is a shortage of information; they are not considered innocuous calls. Besty raised the question of whether we should continue to respond to BRAVO calls. Mark B. gave statistics regarding our response to BRAVO calls. Ray said that we are not contractually obligated to answer calls; that we actually have a pretty good response time compared to fire departments in the area. Jean said that if people are signed up for EMS, that if BRAVO priority calls are cut it will eliminate even more calls that could be responded to. The consensus was that there is no downside to continuing to answer BRAVO calls.

CREW CHIEF STATUS: Ray said that there is a formal evaluation for crew chief status; some new members do not feel confident with crew chief status. Fire officers stated that they did not know of the existence of this evaluation form and asked for clarification regarding this. John offered to step in and help the new EMS members and get them out to calls. Ray agreed that this would be fine and also agreed to run a refresher CFR course for anyone who has an expired CFR or EMT certificate. The consensus was that everyone will work together to help the new members gain crew chief status. Wes mentioned that we should make an effort to communicate more effectively between EMS and fire officers regarding the new members. Ray said that there is already a BOG in place regarding this formal evaluation process in the EMS Operations SOGs; he

provided a copy via e-mail of the policy and evaluation form to everyone attending the meeting.

IN-HOUSE TRAINING HOURS: There are no in-house training requirements for EMS ONLY members and the fire officers are critical of this, as they are allowed the same privileges as other members and can maintain active status without having to meet any requirements at all. Mark H. believes that in order to make EMS in-house requirements comparable to the fire requirements it would require 4 hours of joint EMS/fire training per quarter for each member and Ray likes the idea of scheduling these trainings ahead of time, both Saturdays and Wednesdays, so that the EMS members can plan to attend. These trainings would include roles for both EMS and fire members and in-house credit would be given. The consensus is that we may try Mark's idea of 4 hours/quarter, with repercussions being Member Not in Good Standing status and inactive after 6 months if these requirements are not met. Mark H. will e-mail this BOG to all of the officers so that it can be reviewed and discussed.

VOTING FOR OFFICERS: It was discussed that the fire members should only vote for the fire officers and EMS members should only vote for EMS officers. This will be referred to the bylaw committee.

REHAB TRAILER: It has been offered to the County and needs to be requested by individual commanders. We need more EMS members to put this into use.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM: It was agreed that this is not a problem and will not be addressed further.

TIMES AND LOCATIONS OF EMS MEETINGS/TRAINING: Besty will notify everyone by e-mail regarding these meetings in the future and they will also be posted on the company calendar. Jean will put EMS training on the calendar.

NO RESPONSE AND DELAYED RESPONSE TO EMS ISSUES: It was agreed that this is not just an EMS problem, but an overall company problem with communication.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES: It was agreed that we should set up one of these meetings once every quarter, a FULL STAFF MEETING, with board members attending.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 21:10

Respectfully submitted by Karen S. Miga