

Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact

Meeting Minutes May 16, 2024

Chief Jim Morse Presiding

Roll call Attendance Towns: 16 Members: 20 Guests: 3

Call to Order 1900 with the Pledge and - Welcome by Host Chief Alan Quimby

Presentation by guests from UNITIL John DiNapoli. He explained the operations of the Muni room storm preparation and response and the restoration procedures. He also reviewed the First Responder Mobile app. Chief Gilbert reminded members to update the critical infrastructure list to include the radio towers. He reminded us of the June 17th annual meeting at Grappone Center

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Dept. Chief Newbery

- Motion to dispense with the reading of the April minutes. Motion and second to accept the minutes as posted and distributed. Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report –

- Motion and second to accept the report as posted and distributed. Motion passed.

Training Committee- Dept. Newbery

- Forestry pump training in Henniker at Pats Peak on 4/29/24. Drill was similar to the Loudon forestry drill – included extended hose lays, a portable collapsible tank mid-way in the evolution, and drafting with forestry pumps. Review of lessons learned.
- Reminder of the propane class on 6/11/24 and the sign-up link.
- Reminder of the NVFC Hazmat Grant funded class scheduled for July 12 and 13 Friday and Saturday. No cost and lunch included. The class will be at the Compact office on Triangle Park Dr. Concord.
- Firefighter Safety Stand Down week is June 16. I will send out some training resource links.
- Recruit school in Concord starting June 3rd. There will be some shared training opportunities.

Next Chiefs meeting the rep from Eversource will attend.

Hazmat Report Mick Costello

- Report on the latest activity and training. No responses

Fire Marshal's Report – Marshal Toomey

- Reported on recent activity – Four fire fatalities in one week. The trend in ignition appears to be smoking material. Working with Claremont Fire on a rash of suspicious fires. The legislative session is coming to a close. The 2021 edition of the Fire and building codes should be passed on

the consent agenda. National movement to limit sprinkler protection in 3 and 4-family occupancies. The EV bill went to interim study. This legislation may be addressed at a National level. Still pending the Study Commission on EV and lithium battery issues. FM Toomey spent two weeks in DC at conferences and gave a brief overview. Fire Service Grants have been reauthorized and there is a bill pending that may fire station and radio grant money available. Discussion on the proposed new OSHA Fire Brigade Standard. The NVFC site is a good resource for this information.

A full report was submitted with the meeting minutes.

NHFST & EMS Report –

- **No report**

NHIAC Report – James Heinz

Chief Gilbert. Reported on recent activity – Stolen extrication equipment, Fentanyl laced letters, recreation drones interfering with emergency operations, hacking into water infrastructure websites, and reports of damage to electrical transmission systems.

WEBSITE – Gary Sleeper

- Normal website activity – 349 unique visits

Concord Hospital Report –

No representative. No report

Dispatch Report – Jen Beets

- Jen reported -The City has made a conditional offer to a new dispatcher to fill the vacancy. Working on updating the run cards.

Old Business

- Foam Grant - D/C Newbery – Contacted the vendor to push to have the new foam trailer before NASCAR in June. The back-up plan is to use the trailer from SW hazmat team – they have offered the use of their trailer. Foam training will be provided when the trailer is delivered.
- Compact Towers– Chief Gilbert – Plausawa Tower is up 180’ permanent tower. Moving our equipment to the new tower will probably have to be subcontracted out. Will try not to conflict with the NASCAR event. We have experienced issues with a temporary A/C power connection that is not code-compliant. We still have the outstanding issue of the backup generator that is not done. The contract agreement was to restore it to the original if damaged. Work still needs to be done to move the equipment from the current Henniker tower to the new tower. We need to close this project.
- Radio Project – Chief Gilbert - The committee did meet with State Senator Innis to look at ARPA funds. He gave no commitments but will investigate funding. A meeting is planned for next week with State Senator Pearl to present the project.

New Business

- Chief Gilbert – Executive Committee meeting was held. He gave an overview of the meeting – discussion included long-term planning, regionalization, expanding employee base, and property purchases. He encouraged members to reach out to the committee members to express their ideas and thoughts.
- Chief Gilbert - is waiting to place a pending passport order. Contact him if you need any tags.
- Chief Blanchette – Reviewed two recent fire incidents in Loudon. Odor of electrical burning in a residence – found to be a charging toy soccer ball under a bed with a lithium-ion battery. Reported to FMO and working with the CPSC. Second incident was a building fire on a Class 6 road. Long driveway with difficult access. No easy way to turn apparatus around - used second alarm tankers.
- FM Toomey – Discussed the two conferences that he was involved with in Washington DC. World Fire Congress 300 + leaders from around the world discussing global FD challenges – Global Warming, floods, wildfires, battery issues. Reminded that the USFA site is a good resource for information.

Next meeting – Location Salisbury June 20, 2024

Motion and a second to adjourn at 20:10