

**JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**  
**Meeting of the Membership**

DATE: September 11, 2008  
TIME: 10:00 AM  
PLACE: Okolona Fire Department, Station # 3

**ATTENDANCE**

Anchorage, Buechel, Eastwood, Fairdale, Fern Creek, Harrods Creek, Highview, Jeffersontown, Lake Dreamland, Lyndon, Louisville Fire / Louisville Arson, McMahan, Middletown, Okolona, Pleasure Ridge Park, Shively, St. Matthews, & Worthington. Also present were representatives from Louisville Metro EMA, EMS, Health Department, MetroSafe, Louisville Water Company, Metro Chaplains, Atty. Maurice Byrne, and Terri Livers, EFA.

**GUESTS & RECOGNITIONS**

*New Fire Chief* - Col. Jeff Riddle was introduced as the new Fire Chief for the Middletown Fire Protection District. Col. Brooks will retire from the position on October 1. Congratulations!

*New Fire Marshal* – State Fire Marshal Bill Swope was introduced to the membership. Mr. Swope mentioned the letters and certificates that were recently mailed to the departments, re-deputizing their fire marshals. He also welcomed any questions or concerns from the local fire service and stated his intention to be available when needed.

*Supporting Heroes* – Eric Johnson spoke of the organization’s history and recent efforts to stand with the families of fallen firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical workers. To date, Supporting Heroes has provided \$600,000 in assistance to those that have experienced the loss of a loved one to the line of duty. They need a great deal of support in order to continue their good work. The organization has received calls and requests for assistance and information from areas outside of Kentucky and Indiana, spurring an interest that could perhaps extend their scope to the state of Tennessee.

The 2008 boot drive is scheduled for October 11. Mr. Johnson welcomed any suggestions for improvements or recommendations from the fire service and reported that they are working to promote additional media attention for the fundraiser. They are also expecting additional participation from police and EMS for this year’s drive, and would like to work toward establishing an annual schedule that will not conflict with the Crusade for Children or the Indiana firefighter’s MDA drive.

Alan Lewis mentioned the fire truck pull that will be planned for Fire Prevention Week, 2009. Further details to be announced.

*LOJIC / ESRI Award* – Curt Bynum and Jane Poole of LOJIC presented Andy Longstreet and Angela Scott with an award that they earned for their work on the Fire Atlas. Mr. Bynum shared the significance of such an award, which was bestowed for “Best Cartographic Design” at the 2008 GIS Conference (a gathering of 14,000 attendees from 114 countries). Russ Sanders reported that Col. Frederick serves on the ESRI board and also received an award. Congratulations!

**CONSIDERATION OF JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 9, 2008 meeting were approved by motion of Anchorage. Second by Buechel. Motion Carried.

## **FIRE ALLIANCE FINANCIAL REPORT**

Copies of the year to date financial reports were provided for review. Motion by Fern Creek for approval of the reports as submitted. Second by PRP. Motion Carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*Cable Barriers* – Col. Aponte reported that a cable barrier class has been scheduled for October 30 at 10:00 a.m. (location to be announced). As of this meeting, ten people had expressed an interest in attending the class. There is no charge for the class.

*EMS Cost Determination* – Col. Barth reported on the direction that was provided at the July JCFCA meeting and the results of Col. Yurt's research, which included input from fire chiefs throughout the country and the information that Col. Carlson had prepared as well. Emphasis was placed on the importance of establishing an equal rate for all of the districts. Col. Yurt provided his report to Col. Barth, which outlined the value of services to be \$8.00 per mile, in order to offset costs associated with fire apparatus, fuel, and maintenance associated with the addition of medical responses. Group discussion brought a recommendation for the report to be shared with the districts for review before a decision can be made. The subject was tabled for further discussion at the October Chapter 75 meeting. Motion by Harrods Creek. Second by Lyndon. Motion Carried.

## **COMMITTEE & OTHER REPORTS**

*Metro Government Report* - Col. Barth provided the following report:

*Flu Mist Exercise* – A free flu mist exercise will be offered on October 15. Details are forthcoming from Dr. Matt Zahn of the Louisville Metro Health Department. The exercise will require 1,000 people between the ages of 18 – 49 for a self-administered test of the system. Dr. Zahn is expected to attend the October meeting of the Chapter 75 Fire Chiefs.

September 11 – An official remembrance will not be conducted this year. A tolling of the bells will occur downtown. The Louisville Police and Fire Patriot Games are scheduled for Saturday, September 13.

*Fire Prevention Week* – The Fire Prevention Week kick-off event will take place on October 7 in Jefferson Square. Col. Barth reported that we will need to provide at least six pots of chili, flag carriers, and apparatus for the event. Details to follow.

*EMS Update* – Col. Barth corrected a rumor involving Flight Net. They do in fact have the county's mutual aid frequency and have not lost the ability to communicate with the fire service.

Dr. Richmond introduced Col. Craig Rodgers as the new chief of service, Bob Rahula as the new project manager, and J.R. Noe as the director of logistics for LMEMS. Mr. Rahula will be meeting with the departments regarding the FireHouse interface. Beginning January 1, LMEMS will switch to a twelve hour staffing schedule. The change will be communicated in advance of the transition.

Discussion held regarding the department reports for Echo and Delta responses. Col. Seng questioned the data that he had received for St. Matthews since it does not match the fire department data. Dr. Richmond and Mr. Noe advised that the difference could be the data source and definition of Echo runs. This month's data should be more in line with what the fire departments are reporting.

*Legislative* – Col. Reckner provided a complete report on the meetings that took place for legislative review and the current status of the mini-max issue. A lawsuit was filed on September 2 stating that the Commission on Housing, Building & Construction does not have statutory authority to apply a mini-max standard in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A response to the action is expected on September 23. A number of fire chiefs and state organizations have signed on with their support. It is not too late to join the suit. If interested, please send your request on fire department letterhead to the attention of Col. Reckner.

Col. Reckner also reported on an upcoming meeting by the insurance commission to revise the ISO five road mile requirement between firehouses (established in 1912), to ten miles.

With regard to chapter 75 legislation, meetings are planned throughout the state to gain support for re-introduction of the bill in the next session.

Col. Reckner ended his report with an update from the IAFC and the Public Safety Officer's Bill. The Department of Justice has proposed a change designating that benefits will not be paid for a line of duty death during a training exercise, unless the training is mandatory. The bill was sent for review on July 10. Efforts are underway to extend the period for public comment.

Col. Barth thanked Col. Reckner for all of his work on our behalf.

*Kentucky Fire Chiefs Association* – Col. Larkins reported that Col. Reckner is serving with other fire service officials on a new committee, recommended by the Home Builders Association, to discuss the code process.

He also reported that the president of the Southeastern Fire Chiefs will attend the OLS Conference in Northern, Kentucky on November 6 and encouraged our fire chiefs to attend as well.

#### *Suburban Fire Special Operations Teams*

Trench / Collapse / MSAR – Col. Larkins reported on recent and ongoing training exercises.

Water Rescue – Col. Aponte reported that the team will conduct their annual elections soon. He also mentioned the process for the request for resources as a result of the recent hurricanes. All requests are to be coordinated through the team leader and the JCFCA liaison.

Tunnel Training – Col. Aponte reported on a recent training, conducted at a depth of 6,200 feet, which caused some communication and visibility issues but provided a good learning opportunity for those involved.

HazMat – No Report

Technical Rescue – No Report

*PIER* – Col. Barth reported on the currently airing Line of Fire broadcast, highlighting Highview's new fire station, Chief Baker and Chief Rakestraw, Louisville Fire's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the Big Four Bridge fire. Ideas are needed for the fall show.

*Communications* – Lt. Col. Johnson reported on the best practices committee, and the approval of their recommendations as noted by the chapter 75 fire chiefs. After considering all of the options, the committee has recommended unit dispatching for all departments. A timeframe has not yet been determined for the cut-over. A sub-committee was also established (Col. Carlson, Col. Aponte, Lt. Col. Bowman, and Col. Carroll) to review the new radio system and the operations procedures. Lt. Col. Johnson reminded everyone that there is a lot of work to be done in the time that is remaining before everything is moved over to the new system.

Lt. Col. Johnson also reported on the recent mobile re-assessment that was conducted. Additional information to be provided upon receipt.

EMA – Col. Barth began by thanking Col. Larkins for coordinating the assistance effort on behalf of the JCFS as it was needed for the Hurricane Gustov evacuees. Mr. Hamilton also thanked the JCFS and Louisville Fire for their assistance. He mentioned that the incident was NIMS compliant and worked very well overall, citing the success of the Incident Management Team Training conducted previously at Jeffersontown. Col. Reckner was thanked for his part in bringing that training to Jefferson County and encouraged to work on the coordination of additional trainings as well through his affiliation with the Crisis Group. With regard to NIMS compliancy, Mr. Hamilton noted that while several of our departments have met the NIMS requirements, others still need to do so in order to be considered for grant funding.

Mr. Hamilton also mentioned the best practices committee and the importance of adopting a single method of dispatching across the board. He encouraged the departments to share their opinions with the committee members as to what is best for the Jefferson County Fire Service as a whole. An update on the MetroSafe infrastructure and towers was provided. The new radios are due to arrive in December. They will be distributed after a complete inventory is conducted, either in March or after the Derby. Col. Carlson shared that a recent ISO survey resulted in Okolona receiving a class II – thanks to the MetroSafe updates!

Col. Barth thanked Mr. Hamilton for all of his work during the Hurricane detail and congratulated him for a job well done.

*NFPA Report* – Mr. Sanders reported that the NFPA code committee will meet February 17 – 19, 2009 in Kentucky and will allow input from the Jefferson County Fire Inspectors Association into the code process. He also talked about the importance of the mini-max issue, complimenting attorney Maurice Byrne for his work, those that have attended the hearings, and all that have supported the cause. The members in turn thanked Mr. Sanders for his time and expertise on the issue as well.

*EMS QA / Protocol Committee* – Discussion held as to whether or not this committee is still in tact. Chief Barth will address the issue Col. Rodgers. Mr. Hamilton advised that MetroSafe currently performs a QA function on 3% of the calls for service. The potential interface between FireHouse and LMEMS Zoll software programs was also mentioned, as were the codes that are currently being used.

*Legal Counsel* – Attorney Maurice Byrne mentioned the mini-max issue and the commitment that is present to support the suit; all the way to the Supreme Court if needed. He also provided a handout regarding payments to fire districts for emergency medical services, which outlines six different options for the fire districts to pursue for cost recovery / reimbursement of EMS expenses. A question was posed regarding “reasonable costs” which is an issue that will need to be addressed on a county-wide basis.

*Metro Chaplains* – Chaplain Ennis reminded the chiefs to make sure that their people, if called out to another state, check in with command and that their presence is recorded to ensure that their benefits are not jeopardized in the event of injury or death.

*Louisville Metro Arson* – Major Ott reported that the months of July and August were the busiest since 1975, and that due to the number of responses, the clearance rate has been slow (still 11 points higher than the FBI average). The districts were reminded to go through the proper steps when requesting an arson unit. And if there is a potential that the unit may be called, to please refrain from using foam if possible.

*State Fire Commission* – Col. Larkins mentioned that Mr. Curtsinger has also been working with Col. Reckner on the fire safety issues mentioned at this meeting. And he thanked Middletown for hosting the CPAT equipment at their station a few weeks ago. It will be moving to Henderson and Owensboro over the next few months.

*Rehab Policy Committee* – The rehab policy was discussed and has since been re-distributed with the proposed revisions. Please review the document and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting.

*JCPS Knox Box* – Col. Carlson reported that he provided a list of the public schools by district to Chuck Fleischer. Additional information provided upon receipt.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Louisville Water Company* – Col. Barth thanked the LWC for their work and for their presence at the bi-monthly meetings of this association. He also mentioned the progress that is being made for the hydrant project that will work with FireHouse to populate the LWC hydrant data.

*Mike Sutt Endorsement* - Motion by Anchorage. Second by Fern Creek, to endorse Mike Sutt for a position on the KBEMS board. Motion Carried.

*JCFS Group Dental* – Col. Jeff Riddle discussed the group dental plan and the renewal options. Humana has offered to reimburse our account in the amount of \$23,000 for the miscalculation of claims, which cost our self-funded plan more than we were expecting to pay. Their renewal rates were comparable with the other carriers; therefore the committee recommends the renewal of the fully-insured plan with Humana. Motion by Buechel to accept the committee's recommendation to renew with Humana for the period of October 1 through June 30. Second by Anchorage. Group discussion brought a recommendation for the renewal to be on a month to month basis, pending clarification on how the reimbursement will be processed. Motion amended by Buechel to include a month to month renewal. Second by Anchorage. Motion carried with abstention noted by Louisville Fire.

All of the committee members were present for the meeting and were recognized for their time and leadership.

### *Other New Business*

*Ordinance on Novelty Lighters* – An ordinance proposed by the Jefferson County Fire Inspectors Association to ban the sale of novelty lighters was reported to the membership. A copy of the ordinance has since been distributed for review.

Concern was expressed at the potential for re-opening the hydrant or smoke detector ordinances.

## **REPORTS FROM FIRE CHIEFS EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Executive vice-president, Col. Rick Larkins – Col. Larkins encouraged the chiefs to please respond to the emails that they receive requesting assistance for the various issues that arise on a regular basis.

Area A vice-president, Col. Chris Aponte – Col. Aponte mentioned that assistance was needed for command positions during the Ryder Cup, as requested in an email from Col. Davenport.

Area B vice-president, Col. Mike Schmidt – No Report

Area C vice-president, Col. Vincent Smith – No Report

## **NEXT MEETING**

*Chapter 75 Fire Chiefs Association:* Wednesday, October 08, 2008 (10:00 a.m.) @ Highview # 1

*Jefferson County Fire Chiefs Association:* Wednesday, November 12, 2008 @ Fern Creek # 1

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Okolona at 12:00 p.m. Second by Anchorage. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted: Terri Livers, EFA