



MINUTES
Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee
June 17, 2009
State Fire Marshal's Office

Members Present: John Reich, Bruce Kline, Tommy McDowell, Paul Watts, Karl Ristow, Dusty Owens, Wendell Wilburn

Others: Jason Pope, Dan McManus, Libby Hardwick, Steven Batson

- Chairman Reich called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Minutes from the December meeting were read and approved.
- Dan McManus presented the US&R/Mobilization report. (See Attachment 1)
 - o Karl Ristow made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Bruce Kline, motion passed.
 - o Bruce Kline requested a description of the new Homeland Security Senior Advisory Council (HSSAC) and asked how the fire service was represented. This information will be sent to the committee members via email. He also requested a list of the FY08 Homeland Security grants and suggested we develop a strategy for future funding requests.
- Libby Hardwick passed out the budget update.
 - o Bruce Kline made a motion to accept the budget as presented, motion was seconded by Tommy McDowell, motion passed.

Old Business

- John Reich gave a brief legislative update. He stated no new bills passed to address the US&R team's workers' compensation issues.

New Business

- Jason Pope presented the FFM After Action Report for the Highway 31 Fire. There was some discussion. Tommy McDowell gave brief description from his point of view, as he was deployed through FFM.
- John Reich briefed the committee on his trip to the Augusta Burn Center and stated the center is providing a great service to its patients. He also stated that FFM participated in the state full-scale exercise in June.

Open Discussion

- There was none.

The next meeting will be held at the Fire-Rescue Conference in Myrtle Beach.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted with one (1) attachment,

Jason Pope

Firefighter Mobilization and State US&R Program *Assistant State Fire Marshal's Report*

June 10th, 2009

US&R Task Force One

Status: Deployable

Task Force One is currently available for a modified Type I deployment with

- 115 Active members strong, spanning 35 Departments and agencies
- In addition we also are supporting the following membership status'
 - 16 New Members on probation
 - 9 on 6 month leave
 - 8 invalid MOU's
 - 8 resignations
 - 5 senior advisors
 - 14 new members from last orientation (08/08)
 - 6 due for interviews

Totaling: 167 members

Meetings & framework:

- I am active in the SLED Homeland Security Senior Advisor Council (HSSAC)
 - *Formally the SC Counter Terrorism Coordinating Council (CTCC)*
- I was appointed Chairman for the Special Teams Committee for the HSSAC
- Met with SC-DMAT Team Leaders
- US&R/FF Mobilization Course presented during South Eastern Fire School
- 2009 South Carolina Hurricane Conference, Myrtle Beach

Membership

- Retention program is working, last two probationary classes has a 98% retention rate. 32 applied, 28 have stayed on ever since
- Applications will be taken twice a year, July 4th and Thanksgiving deadlines.

MOU for non-sponsored members

- We still have 8 members non-active due to MOU delinquencies
- We have lost many talented and dedicated personnel due to this issue
- We need to recruit new members from private industry (Medical, Structural)

Gear Return

- We have received 14 full sets of unsolicited US&R Gear from past members (\$42k)
- As of January 09, we have collected another 13 sets of gear. Totaling 27 sets returned.

Equipment Cache

- ALL Type I cache has been re-inventoried for 2009 and entered into new tracking software.
- Western Shelters (Replacements to be shipped by end of June. Replacements covered under warranty)

- New building is coming together and I see full organization by 2010

Training

- 2009 Membership Training Exercise Completed April, 2009
 - *I will describe in detail at the meeting*
- We are on track for the remaining three monthly training sessions left in 2009

Canine Program

- 3 Canines with Handlers
- 6 additional Handlers w/ no canines
- We need to purchase 2 canines a year for the next two years to maintain program

Staff

- Thomas Blackwell & Bill Alexander have become an invaluable asset to the program
- We have hired 4 additional operations personnel to assist with the training prop area and additional facilities and maintenance work

New Building

- Need a sign for the front
- Open house was cancelled
- Little to no problems or major issues

Communications

- This still remains the teams Achilles heel.

South Carolina HART Program

- 17 applicants for 12 positions
- See additional paperwork for process
- Sled/NGB participation is strong

08 DHS Grants

- See detailed attachments

2009 HSGP (see attached file for details)

- I meet with the Regional US&R Team Leaders and SLED on 01/08/09
- I was asked to build an all inclusive US&R Program Grant for all teams
- We asked SLED for 1 million, in turn the HSSAC approved \$415,000 to be requested from DHS. This is with the stipulation that \$166,000 finishes the 5th RRT in Columbia

>>>End US&R Report<<<

Mobilization Coordinator's Report

To date, we have **240** registered fire departments with **5,246** personnel. The online registration has helped greatly with getting personnel registered. We have begun printing ID cards from SEMS as well.

Activations:

April 4-5, 2009

SCE&G Coal Fire, Aiken SC

Over a 2 day period, FFM tasked the following personnel to respond to the SCE&G Coal Fire at the request of Aiken County:

- 43 Firefighters
- 1 Regional Coordinator

April 22-28, 2009

Highway 31 Fire, Horry County SC

Over a 7 day period, FFM tasked the following personnel and equipment to respond to the Highway 31 Fire at the request of Horry County:

- 203 Firefighters
 - 21 Type I Engines
 - 31 Type VI Brush Trucks
 - 4 Tankers
 - 1 Regional Coordinator
- *This is the largest activation in the program's history with the next largest involving approximately 120 firefighters (Charleston City FD LODD).*

Highway 31 Fire lessons learned – During this activation, we learned of an administrative “bottle neck” related to SEMS tasking procedures. To correct this, several F&LS staff have been trained to perform additional SEMS functions during activations. We believe this will correct this problem.

FFM also attended numerous EMD planning meetings pertaining to exercises, plan reviews, WebEOC drills and the like. FFM attended two county firefighters' association meetings during the spring.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel B. McManus, ASFM