



MINUTES
Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee
October 24, 2007
Embassy Suites, Greenville SC

Members Present: John Reich, Phill Jolley, Alvin Payne, Bruce Kline, Tommy McDowell, Paul Watts, and Karl Ristow

Others: Jason Pope, Ed Roper, Butch Womack, Norman Knight, Morris Russell, Jack Abraham, Rick Dangerfield, Joseph Tanner

- Chairman Reich called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and welcomed everyone.
- Minutes from the September 12 meeting were read and approved with one correction.
- Jason Pope presented the state coordinator's report. (See Attachment 1)
- John Reich presented the US&R Director's report. (See Attachment 2)

Old Business

- V-Safe Update – online application and Web site have been developed; peer review panel appointments are not complete.
 - o Bruce Kline commented that the online application might be a problem for some fire departments. John Reich stated his office would do whatever it took to ensure that all interested fire departments were able to apply.
 - o Alvin Payne stated that we should prepare to have a second application period in case interested fire departments do not apply the first time.
 - o Bruce Kline asked for clarification on why the Firefighters' Association had to apply for a V-Safe grant. John Reich read from the V-Safe legislation and it clearly states that the Firefighters' Association may apply annually for 2% of the V-Safe money for a volunteer recruitment and retention program.
 - o Karl Ristow asked that a recruitment and retention program should be developed to include performance measurement criteria.
 - o Joseph Tanner speaking for himself recommended that the Firefighters' Association should not apply for the grant this year due to comments heard from around the state. Those funds should be dedicated to the volunteers who need the money the most.
 - o Alvin Payne responded that the fire service would not even have this grant program if it weren't for the efforts of the Firefighters' Association.
- Workers compensation / mal-practice insurance – John Reich said he will get a cost on how much this coverage will cost and that he plans to pay for it out of the US&R budget.

- FFM Strategic Plan – Karl Ristow sent out ideas for possible vision and mission statements via email. He needs the committee’s input so he knows how to proceed.
 - o Bruce Kline asked that the regional coordinators be added to Karl’s email list for comments on the plan.

New Business

- Norman Knight stated the Fire Chiefs’ Association has received a \$5,000 grant from the International Association of Fire Chiefs for intra-state mutual planning. He asked for permission to meet with Jason Pope to discuss spending options. Norman added the funds will pay for functional exercises if we so desire. Karl Ristow suggested we could allocate some funds to pay the regional coordinators to go out and meet with fire departments to get more participation.
- John Reich passed out the current budget report.
 - o Alvin Payne suggested we pay the FFM account back for US&R expenses once the US&R budget is received.
 - o Karl Ristow said we needed to document accomplishments and benchmarks we achieve through the US&R budget so we can justify sustained funding. He also asked that we prepare a FFM budget without US&R expenses. He further stated that once we get the US&R budget, we develop two sub-committees; one to concentrate on FFM and one for US&R.
- Motion was made at 3:35 by Bruce Kline to go to executive session to discuss a personnel issue.
- Committee came out of executive session at 4:06; no business to record.
- The proposed US&R Strategic Plan and budget was sent to committee members via email. Members should submit any comments to Mick Mayers.
- John Reich presented the quote for repairing the US&R crane. One quote was received to include repairs from \$45,000 to possibly \$65,000. Karl Ristow made the motion to repair the crane, Tommy McDowell seconded. No discussion, motion carried.
- John Reich presented a review on the Homeland Security grant funds. SC LLR received \$127,764 from FY05 reallocated funds to purchase an additional tractor for the US&R team. SC LLR has also received \$650,000 from the FY07 funds for the State Fire Project. Also, SLED was allocated \$125,000 for a US&R Validation and Readiness Exercise program.

- John Reich stated that several SC-TF1 team members recently participated in a training exercise in Kansas. One team member canceled at the last minute for an unspecified reason. This caused the plane ticket and other travel related expenses to be un-used. Phill Jolley made a motion to send the fire department a bill for expenses incurred. Karl Ristow seconded, there was no discussion and the motion carried.

Open Discussion

- None

The next meeting date and time is yet to be determined.

Motion to adjourn at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted with two attachments,

Jason Pope

Attachment 1

State Coordinator's Report

October 24, 2007

1. To date, we have **206** registered fire departments with **3,864** personnel. I continue to receive phone calls about updating personnel information in SEMS. Any updates or changes to registered personnel can be done via an email from the fire chief or SEMS department administrator. The only time I need a registration form (attachment 8.4) is when a firefighter is being registered for the first time or is being registered under a different fire department.
2. Radio Interoperability – I am still pursuing additional 800 MHz talkgroup-sharing MOU's with other agencies and fire departments. We have recently added Sumter City FD and Charleston City FD talkgroups to our radios. I have agreements with Florence and Charleston Counties as well, but the programming has not been completed yet. I am also assisting the SC CIO's office with the State Communications Interoperability Plan as it pertains to the fire service.
3. State Fire Project – The FY06 project has been completed. 117 personnel from 36 fire departments received training on the radiation detection and chemical monitoring equipment purchased under the State Homeland Security Grant Program. All equipment was issued based on the distribution plan approved at our last meeting. The planning process for the FY07 State Fire Project is under way.
4. The software we purchased to produce FFM ID cards is being installed on the SEMS database. Once this project is completed, we will have the ability to print fireTRAX ID cards directly from SEMS. The card printing will take place at the Fire Marshal's office, and the cards will then be distributed to the FD's. The fireTRAX PDA's have been updated with the latest software. I will issue them to the regional coordinators after the ID cards are produced.
5. The Regional US&R teams continue to meet on a regular basis, usually every other month. All teams agree that future purchases will be coordinated so all teams have standardized equipment. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4.
6. A "surprise" ReachSC test was conducted on the morning of October 16 for the FFM group which consists of the committee members, the regional coordinators and the ESF 4/9 coordinator. The test went very well and the results were distributed via email. I will be conducting another test for the SC-TF1 group sometime in the near future.

Jason Pope
Mobilization Coordinator

Attachment 2

The South Carolina US&R Task Force remains operational with no recent deployments or requests for assistance. The situation still exists regarding the insurance for the Medical and non-public safety personnel, which need to be advanced to the top of the priority list.

The Command Staff and MOBCOM should be in receipt of the proposed US&R Program Strategic Plan by now and able to review it for comment and ultimately, to act on it. The core information was shared with the Task Force Managers at a meeting in September in order to get feedback. There are still a few issues that need to be worked on further, especially in regard to creating an action plan from the information and changing some representation numbers, but we need to know if the direction of the plan meets your expectations.

The Task Force sent 11 personnel to Wichita, KS to participate in CIDRE Rescue Specialist Training. I have not gotten a report back on how that training went, but should have some info for the next meeting.

According to Deputy Director Ken Bell, the monthly logistics and training days have been well attended, although we have had one or two communications mix-ups over the last month or two regarding coordination.

I have seen pictures of the new facility and it looks as if we are coming along well there. I have had no reports of problems with that project. John Reich has been keeping me updated and I have all the confidence

I have been advised that the manager search panel will be convening in the first week of November to begin the interviews on that process.

The State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance (SUSAR) has been officially incorporated and is a registered non-profit organization. The Board recently ratified new bylaws for that entity which will allow us to better manage the membership which grows daily (we have 41 states and over 500 members of our e-group). The next SUSAR conference is in Ocala, FL on November 12-15; the keynote will be delivered by Mike Tamillow, Director of FEMA's US&R Program. I was scheduled to speak on Standard Compliance for US&R Teams but I have a conflict with upcoming promotional exams at my department.

Michael "Mick" Mayers
Acting Director, Urban Search and Rescue Program
South Carolina Emergency Response Task Force