



**MINUTES**  
Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee  
*January 12, 2007*  
*State Fire Marshal's Office*

**Members Present:** Wendell Wilburn, Karl Ristow, Phill Jolley, Tommy McDowell, Paul Watts, and Ron Osborne

**Others:** Jason Pope, Ed Roper, John Reich, Alvin Payne, Ken Bell, Dusty Owens, and Joe Palmer

- Chairman Osborne called meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Minutes from the August 24, 2006 meeting were read and approved.
- Ken Bell passed out the US&R Director's report from Mick Mayers.
  - o SC-TF1 has 141 members on the roster at the time.
  - o SC-TF1 has several membership applications in hand and plans to conduct interviews soon.
  - o There are two full scale exercises this spring. SC-TF1 would like participate in one of the exercises if the funds are available.
  - o Mick requested money for three to four members to travel to the SUSAR meeting in College Station, TX. Ken will find out just how much it will cost.
  - o The ReachSC test went well, but we need to conduct another test within the next month or so. Ron said we could test the system quarterly.
  - o Ken mentioned that several team members have been asked to turn in their equipment due to lack of participation. John Reich offered the assistance of the Fire Marshal's Office in retrieving issued gear from former team members.
- There was no report from the regional coordinators; however Jason mentioned several items he is currently working on.
  - o The FFMob webpage is being updated to make it more user-friendly. Melissa Hopkins at LLR is assisting Jason with the webpage design.
  - o FFMob continues to enter into 800 MHz MOU's for talkgroup sharing with other response agencies in the state.
  - o The next State/Regional US&R team meeting will be February 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - o Ron mentioned that SC EMD has purchased fifty (50) 800 MHz radios for fire departments east of I-95. They are being programmed at this time. EMD will be administering the MOU's for these radios.

## Old Business

- Sub-Committee Reports
  - Workers' Compensation Reform – Phill Jolley stated this sub-committee had not met yet, but they continue to work with Jim Bowie on the issues. Ron addressed this from the state level and mentioned that DHEC did not pre-file any legislation for workers' comp, and that they expected EMD to do it. Wendell asked if this legislation will meet our (SC-TF1) needs. He stated we should be concerned with providing coverage for our personnel. Ron recommended that if we can get our own coverage then by all means go ahead. John stated he would work on get prices on providing an umbrella policy for SC-TF1, but he will need additional information from the team to help calculate the costs.
  - US&R Funding – Karl mentioned that proposed legislature is still in progress. He also mentioned we needed to develop a one-page handout that details the functions, basic facts and monetary support needed for SC-TF1. Wendell also said that we needed to mention that sustained funding is critical to the keeping this team operational and that previous funding sources (grants) were no longer available. Ron stated that we should compare response timelines to help justify the need for a state US&R team.
  - Wendell asked Ed about the FDID numbers. Ed mentioned that he had met with Morris Russell, Michael Platt, and Sondra Senn on this matter and was waiting to hear something back from the Firefighters' Association. Ron asked Joe Palmer if he would draft a list of issues to submit back to Ed and then report back to this committee at the next meeting.
  - Alvin asked about the proposed changes to the State Fire Project grant application. Jason passed out a memo that was sent to SLED dated 11-9-06 that summarized how we would spend the money.
  - Alvin also asked about the Homeland Security evaluations of the regional US&R/COBRA teams. There was no new information about this issue.
  - John stated that Adrienne Youmans had contacted the Governor's Office about the committee members' reappointments. Adrienne was told that that the appointment paperwork was being processed.

## **New Business**

- FFMob strategic plan – does this plan fit into the yet-to-be developed fire service strategic plan?
  - o Alvin said that yes it does. He also stated that FFMob still needed its own strategic plan in the short term. Karl offered to help with writing this plan as long as the rest of committee members give him input and feedback. Members should provide Karl with any ideas of direction and/or visions no later than February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 2006 Annual Report – Jason will begin to work on this document. Examples of articles can include a regional report, chairman’s report, sub-committee reports, and a “Did You Know” portion.

## **Open Discussion**

- Ed mentioned that the SCFA is coordinating with the IMT’s on training issues. One of the issues is an absence of clear training standards. Paul Watts mentioned that the state IMT would not be directly overseeing the regional IMT’s, but it would be assisting with the creation of team SOP’s.
- Ron asked if anyone had a sample of the letter of appointment from the Governor’s office. Wendell mentioned he still had his, and that he would send a copy to Ron. Ron stated this might help in getting the reappointments finalized.
- Ron also mentioned that an Emergency Management Oversight Committee had been created with him serving as the Chairman. This committee was created primarily to resolve conflicts between different emergency management/response legislation. He also stated that during a recent Homeland Security Grants conference call, the plan for this year’s grant cycle was to enhance the enhancement plan. In other words, we will try to complete the funding of projects that were partially funded the previous year.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 10:00 at the Fire Marshal’s Office.
- Motion made to adjourn and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Pope