



**MINUTES**  
Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee  
*December 11, 2008*  
*State Fire Marshal's Office*

**Members Present:** John Reich, Bruce Kline, Tommy McDowell, Paul Watts, Karl Ristow, Joe Palmer and Alvin Payne

**Others:** Jason Pope, Ed Roper, Dan McManus, Ken Bell and Libby Hardwick

- Chairman Reich called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Minutes from the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting were read and approved.
- Dan McManus presented the US&R Director's report. (See Attachment 1)
  - o Bruce Kline made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Alvin Payne, motion passed.
- Jason Pope presented the Mobilization Coordinator's report. (See Attachment 2)
  - o Karl Ristow made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Alvin Payne, motion passed.

**Old Business**

- FFM Strategic Plan – Karl Ristow had not report.
- Libby Hardwick passed out the budget update.
  - o Alvin Payne requested the Fire Marshal's Office provide a US&R Budget request to the Firefighters' Association for submittal during the 2009 General Assembly.
  - o Bruce Kline made a motion to accept the budget as presented, motion was seconded by Tommy McDowell, motion passed.
- Ed Roper reported the new US&R building has been completed and turned over to the division. Ed further stated the project's total cost is estimated at 2.5 million dollars. The building is approximately 22,000 square feet in size.

## **New Business**

- Dan McManus submitted a quote for additional radio equipment to be installed in the response vehicles.
  - o Alvin Payne stated we should include the radio equipment in our State Homeland Security Grant request instead of paying out of our budget.
- John Reich briefed the committee on this year's Homeland Security Grant requests. There were 137 requests submitted to DHS from our state. DHS awarded the state 9.3 million dollars, 80% of which goes to local projects and 20% goes to state projects. Columbia FD requested \$288,000 for a regional US&R team and was awarded \$144,000. LLR requested \$723,000 for the US&R program and received \$415,000.

## **Open Discussion**

- Karl Ristow passed out copies of the Charleston City FD Backfill After Action Report. He commented that everything went well during this response.
- Alvin Payne requested more information on the workers' compensation and liability issues facing the US&R team so he can brief the Firefighters' Association.

The next meeting date was not determined.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted with two (2) attachments,

Jason Pope

## Attachment 1

Assistant State Fire Marshal's Report  
December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### 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'
  - 14 New Members on probation
  - 11 6 month leave
  - 8 invalid MOU
  - 5 resignations
  - 5 senior advisors
  - 9 due for interviews

Totaling: **153 members**

### Meetings & framework:

- SLED Fusion Center
- National Guard UH-60 Pilots and Aviation Boss in McEntire
- Anderson County TRT
- IMT meetings
- Critical Infrastructure

### Membership

- Members requested to have 5 or more days of attendance from January to August 08. Of the 115 active members all but 19 members made the required amount of days.
- We have recruited, interviewed and processed 28 new members since January 2008 with another 9 more this month.
- We have developed a new recruitment, retention, mentoring program for new members.
- Application process redesigned
- Application/interviews/probation periods twice annually.

### Command Staff

- 2008 Managers Report

### MOU for non-sponsored members

- We currently 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)
- I believe we have 30-45 more sets outstanding

### Equipment Cache

- 2008 SC-TF1 Reorganization, Nov. 10-14 2008
- Average of 25 personnel a day, for 12 hour days = 1,500 man hours
- 80% of the of the US&R Cache was inventoried, cleaned, maintained and returned to service
- We are more organized and prepared than ever before.
- Western Shelters (see attached report)

### Training

- Back to Basics
- Gap analysis, streamline program, based on position, SCFA first then outside vendors
  - Each discipline will have a course of action
- Written commitments for \$\$\$ training
- Online annual training – 2009
- 2 year state wide SCT initiative
- 2009 annual calendar is attached
- Command Staff training

### Canine Program

- 4 Canines with Handlers
- Direct Billing for veterinarian care
- Training sessions 2 days a month
- All expenses are controlled trough Cache Manager

### 08 DHS Grants

- 2 year US&R training initiative; 200 personnel (100 from SC-TF1, 25 from each regional) FEMA Structural Collapse Technician course \$1,400 per person (food/room) \$280,000 total
- \$100,000 for vehicle maintenance and replacement

### Staff

- Deputy Director/Cache Manager Ken Bell, thank you for you dedication on the reorganization
- Thomas Blackwell & Bill Alexander have joined us as part-timers
- Command Staff Meetings to become video conferencing starting the new year
- Jason Pope, sent to Pal800 radio programming course and apprentice program

### New Building

- Ed Roper will give specific financial details during old business
- We started to move in during the cache re-organization
- Open house scheduled for 2 days, January 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009
- Press release, invitations, etc to go out next week.

### Hurricane Season

- 3 major storms (briefing attached)
- Activated for TS Hanna
- Great dry run for SC-TF1

### Communications

- See detailed communications memo
- Mobile units are needed for Suburbans

### South Carolina HART Program

- Please see attached brief

### Search and Rescue Regional Response Teams (RRT)

- Next meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- SLED Requested to be present for 09 Grant applications
- 5<sup>th</sup> and final regional team funded in Columbia
- MOU Compliance, Training and ORE

### Task Force Newsletters

- See attached for issues 1, 2, 3 of 2008

### 2008-2013 US&R Strategic Plan Review

- Please see attached brief

### 2009 Goals

- SCERTF overall mission of local, regional, state all hazard response
  - Urban, Wilderness, Air, Water
- Back to Basics
- Solidify what and who we have on board
- Recruitment and retention, discipline focused
- Canine Typing for all dogs by 2010
  - New canine/handler considerations for FY 2013-2015
- 2 ORES, 1 small (in-house audit), 1 large (combined w/ RRT)
- SCHAT Program
- Online Annual Training
- US&R Props initiative
- Finalize Training Requirements and target members course of action
- SC-TF1 HQ up and running smoothly
- More funding

- MOU status resolution

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel B. McManus, ASFM  
Emergency Response Coordinator  
US&R Team Director

## Attachment 2

### Mobilization Coordinator's Report

December 11, 2008

1. To date, we have **240** registered fire departments with **4,402** personnel.
2. State Fire Project FY07 – Equipment has been purchased and distributed. This completes the FY07 project. The following departments received the equipment and manufacturer-authorized training: Anderson City, Aiken County, Beaufort, Clarendon County, Colleton County, Columbia, Greenwood, Hartsville, Lancaster, Midway and Spartanburg County.
3. The SEMS ID card project has been completed. An ID card-printing function has now been integrated into SEMS, and we have begun printing cards with a fireTRAX barcode included. We can also send emails from SEMS to all registered users. Additionally, all registered region administrators can now view and update SEMS Requests, whereas before, only system administrators had access to that information.
4. Fire Marshal's EOC – two new laptops with docking stations were added to the EOC for use during the planning and response to activations.
5. Response to Charleston FD (June 18, 2008) – Firefighter Mobilization assisted the Charleston FD by staffing city stations on the one-year anniversary of the Charleston 9 tragedy. FFM staffed six stations and the remainder was staffed through county mutual aid.
6. S.C. EMD called a meeting of key state agencies to discuss credentialing of first responders. Dan McManus and I attended that meeting; there was much discussion about various issues and no action was taken. EMD received a homeland security grant to hire a credentialing coordinator to head up this project.
7. SLED Information and Intelligence Center – we were approached by SLED about staffing a position at the Information and Intelligence Center (formerly the Fusion Center) on behalf of the fire service. Dan McManus and I received training on center operations and were issued SLED credentials to give us access to the building. Between the two of us, we try to spend at least one day a week at the center.
8. IAFC Grant – the PO has been created to include the required amount and we are in the process of being billed for the programming services. Once we have received an invoice, the PO will be billed, and we seek reimbursement from the IAFC grant program.
9. In October, at the request of Charlotte FD, we hosted a Fire Chiefs' group from the United Kingdom and provided them with a tour of the Fire Academy, SLED Information Center and the State Emergency Operations Center. The tour went extremely well, and the group was impressed with our state's facilities.