
***EAST FORK FIRE & PARAMEDIC DISTRICTS' SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2008***

MEETING MINUTES:

Safety Committee Meeting - Approved 7\14\08

DATE AND TIME:

Monday, January 14, 2008

LOCATION:

Fire Station #2
1255 Douglas Ave.
Gardnerville, NV 89410

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Thomas, Volunteer Staff Representative
Tod Carlini, Fire Chief
Jeff Costa, Captain
Jeff James, Staff Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Doug Smith, Volunteer Staff Representative

GUESTS PRESENT:

Elaine Pace, Fish Springs VFD

STAFF PRESENT:

Lisa Owen, District Secretary
Dave Fogerson, Training Captain

Chief Carlini called the Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MOTION: Dave Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2007 meeting.

SECOND: Jeff Costa

DISCUSSION: None

OPPOSED: None

ACTION: Motion carried.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Jeff James made a motion to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Jeff Costa

DISCUSSION: None

OPPOSED: None

ACTION: Motion carried.

III PUBLIC COMMENT

None. Public Comment Closed.

IV OLD BUSINESS

1. Review and Possible Action Regarding North County Communication Issues – Tod Carlini (20 minutes)

Chief Carlini reported that the Emergency Response Committee (ERC) met today and discussed north county communication issues. At that meeting, Dick Mirgon reiterated a 3-4 point plan to improve communications. One option he discussed was building a tower (possibly 30 ft) next to Station 12.

Chief Carlini stated that while this would have a huge fiscal impact, we will stub out some power just in case. Mirgon is generating some prices. The County would also use this tower, but would probably be unable to contribute financially.

Chief Carlini discussed in-vehicle repeaters being used by DCSO as another option discussed at the ERC meeting, but a repeater would need to be added to every vehicle if we decided to go this route. This would be cost prohibitive for us, and would also be difficult to manage strategically due to our fleet size. We will continue to wait for additional information from Mirgon.

2. Review and Possible Action Regarding NFPA 1851 Changes to Turnout Inspections – Dave Fogerson (10 minutes)

Dave Fogerson clarified two points from the last meeting: (1) An inspection class was found, which the vendor is offering in February in Fernley. This class will review changes in the inspection requirement. (2) We only had one in-station turnout inspection training; the rest were cancelled due to the weather.

3. Review and Possible Action Regarding NFPA Rehab Changes- Dave Fogerson (10 minutes)

Elaine Pace discussed the draft relative to the NFPA rehab changes. She feels they can get the rehab unit close to meeting the minimums outlined in the procedure. The rehab unit has everything needed; a policy is needed to enforce it. The rehab person will also need some authority for enforcement of the standard, which applies to both emergency and training incidents.

Dave Fogerson stated he needs this group to approve moving forward with developing a draft procedure, which will be brought back before this committee for review. There will be one policy for all incidents. The new NFPA standard will be voted on this year.

Elaine Pace recommended that the rehab unit be added to the CAD system so it is toned out on a second alarm.

MOTION: Jeff Costa made a motion to move forward with drafting a District rehab policy for review at the next meeting.

SECOND: Jeff James

DISCUSSION: None

OPPOSED: None

ACTION: Motion carried.

4. Review and Possible Action Regarding the following Safety Issues: - Dave Fogerson (10 minutes)

- **Protecting Rear of Ambulance**

Dave Fogerson distributed a flier that shows proper placement of apparatus in order to maximize safety on incident scenes.

Jeff Costa added that everyone needs to be reminded where to park equipment. If a road needs to be blocked for safety, then that's what needs to happen.

Jeff James commented that DCSO is generally very flexible when the reasons for blocking a road are explained.

Chief Carlini would like this added to the Command Staff agenda as a reminder.

V NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and Possible Action Regarding Procedures for Off-District and Callback Communications – Jeff Costa (15 minutes)

Jeff Costa discussed radio issues that have been identified as contributing factors for injuries and/or deaths on incidents. Specifically, radios that were unable to be cloned. He feels the District needs to establish a cache of Bendix-King (BK) radios available for off-district responses. Crews on off-district responses need to have the ability to listen to all frequencies. This has been an issue on several off-district responses. Perhaps we need to look at VHF field radios that are programmable? He does not feel it is safe to have only one person with a field programmable BK.

Chief Carlini does not feel these should be limited to off-district responses. It's probably not the communication director who dictates what kind of radio communications we have. We also need to watch what the federal government is doing. The point of hearing what is going on is valid. There will be radio discipline issues however. Training will be important. It is the Districts' desire to capture as many BKs as possible, and we continue to work on building up programmable radios that are going into the wildland setting. His recommendation is to take a look at other radios. We need to set some realistic objectives.

Jeff Costa added that he has discussed the idea of a cache with Deputy Chief Drew. He would like to see these caches held at the stations and logged in and out.

Chief Carlini doesn't see a problem developing a radio cache, but he wants to look at a long range plan.

Jeff James asked if we can ask the volunteer members to dedicate these radios to wildland apparatus.

Dave Fogerson reminded this is not just a wildland issue. Often there are not even radios on apparatus. He likes the idea of buying cheaper radios, but he feels the radios that go off-district should be those we are trained and used to using.

James suggested we use BKs.

Chief Carlini would like to see these suggestions brought forward. These radios must be able to be cloned when off-district. He realizes communication is often the factor in fatalities. For this upcoming season, he would like to see us consider replacing the BKs that are in the field now with a less expensive radio. The BKs could then be placed in the cache. Chief Drew has done an excellent job of controlling the proliferation of radios. We need to review our radio inventory, due to this issue, budget, etc.

James asked about making a policy that says only a certain rank or higher can have the BK?

Chief Carlini would first like us to determine our current inventory. He gave Costa direction to get information on alternative radios. As a safety committee the reason behind this topic is sound and we endorse it. There will be a lot of resistance by some. He would like this information brought back in 30 days.

It was agreed that:

- Dave Thomas will discuss this issue with the volunteers.
- Chief Carlini will be responsible for reviewing the inventory.
- Jeff James and Jeff Costa will discuss the issue with staff.
- James will look into used BKs.

Everyone will report information back to Lisa Owen who will distribute it to the committee.

Chief Carlini feels it is probably a good idea to work towards a cache at the career stations, but the captain will need to be responsible for the inventory. They will also need to make sure they are maintained. We will need to get the volunteer chiefs to buy into this as well.

Dave Fogerson added there are a lot of career members who also need to cooperate.

VI OTHER BUSINESS

1. Review and Possible Action Regarding a Quarterly Review of District Related Accidents/Injuries (December 2007 through January 2008)

Dave Fogerson reported two injuries. One was related to physical training, the other was burn related.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jeff James made a motion to adjourn.

SECOND: Dave Thomas

DISCUSSION: None

OPPOSED: None

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Owen, District Secretary

***EAST FORK FIRE & PARAMEDIC DISTRICTS' SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008***

MEETING MINUTES:

Safety Committee Meeting - Approved 10\13\08

DATE AND TIME:

Monday, July 14, 2008

LOCATION:

Fire Station #2
1255 Douglas Ave.
Gardnerville, NV 89410

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Thomas, Volunteer Staff Representative
Tod Carlini, Fire Chief
Jeff James, Staff Representative
Doug Smith, Volunteer Staff Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Lisa Owen, District Secretary
Dave Fogerson, Training Captain

Chief Carlini called the Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MOTION: Dave Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14,2008.

SECOND: Jeff James

DISCUSSION: None

OPPOSED: None

ACTION: Motion carried.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Jeff James made a motion to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Dave Thomas

DISCUSSION: None

OPPOSED: None

ACTION: Motion carried.

III PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Fogerson reminded the Board that at the last Safety Committee Meeting, direction was given regarding not allowing turnouts in living quarters. A memo addressing this was distributed today.

Dave Thomas commented on the challenging traffic accident last week. He was pleased with regard to how well this incident was handled, particularly, relative to the safety aspect.

Public Comment Closed.

IV OLD BUSINESS

1. Review and Possible Action Regarding North County Communication Issues – Tod Carlini (20 minutes)

Tod Carlini deferred this item to Dave Fogerson.

Dave Fogerson reminded the Board that Jeff Costa brought this item up at the last meeting. Communications is responsible for constructing a voter system in North County. Antennas are up and equipment is on site. Communications is working on the interface with Verizon. Some tests were run last week within Walmart, and the radio reception was good. However, at Borders, they did have some problems, especially around large groups of people and the books. Reception is greatly improved in Clear Creek area as well.

Dave Fogerson will look into this. He added that the target completion date is August 1st.

2. Review and Possible Action Regarding NFPA Rehab Changes- Dave Fogerson (10 minutes)

Dave Fogerson advised that at the last meeting he discussed the new NFPA rehab standards. He distributed a draft policy regarding rehab; however, in discussion with Elaine Pace, she suggested greater enforcement be incorporated into this draft, especially relative to the two SCBA bottle rule.

Tod Carlini asked whether it is appropriate to have a policy that addresses an incident as well as training.

Dave Fogerson tried to make this as generic as possible so as to cover both. He advised they are working on when to tone rehab, possibly at a third alarm? He asked that this group review the draft and decide whether one standard should cover both incidents and training. Think about the cultural issue relative to ensuring individuals are accountable for rehabbing.

Tod Carlini suggested that this would be a good opportunity to include support personnel. He would like that included in this policy.

This will be included on the next agenda for a vote.

3. Review and Possible Action Regarding the following Safety Issues: - Dave Fogerson (10 minutes)

- None Reported

V NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and Possible Action Regarding NFPA 1500 – Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health – Dave Fogerson (10 minutes)

Dave Fogerson advised he would like this committee to start looking at NFPA 1500, which is a task identified in the Strategic Plan. NFPA has a good safety plan specific to OSHA and the fire service.

Tod Carlini stated that the District has not adopted NFPA as a whole; we are selective. Some areas of NFPA are very restrictive toward volunteers, others are very cost prohibitive. NFPA is geared more toward a large fire department.

Doug Smith agreed.

Dave Fogerson will provide copies of NFPA 1500 to this Board at the next meeting for review. No decision was made on this item other than to research it for consideration at some point.

2. Review and Possible Action Regarding the makeup of the Safety Committee to include the Deputy Chief of Training and Safety in place of the District Fire Chief as a voting Committee member and Chair – Tod Carlini (10 minutes)

Tod Carlini requested this item. The rationale, under the union contract, is we are required to have a Safety Committee; however there was no guidance relative to the makeup of the committee. Chief Carlini was made Chair initially to get this committee going. As we continue to grow it becomes more complex for him to serve on this committee. The potential for a grievance and/or appeal related disciplinary action is of concern since he is part of the appeal process. This could be a conflict. When this was originally drafted, we did not have a person assigned to Training and Safety. It is his recommendation that Dave Fogerson take over as Chair.

Dave Thomas pointed out that he has authority, per the policy, to appoint a designee without a motion. Thomas feels this would be a good idea.

Doug Smith agrees. Chief Fogerson would be a great replacement.

MOTION: Doug Smith made a motion to appoint the Deputy Chief of Training and Safety to act as the Chairman of the Safety Committee.

SECOND: Jeff James

DISCUSSION: None

OPPOSED: None

ACTION: Motion carried.

VI OTHER BUSINESS

1. Review and Possible Action Regarding a Quarterly Review of District Related Accidents/Injuries (January 2008 through July 2008)

Dave Fogerson reported on the injuries that have occurred since January 2008. Twenty personnel were injured altogether, nine significantly. The twenty reported include ankle injuries, broken bones, blood borne pathogen exposures, traumas, and one medical syncopal episode. Fifteen of these individuals were career injuries, while five were volunteer. The lost time is not clear, so Dave Fogerson will look into this. He noted that ten of these were report only; no medical treatment sought.

Jeff James asked if there is a trend so we can determine if preventative measures are necessary.

Dave Fogerson did not feel there was.

Doug Smith stressed the importance of educating members on the importance of documentation, even for minor injuries or exposures.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jeff James made a motion to adjourn.

SECOND: Doug Smith

DISCUSSION: None
OPPOSED: None
ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Owen, District Secretary

**EAST FORK FIRE & PARAMEDIC DISTRICTS'
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
1255 DOUGLAS AVE
GARDNERVILLE, NV 89410**

MEETING MINUTES: Safety Committee Meeting

DATE AND TIME: Monday, October 13, 2008

LOCATION: Fire Station #2
1255 Douglas Ave
Gardnerville, NV 89410

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Fogerson, Deputy Fire Chief
Larry Goss, Captain
Jeff Costa, Captain
Doug Smith, Volunteer Staff Representative
Dave Thomas, Volunteer Staff Representative

GUESTS PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Owen, District Secretary
Kathy Ransom, Sr. Office Assistant

Deputy Chief Fogerson called the Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MOTION: Dave Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes of July 14, 2008.

SECOND: Jeff Costa

DISCUSSION: None

OPPOSED: None

ACTION: Motion carried.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Jeff Costa made a motion to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Dave Thomas

DISCUSSION: None

OPPOSED: None

ACTION: Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Public Comment Closed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review and Possible Action Regarding Communication Issues - Dave Fogerson

Chief Fogerson stated that Douglas County Communications has no plans to make a Voter to Repeater upgrade in District 12. The cost to upgrade is between \$30,000 and \$70,000.

A Communications group meeting is planned with the Tahoe Douglas, DCSO, and EFFPD to develop a strategic plan for communications. All have agreed to support each other as a group rather than plan independently for their separate needs.

2. Review and Possible Action Regarding NFPA Rehab Changes - Dave Fogerson

A copy of this policy was included in the packets. Chief Fogerson stated he incorporated a couple of the recommended changes from the last meeting.

Doug Smith noted that under #C, the wording needs to be changed to refer to Captain or Front Line Supervisor.

MOTION: Doug Smith made a motion to adopt the this procedure, with the above noted changes, and recommended it be presented to the Executive Staff for adoption by the District.
SECOND: Jeff Costa
DISCUSSION: None
OPPOSED: None
ACTION: Motion carried

3. Review and Possible Action Regarding the following Safety Issues - Dave Fogerson

Chief Fogerson reported two safety related issues with regard to SCBAs:

1) Our airpacks are no longer being manufactured, nor are the airpack parts. We no longer want to do parts replacement but rather take the SCBA's out of service. We are working with Carson City Fire and Mason Valley Fire on a grant to move toward the purchase of Scott airpacks.

2) The second issue was how to use buddy breathing without damaging the couplings. The Training Captains have found an alternative, which they will get out to the stations.

It was noted that personnel should not be running small equipment or apparatus in the stations while the SCBA Air Compressor is running.

Deputy Chief Fogerson stated that the Phenix Helmets do not meet the NFPA standards and only those currently in use will remain in use. The Training Captains will develop a list of current Phenix helmet users. The helmets do not provide heat and bump protection that meets NFPA requirements. As previously agreed upon by this Board, no new Phenix helmets should come into stock.

V. New Business

1. Review and Possible Action Regarding a Hearing Conservation Plan - Larry Goss

Larry Goss stated that he reviewed both the OSHA and NFPA standards to develop this draft procedure. A decibel level guide was provided as part of this procedure, although it has not yet been reviewed by Dr. Coats. It is recommended that foam ear plugs and headsets be used when riding in engines and water tenders, when pumping or during noisy training exercises, etc.. The Training Division should look at saw and ventilation noise categories to determine if the decibel range is within NFPA guidelines.

Chief Fogerson pointed out that while we want to meet the OSHA standard, more importantly, we want to do what's best for our members.

Doug Smith would like to see time limits added. In other words, identify the duration of exposure before a requirement is made for hearing protection.

Dave Thomas suggested that float-a-pumps be added to the list.

Larry Goss asked that suggestions to this procedure be emailed to him. He will continue working on it and will look at other departments to see what they use for a hearing protection plan.

MOTION: Dave Thomas made a motion directing Larry Goss to continue to work on this procedure and to bring it back before this Board in final draft form at the next meeting.
SECOND: Jeff Costa
DISCUSSION: None
OPPOSED: None
ACTION: Motion carried

2. Review and Possible Action Regarding Highway Safety Traffic Vests - Dave Fogerson

Deputy Chief Fogerson stated that Federal law will require the wearing of the vests on any federally funded highway by the end of November. They must be worn at all incidents unless there is a risk of exposure to fire. This will put us in compliance.

MOTION: Doug Smith made a motion recommending that the Executive Staff move forward with the purchase of these vests and that staff wear them on all highway and roadway incidents not involving fire.
SECOND: Jeff Costa
DISCUSSION: None
OPPOSED: None
ACTION: Motion carried.

3. Review and Possible Action Regarding Wildland Boot Standards - Dave Fogerson

Chief Fogerson advised that a safety issue has been identified with the use of mountaineering boots in wildland fire situations in that they actually melt when exposed to high temperatures. Upon research, it has been determined that there is truly not one standard for the use of wildland boots; therefore, it was agreed that this item be left on

the agenda until further information has been obtained by a federal group that is researching this issue. We will be prepared to address this issue again the first quarter of the Safety Committee meeting with further data.

4. Review and Possible Action Regarding NFPA 1851 Turnout Cleaning Program - Larry Goss

Larry Goss and Deputy Chief Fogerson recently attended a class which addressed PPE 1851 where it was determined that the Districts need to review our current turnout cleaning, maintenance, and tracking practices. SUNPRO does have a program in place that will track record keeping requirements with regard to cleaning, repair and manufacturer of our PPE.

A challenge for us in the future will be protecting our employees and the public from contamination. Larry Goss explained that the standard states that turnouts should only be worn during true fire emergencies. They should not be worn in businesses or homes unless during an emergency call. We may also want to reconsider wearing PPE during medical emergencies.

Inspecting turnouts is another area we need to look at. Currently, we perform general inspections on an annual basis for cleanliness, etc. We need to consider advanced testing, which includes pressure testing at the seams, if a need is identified during general inspection. Data results from these inspections will need to be obtained and maintained in our database.

Turnout cleaning is another area of focus. Turnouts should not be cleaned in homes or public laundries due to the offing of contaminants. Additionally, we should be hand washing turnouts rather than using washers and dryers as the force from these machines is causing degradation of the structural integrity of the turnouts. Turnouts should be hand washed following the guidelines provided.

Larry Goss added that turnouts should be stored out of sunlight, but not in airtight containers or in the living quarters.

Chief Fogerson pointed out that while we won't be able to meet the NFPA in its entirety, we will make every attempt to meet what we can.

Jeff Costa will send a memo out to the various stations with regard to not washing linens in the station washing machines.

Larry Goss will continue to work with Carson City F.D. to develop a regional procedure for PPE cleaning. He would like one month to assemble and review the information he has obtained before a directive is issued.

MOTION: Jeff Costa made a motion that directs this Committee to put out a procedure, within one month, that addresses the cleaning of turnouts.
SECOND: Dave Thomas
DISCUSSION: None
OPPOSED: None
ACTION: Motion carried.

5. Review and Possible Action Regarding a Liability Audit - Dave Fogerson

Chief Fogerson stated that the District is considering an RFP next year for a new insurance carrier in order to reduce our liability insurance costs. He suggested that we keep this item on the agenda and everyone in the Safety Committee think about what we can do to reduce our liability, as well as identifying areas of concern with regard to liability.

6. Review and Possible Action Regarding the Use of Exhaust Systems at Stations - Dave Fogerson

Dave brought it to the Safety Committee's attention that District Chief Carlini is aware that some apparatus is not being connected to the exhaust systems at the stations and if this procedure is not adhered to, that disciplinary action will follow.

VI. Other Business

1. Review and Possible Action Regarding a Review of District Related Accidents/ Injuries (January 2008 through September 2008)

Larry Goss stated that RMS showed a total of 20 incidents although H.R. had 14 C1's.. This discrepancy is probably due to the fact that C1's are maintained for a certain period of time. If a corresponding C3 is not received, then the C1 injury is not reported to the work comp carrier. He noted no trends with these injuries; all accidents seemed to be random in nature. Larry Goss reiterated that the submission of injury paperwork still seems to be an education issue; however, it has improves.

VII. Adjournment

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| MOTION: | Jeff Costa made a motion to adjourn. |
| SECOND: | Dave Fogerson |
| DISCUSSION: | None |
| OPPOSED: | None |
| ACTION: | Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M. |

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathy Ransom
Sr. Office Assistant