



**of Palm Beach County, Florida
Incorporated**

**AUGUST 29, 2007 -12:00 NOON
MEETING MINUTES**

Hosted by: Greenacres Public Safety

Location: Greenacres Public Safety Building 2995 Jog Rd, Greenacres

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Bingham) 24 members present

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Guest Speakers:

A. Mr. Allan Karp of Krown Manufacturing, a company that offers products and services for the hearing-impaired, presented a device that senses a smoke alarm audible warning and initiates a bed shaker to alert a hearing-impaired person. Mr. Karp is seeking the association's assistance in getting out information about this new device and possible code requirements for its use. After much discussion and a demonstration of the device, Deputy Chief Steve Jerauld agreed to review the codes, UL approvals and to get back with Mr. Karp.

III. SECRETARY'S REPORT

July's Minutes (previously distributed by email) – motion to approve (Blockson / Carter) / approved

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT (Blockson)

Account Transactions and Balances Checking \$71.84 / Savings \$9529.71 / Total \$9601.55

V. COMMUNICATIONS READ AND DISPOSED OF (Bingham)

A. Correspondence distributed by email to membership: Fire Officers Association of Miami-Dade (FOAMD), along with Metro Dade Firefighters Local 1403, will be hosting a tri-county meeting to discuss responsible tax reform and how it can benefit our respective departments and communities. The meeting will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, September 21, 2007, at the Firefighters Memorial Building located at 8000 N.W. 21st Street in Miami (33122).

B. Correspondence was distributed by email to the membership from Chief Otto Drozd

regarding the FFCA's position on tax reform. Chief Drozd will be at the October meeting in Boca Raton to provide an update from the FFCA.

- C. The Association received a letter from Palm Beach Community College (PBCC) asking for the Association's support should the College suffer significant tax reform impacts. The Association also received a letter from PBCC regarding their desire to implement a Bachelors Degree program.
- D. Chief Bingham submitted a letter re-nominating Darrel Donatto to the EMS Advisory Council.

VI. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (Bingham)

Chief Bingham reported that Chief Kerry Koen has recently retired and we will need to fill his vacant seat on the Level of Service Committee. Chief Bingham introduced the new Fire Chief for Delray Beach Fire Rescue. Chief James is a 30-year veteran of Miami Dade Fire Rescue where he served as the Chief of Training, Chief of EMS, Chief of North Operations, and Chief of Community Services. He retired from Miami-Dade in April '04, and then served as the Deputy Commissioner of EMS for Buffalo, NY. Chief Bingham welcomed and Fire Chief David James to the Association. Chief Bingham then announced and introduced Fire Chief William Amador of Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Chief Bingham welcomed Chief Amador to the Association.

VII. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

- A. Fire Marshal's Association of Palm Beach County (Chief Jerauld) - Chief Jerauld reported on the Fire Marshals Association's 4-day seminar. The seminar was a success and the Chief Jerauld extended thanks on behalf of the FM Association to Susan Hall who helped organize the event. The FM Association hopes to provide more events in the future in an effort to expand their fund raising. Chief Jerauld reported on the I-95 Water Supply project. This project is ongoing, with DOT assigning a contractor to work with local fire rescue agencies to identify and mark water supply locations. The FM Association is beginning discussions among their members on the possibility of regional fire code amendments. Chief Jerauld asks for permission to begin working on the Joint Installation Meeting for December – possible a breakfast on December 10. Chief Bingham advised to move forward and keep the Association informed.
- B. Training Officer's Association of Palm Beach County – (Lt. Chris Brexel) Lt. Brexel reported that PBCC now has a Paramedic to RN bridge program. The 1 session began in August and another session will begin in October. Lt. Brexel reported that the Training Officers have put together a Hands on Training program modeled after a popular program at FDIC. WPBFR has provided a number of structures to be used in the program and several members have volunteered to help teach the program. The current plans are for 2 days, with six classes offered in the morning and the afternoon. This will allow someone to attend 2 sessions a day. Lt. Brexel is asking that departments allow members to attend off duty and they will have a release form (similar to FDICs) for the off duty people to sign. This will increase participation dramatically. Lt. Brexel also

reported that the T.O. Association is in the process of re-writing the Countywide High Rise Procedure. Chief Accardi, one of the original procedure's authors, has agreed to assist with this process.

- C. Palm Beach Community College (Val Williams / Shari Turner) Val introduced Barbara Cipriano, an Associate Dean with PBCC. Val distributed a list of all upcoming fire programs classes at the college. The next CPAT will be held October 2nd and 3rd with 160 seats available. Val reported on the College's progress with the 4-year degree program. PBCC has approved the program, but they must still obtain DOE and SAC approval. The hope is that it will be available in the fall of 2009. Chief Bingham reminded the college that the Association endorsed the program but asked for input into the curriculum. Val reported that the move of the Fire Academy to the Central Campus has been delayed – likely now to be in the end of October. Shari Turner reported that PBCC's Paramedic Program students placed in the top 5 at the Clincon Competitions. Shari also reported that a student team from PBCC placed 1st at the Boca Raton EMS Competitions. Captain John Trainor of Boca Raton Fire Rescue is the new Department Chair for EMS at PBCC.
- D. State and County EMS – (Asst. Chief Cindy Metcalf) – No report
- E. Emergency Management – (Everett Vaughn) Everett introduced Jonathan Lord. Formerly of Miami-Dade County, as the new Assistant Operations Manager for PBC EM. Everett reported that beginning October 1st, the County Warning Point will begin handling the rape crisis line. They are transitioning 5 people from Victim Services to the County Warning Point. Everett requested that fire rescue agencies please send Emergency Management a list of any and all disaster drills. This will aid EM with their accreditation process.
- F. American Red Cross – (Armen Gregorian) Armen asked that agencies please contact Red Cross for any assistance that they may need for drills / exercises.
- G. RDSTF Region 7 – (Dep. Chief Carter) Chief Carter reported that the RDSTF meetings are held quarterly and that the Fire Rescue working group meets monthly. Chief Carter reported in projects funded through state – USAR HazMat Continuance, USAR HazMat Training, and Infrared Spectrometry devices. HazMat training through the RDSTF will be taking place in Boca Raton. To help keep costs down and increase the amount of training they are looking for local instructors.
- H. Hazardous Materials Oversight – (Dep. Chief Carter) The Hazardous Materials Oversight Committee met last week. The PBC Commission does not need to approve the Regional Hazardous Materials Response SOGs, so they are now in place. The SOGs are posted on the Web. If there are any questions about the document, please contact Chief Carter. The Hazardous Materials Oversight Committee will provide presentations to departments as needed. At the recent meeting, there was significant discussion on the response zones. These zones can be changed by the committee through an annex change and the SOGs do not need to be modified. The new agreements will be sent out soon, but the old agreements with teams remain in place until

new ones are signed.

- I. Local Emergency Planning Committee – (Asst. Chief John Johnson) No meeting since last FCAPBC meeting.
- J. Level of Service Committee – Donatto reported on LOS Communications Sub-Committee meeting. The LOS workplan calls for agencies to begin reporting response time data in January of 2008 for the period October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007. The Communications Sub-Committee is working on realistic guidelines for this data. There are several areas that are not currently being captured by CAD systems in the proposed requirements and the Communications Sub-Committee is working to modify or remove these requirements. The LOS Committee must approve any changes.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS / REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

- A. Replacement for Chief Koen on Level of Service Committee – Chief Ridgeway was selected to replace Chief Koen as the large city representative on the LOS Committee.
- B. Report on efforts to keep St. Mary's Hyperbaric Chamber open. Chief Ridgeway reported that a group of our members including Chief Ridgeway, Asst. Chief Phil Webb, Asst. Chief Cindy Metcalf, as well as Dr. Wolff met with the CEO from St. Marys. The hospital expressed that there are 2 issues that are driving their concerns – call volume and adequate staffing. For now, the hospital has agreed to keep the facility open if possible. They are conducting a study and will meet again soon.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Medicare Beneficiary Signature issue. Chief Southard alerted the association of a potential issue regarding a proposed rule that would require that a beneficiary signature be obtained for all ambulance claims. Agencies who wish to voice their concerns about the issue must submit a letter by August 31, 2007. Under the proposed rule, additional burdens would be placed on ambulance providers to obtain beneficiary signatures and additional proof if a patient is unable to sign.
- B. Auto Insurance / Mandatory PIP expiration. Chief Wood raised the issue of the potential expiration of the mandatory PIP requirement of Florida's auto insurance. Discussion was held on the impact of this loss to EMS providers who bill for ambulance service. The FFCA is working closely on this issue.

X. GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION / MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The Southern Florida Law Enforcement & Homeland Security Trade Show will be Oct 4-6 at the South Florida Fairgrounds. As part of this show, the Fire Training Officer's of the Palm Beaches was offered the free use of a meeting room with complimentary admission to the trade show afterwards. The Fire Training Officer's of the Palm Beaches will meet on October 5th at 9:30am at the South Florida Fairgrounds. Exact directions will be available, as we get closer to the meeting date.
- B. Palm Beach Community College is inviting Fire Rescue members to a planning meeting

on Thursday, September 6 from 10-11 am in the Board Room (CE 129) at Palm Beach Community College/Lake Worth Campus. The September 6 meeting is a planning meeting for a November 8 program which PBCC sponsors annually entitled "In Service of America – Lest We Forget." This annual program honors veterans (current and former) and public service responders.

- C. Chief Wood reported that Boca Raton Fire Rescue would be assisting with a memorial service for the 6-year-old Agatha Oatley, the daughter of a Boca Raton Fire Rescue Lieutenant Aaron Oatley. A fund has been set up in Agatha's name. Donations can be sent to: Boca Raton Firefighter and Paramedic Benevolent Fund, In Memory of Agatha Oatley, P.O. Box 565, Boca Raton, FL 33429

XI. DESIGNATION OF THE NEXT MEETING PLACE AND DATE

Date Host

9/26/2007 Riviera Beach Fire Rescue

10/24/2007 Boca Raton Fire Rescue

11/28/2007 Palm Beach County Emergency Management

XII. ADJOURNMENT OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING