Minutes of Meeting held on March 27, 2015- San Antonio Public Safety Headquarters

Meeting Called to Order by Association President Chief Covington at 9:00 am, Chief Covington thanked Chief Hood and San Antonio FD for hosting the meeting.

**Mutual Aid:**

Chief Covington turned the meeting over to Chief Hood which went over the recent events surrounding the response to the Wedgewood Fire in Castle Hills. Chief Hood thanked all personnel that attended the meeting.

Chief Hood reviewed the regional statistics for high rise facilities housing the senior population that don’t currently meet the standards for sprinklered buildings. He stated that the City is working on a plan to address these and other issues.

Additional questions and comments were made on the number of ”Engine One’s” , Communications, use of common terminology and Preplanning of facilities.

Chief Hood would like to implement Regional Training addressing the use of common terminology by all departments. SAFD has a good Communications 101 class that they give to all new recruits. He would like to provide this same class to all responding agencies in and around the San Antonio Metropolitan area.

Order Model, whether it be a commercial or residential response the approach and assignments should be the same, Designations, Floors, Engine numbers and accountability. Regional departments should consider using a Number designation and steer away from the Dept. Name and Engine One. Consider the use of regional numbering system similar to what the county is currently using.

Pre-planning, Identify Target Hazards, Buildings/Critical Structures, Automatic Aid on multi-floored buildings and buildings with special needs residents. The use of NIMS to ensure we are all speaking the same language. Create a system to capture and record information regarding preplans to the high target structures within each of our cities and districts.

Chief Mikel stated that he would like to use the Communications 101 course, and hold a train the trainer course and provide all of the AARFCA members with the PPT and information to be able to take this information back to their departments and implement this information to their members. He also mentioned the proper identification of odd shaped structures like the Wedgwood (Snowflake design) and the use of the Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta when identifying sides of the structure. SAFD is committed to provide any and all assistance necessary to make this information available to all agencies. He also mentioned that these target hazard locations should alert us to moving to a Mutual Aid Channel immediately upon dispatch and not a Tac Channel, thus promoting the ability to have all responding agencies a common channel.

Chief Covington stated to call early for resources especially when it involves High Rise and High Target Hazard facilities but also when responding to Hazmat, Heavy Rescue, High Occupancy buildings or events as well. If possible pre identify these and have that information loaded in the CAD.

Chief Mikel stated that the CAD should have the minimum Two page information, Building Information, Location of the Preplans, Hydrant locations, Elevators, Special notes about ventilation system or lack of. He will forward their current template to the group to use as best practice by all departments. This information should be available in a Red binder somewhere in the lobby accessible by all first responders.

Chief Wallace Described that High Risk Facilities also should include facilities such as Nursing homes and Hospitals that may not be a High-Rise but has a high risk for Non-Ambulatory patients.

Chief Rodrigues ESD-2 reviewed the Station Identification numbering system currently used in Travis County and how it works. BCFD currently has a numbering system for the unincorporated area that identifies stations and apparatus by a numbering system. This should be considered by the Small Municipalities in and around the region. He also went on to describe the recent response to the Air force Village Facility the call came in as smoke in the corridor SAFD was dispatched immediately as well as all area County resources communication and unified command worked out very well, he feels this is an attribute to the recent events for mutual aid.

Chief Granato agrees that we should form a committee to discuss the use of a numbering system to create some type of standardization that will promote clear articulation of agency and apparatus reducing the stress or anxiety over radio traffic.

Chief Chris Monestier reviewed his special project for High-Rise facilities. Chief Monestier went on to describe the House Bill 3089 introduced by Rick Galendo which outlines a time line to sprinkle all high rise facilities 75’ or over. There would be a six year window to become compliant once passed. There was no additional information on the potential funding, grants, or rebates available to become compliant.

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/news/member/press-releases/?id=5379>

**Meeting Minutes:**

Last month’s meeting minutes were read with no changes or corrections. Chief Wallace motioned to approve the minutes and Chief Reddout Second, Minutes were approved.

**Treasures Report:**

Treasurer reported a beginning balance of $12,631.57. There were no deposits during the period, February 01st, 2015 thru February 28th 2015 for an ending balance of $12,631.57. Please take a look at the list of personnel that have not paid their dues, if your name is on the list please make your payments available by paypal or in the form of a check to Chief Riedel. A motion was made to accept the treasures report by Chief Clarkson a second was made by Trevor Wortes. Motion Passed

**Mutual Aid Update:**

Chief Daugherty stated the following Cities have already signed on the mutual aid agreement, Shavano Park FD, Olmos Park FD and Helotes FD; numerous other agencies are still looking for final approval from their councils. Chief Daugherty stated one change from the 30 days’ notice was the organization and should have been from the date signed and adopted by the council and not a hard date as April 1st.

Section 10; Fee’s schedule, allows you to bill for services to the other responsible party, “If Helotes has a $350.00 Standby fee it’s a Possibility and not Probable to charge”. \* AACOG does not reflect these service fees, if you do this in your own City it Ok to charge at another agencies response that you have responded to.

**Communication:**

Chief Trevino provided an update to the weekly Radio checks; additionally he is hoping to bring FF/EMT Roger Garza up to work at Tech Services to assist with the Radio System.

Chief Trevino will give an update on the UASI Grant next month; he asked that if any departments have some projects that they would like to develop to have all of the information available and forward to Jeffery Dean ASAP.

**Membership:**

Chief Wallace provided the update on the hiring consortium they have 65 applicants for the testing Monday and Tuesday at the Schertz Community Center. Capt. Vaughn will be evaluating this testing process. Bulverde Spring Branch and Live Oak FD have also signed on as partners.

Chief Wallace provided an update on the CPAT, The SAC Academy will be taking on the project and providing the CPAT to all the Associated Member Departments at no cost, it will be funded by students coming thru the academy. The Pavilion should be built by this September and full of equipment by sometime next year.

**Education:**

Chief Clarkson updated the TIFMAS Annual Symposium in June to be held here in San Antonio. Chief stated that Siddons Martin/ Skeeter Brush Trucks have provided the funding to cover the food for both days. Bob Gain will be speaking on the Wild Fires in Colorado; Mike Bryant from LA County will also be speaking on the Station Fire.

Chief Clarkson outlined the following expenses for the event: $2500.00 to cover the speaker Fee’s

$8000.00 Courtyard Marriott

Siddons to cover the costs

Chief Clarkson and Chief Glover from Highland Park are putting this program together; Chief asked if he could run the expenses thru the Association. A motion was made by Chief Wallace to allow the Association to Sponsor the Symposium, to allow them to accept donations and allow Chief Clarkson to spend up to $2500.00 in addition to the amount of donations received, if needed. Motion was seconded by Chief Surber Motion passed.

Chief Clarkson will request assistance as he meets with Chief Glover on needs required by him. They currently have blocked 50 rooms at the Courtyard Marriott and 30 rooms at the Fairfield.

**Additional Training opportunities:**

Chief Trevino mentioned that June 22-23 Homeland security will be having an exercise to include up to 15-20 facilities (City, County, Regional, State Exercise) DSHS is the sponsor this will be a full two days if you are interested in your agency participating to forward your information to Chief Trevino ASAP. Since 2011 18 Cities have done this exercise. Houston has recently done this exercise and stated that it is exceptional exercise. All responding agencies will be stressed to the limit. They are looking for approximately 150 minimum to 250 max personnel. Jeffery Dean will provide you with the Executive Summary.

The TDEM Conference is being held in San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center May 12-15, 2015. <https://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/conference/txEmerMgmtConf.htm>

The STRAC Regional Health Care Conference, held at the Alamo Dome May 4-6, 2014. <http://www.strac.org/index.php/stracconf>

**New News:**

Chief Covington addressed the Fire Advisory Board and they have been successful in proposing a Mandatory Four hour course “Traffic Safety Course”. There will be a Five year compliance by all firefighters to complete this course. This is similar to the “Courage to be Safe” course that is currently Mandatory by all Firefighters. The Traffic Safety Course still needs to go thru 2 sessions before it gets its approval.

**Announcements:**

Chief Wallace thanked Schertz FD for standing by at Universal City FD last week while their Fire Fighters supported the special presentation for Chief Wallace on the house floor, a resolution was presented to Chief Wallace For his years of service in the Fire Service in the State of Texas.

Chief Brock Ward was officially appointed as Fire Chief in the City of Balcones Heights.

Chief Hood congratulated Chief Yvette Granato for her appointment to Deputy Chief of Operations for the San Antonio Fire Dept.

**Unfinished Business:**

Chief Covington thanked all the responding agencies for their participation at their “Call for a Lost Child”, he mentioned that this is a good example of the Mutual Aid Agreement. He stated that you should remember that you have 30 days to follow up with a written request for services. This will be good documentation for future events, if you use the AACOG forms this will also be helpful with your AAR and help close the loop on the Requested Resources.

**Next Meeting:**

***Next Month’s meeting will be held on Thursday April 23, 2015 at the Helotes FD. Please make note of the change to Thursday due to Fiesta.***

**Meeting Attendees:**

Trevor Wortes Fred Ryder Michael Rice Shane Reddout

Robert Elizondo Lawrence Trevino Charles Hood Yvette Granato

Chris Monesther Walton Daugherty Alex O’Rourke David Covington

Kevin Clarkson Ralph Rodriguez Carl Hudson Brock Ward

Luis Valdez Blake Wade Linc Surber Tom Montes

Ray Hacker Doug Meckel Ross Wallace Dustin Beaudoin

Danny Wiltes Ralph Rodriguez Mario Troncoso Roger Niemietz

Robert Mikel II