

DRAFT NOT APPROVED

Minutes for Hampshire County Fire Defense April 2016 - Hadley - Barstow's Dairy Store

Attendees Highlighted:

Amherst,	Belchertown,	Cummington,	Chesterfield,	Easthampton
Granby,	Goshen,	Hadley	Hatfield,	Huntington
Northampton	SHFD 1,	SHFD 2	Southampton	Middlefield,
Pelham,	Plainfield,	Ware,	Williamsburg	Westhampton
Worthington	DCR,	MSP/Fire Marshal's Office.		MEMA
Eversource	Other: CRS			

Meeting called to order at **1803** hours

Meeting suspended for presentation by Massachusetts State Police Airwing

Trooper Spencer gave informational report on capabilities of airwing. Currently have four air units. In the event that a chief wishes to request the services of the airwing for water drops at a wildland fire a request must go through your district fire warden. Reminded the group that it can take a while to get water to scene based upon availability and where they are responding from. Also they like to burn some fuel prior to picking up water. They also prefer to have the Chief or designee do a fly over of the incident to get a full picture of the incident. Chopper can carry 84 gallons of water

If utilizing airwing for search and rescue they suggest that groups of rescuers are better and easier for them to provide information and direction to victims. They also prefer to communicate with an established command post as they have numerous radios that they are monitoring so the less air traffic they need to listen to the better. Best case scenario for them is to have a Trooper on the ground responding to the command post and all info relayed from incident commander to chopper via trooper. If the incident occurs on DCR property it is critical to contact DCR/Lt. Peter Michaels as he has detailed mapping available for use. The Troopers also recommended the use of handheld GPS units and to follow the directions of the airwing.

If any Chief's have requests or if you have something you feel that might be useful at an incident involving the airwing please feel free to reach out. Trooper Spencer provided a contact # of 413-378-1200 or you can request assistance the Northampton Barracks.

They are currently working on and testing a web based view which would allow a chief to sign into a password protected web site in order to have an air view of what the chopper is seeing. Also stated that if landing in community they request a 100'X100' area just like Life Flight.

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Meeting Reopened at 1907 hours

March Minutes : Approved unanimously

Treasure report : Chief Coulombe reported the following funds

Haz Mat Account - \$54,810.65

Monson Savings - \$9,542.61

Florence Savings - \$32,103.34

Motion to Approve: B. Forgea

Seconded: D. Hewes

Discussion: None

Approved Unanimously

Secretary: M. Spanknebel working on membership list and correct emails.

MEMA: Bob Barry spoke about upcoming calendar of events. Calendar of events provided.

Eversource: NO REPORT

Radio

*Agenda Item to be discussed - Discussion on mutual aid radio ops. -see email

-L. Stromgren started discussion on policies and stated that MIFOG still not released yet.

Recommended that we should create draft policy for next meeting in anticipation of MIFOG release.

Training

M. Spanknebel reported that UL class went well positive feedback from attendees. Would have liked to have reached the 50 person class size but well worth the expense.

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EMS: NO REPORT

Mutual Aid: NO REPORT

Bi-Law Committee: NO REPORT

Hazmat: NO REPORT

Air truck: Chief Forgea reported that he spoke with Chief of Plainfield and that he is interested in the truck.

M. Spanknebel stated letter was drafted and will be shipped out to the Chief of Plainfield.

B. Forgea made a motion that funds currently assigned to truck (approximately \$800.00 for registration and insurance) go to communications for any issues that require funding.

Seconded by S. Labrie

Discussion: None

Approved Unanimously

Fit Test: Currently in Hatfield

CFO: NO REPORT

FCAM : Chief Mottor reported concerning news regarding Senate Bill # 1322 put forward by Senator Timilty - An Act relative to automatic sprinkler systems. The bill if approved would remove the 7500 square foot rule from the authority of the Fire Chief(MGL Chapter 148 section 26G) and move it under the building code and the building departments authority. Please reach out to your State Senators and advise against this so it does not make out of Ways and Means

FCAM working on potentially hosting a free website for our Association to use. Also reminder of FCAM meeting in September at Chandlers Restaurant in S. Deerfield.

Reminder that FCAM meeting for April 20th is at Theresa's in Ware

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Mass. Call/Vol. : State Meeting to be held in October at the Hadley Farms Meeting House

Tech Rescue: NO REPORT

WMFC : Aprils meeting to be held on the 28th at the Blue Bonnet Diner in Northampton open to members and non members. State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey to present at meeting.

Also discussed need to have active Chief as regional coordinator. Voted to recommend Chief Russ Anderson to replace Retired Chief Duggan as Director of Fire Mobilization for Western Mass. FCAM has endorsed Chief Anderson

SAFE Trailer : Currently in Hadley will be in Ware next and then Belchertown

MSP: NO REPORT

DCR : State District 10 Fire Warden G. Loud reported that there will be elevated fire weather danger this coming weekend. Pelham tower is up and running and Goshen will be up and run off a portable. Approved to hire third seasonal so they will be back to full staff. Keith will send out power point on next few days fire weather and he also asked about the reporting forms that are required to be submitted. They would prefer reports be submitted monthly however whatever is easiest for department.

D. Mottor provided info on Emergency Reporting software that makes filing the report very easy.

Reported that Ware will be doing a 6-10 acre prescribed burn in May and may be looking for volunteers to assist.

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DFS : J. Wood reported that Night Club Safety classes will start at the end of the month. Open to Building Officials, Fire Officials and Restaurant/Club Owners. Classes scheduled in Springfield and South Deerfield. If you would like DFS(John) to assist you with night club inspections for trouble bars he is willing to come out 9pm-1am or 10pm-2am.

Reported on two advisories from the Marshal's Office regarding Lithium Batteries and Color Powder. Check out DFS website for information and also advisories sent to Chief's by email.

Unofficial guidance for cooking set-ups at fairs is available with 11 bullet points that allow for the Chief to grant an exemption under NFPA requirements. Official guidance from the Marshal's Office to be released soon.

Old Business: Chief Spanknebel reviewed March Minutes

New Business : Chief Nelson reviewed new MOA with Westover for Fire Training Facility. T. Coulombe made a motion to sign and enter into MOA with Westover for the use of the facility.

Seconded by B. Forgea

No Discussion

Approved unanimously

Chief Coulombe started discussion regarding potential future professional development for Western Mass. He has contacted Dr. Griffin who presented at the FCAM conference on the Charleston Sofa Store Fire which was a full day class. Dr. Griffin has 1 Saturday remaining in September and the cost is \$3,500.00 all inclusive. If we can find enough sponsors we should be able to keep the price low for attendees. We would need to provide a light breakfast and lunch. If we are unable to raise enough funds perhaps we can bring in Franklin and Hampden County to be a part of effort.

T. Coulombe recommends moving date of April meeting to week before or after in order to not conflict with WMEMS Meeting

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Good and Welfare: 15th Annual Tunnel to Tower run will be held in Amherst on 9/11/16. Looking for folks to sign up and run or donate to the event. Go to <https://www.crowdrise.com/t2trun> for details.

CRS spoke to group regarding their sponsorship of WMFPA for the annual conference at Cranwell and that they sponsor the DFS table at Big E and volunteer with Red Cross on Smoke detector installations and home inspections.

May Meeting to be held in: Belchertown on May 12th

Meeting Adjourned : at 2008 hours