

**Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association**  
**Minutes of the June 23, 2008 Monthly Meeting**

The dinner meeting was hosted by the Cumberland Road Fire Department Station # 5 and conducted at the Purolater Plant. The Association thanks Chief Hall and the Cumberland Road Fire Department for their superb hospitality.

**Opening Prayer:** Chaplain Mike Cassanova provided the opening prayer.

**Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted with 16 Departments and 5 Associate members present.

**Members Absent:** Vander FD # 2 & 8, Wade FD # 16, West Area FD # 15, Spring Lake FD # 22, Westarea FD # 15

**Associate Members Absent:** Hazmat, Forestry, SBI

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the May 2008 meeting were approved by all members present.

**Guests:** None

**Vendors Present:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** No Report – (Presented during Chief's Only Meeting).

**Meeting Point of interests:**

- **Next Chief's Meeting** *will be held at 1900 hours on July 28, 2008 at EMS base located at Gillespie and Southern Avenue. This will be a Chief's only meeting.*

**President Johnson passed out the following informational papers:**

- County of Cumberland – Emergency Operation Center Number of Calls for May 2008
- Letter to all local legislatures concerning Junior Firefighter Certification discussed during the May 2008 meeting.
- Staying Safe in Hot Weather
- Legal Briefings for Fire Chief's Dated May 2008
- Projected Fire District Tax Fiscal Year 2009

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. *President Johnson asked Director Curry how the pre-alert dispatch procedures were coming along and Director Curry stated that his dispatchers are still getting used to the new system and they are still in a learning phase. A discussion amongst fire chief's followed and Director Curry was asked about adding the station number when announcing the pre-alert. Director Curry advised that this is hard to do because at that point dispatchers are not sure what fire district the call is in. Dispatchers as soon as they record an address announce the address on a pre-alert and then look up the*

*information and dispatch the call. He stated that under the new system it's imperative that we learn our district as much as possible and he will also insure that dispatchers are uniform across the board with the pre-alert.*

2. *President Johnson reminded all members that the SAFER grant application period closes the end of the week. Assistant Chief Allen with the Fayetteville Fire Department announced that his department was submitting a SAFER grant.*
3. *President Johnson again urged all members to review the Charleston South Carolina Fatal Fire Report. The discrepancies noted in the report can also be found here in our county and we collectively have an obligation to fix these discrepancies and learn from the mistakes made in South Carolina. The report is long but if you are a chief officer you must at least review it and implement changes within your department to meet compliance. We will as a group schedule Incident Command Training for all Chief Officers in the future to address some of the issues brought forward in the South Carolina Fire.*
4. *President Johnson also reminded all Chief's that June is traditionally Safety Stand Down month and it's our annual opportunity to review all procedures and the associated safety requirements to keep all of us safe. It's a good program and let's support it.*

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. President Johnson briefed the membership concerning the recent news articles in the Fayetteville Observer concerning county fire department funding. He stated that over the last ten (10) months he had the opportunity to study our system and found that it is broken and not working. He stated that he himself had always supported our current funding formula based on property tax value, however the system needs a complete overhaul and currently in our system all departments are suffering. He stated that he realizes that it would be hard for a chief receiving \$ 90,000 annually to understand that even at \$ 250,000 the figure is inadequate to operate a fire department and provide the service that customers expect. He stated that every Chief in the association needs additional funding and is looking for more to provide more service no matter what his budget is. That applies to a chief with a 100,000 budget as well as a chief with a 700,000 budget and all in between. Part of our problem is, we over the years have become accustomed to under service and learned to live within our system and have made second-rate service an acceptable standard based solely on budget. However when our customers call us they expect 1<sup>st</sup> class and superior services and we cannot simply continue to struggle as we are. He stated that he would put together briefing paper and run it through the association via a special meeting this fall and then turn it in to the county. He stated that our attitudes along with our entire system must be overhauled in order to meet service demands which vary from department to department.
2. Assistant Chief Autry from the Stedman Fire Department on behalf of Chief Bullard and the Stedman Fire Department thanked everyone for their condolences and participation in Deputy Chief's Jordan's funeral.

3. President Johnson informed the membership that we really needed to look into bulk purchasing. He is in need of Large Diameter Hose (LDH) needing to purchase several thousand feet, as well as 20 sets of turn-out-gear. He stated that volume talk's savings and we needed to get serious about purchasing large dollar items on annual basis. It would be wise to set up several committees to look at standards and specs for turn-out-gear, and other equipment as well as recognize a standard to standardize our SCBA's with future purchases. He stated that Chief Kenneth Hall (501) would take on this responsibility.
4. President Johnson thanked all members that were able to respond to the call for help from Hyde County in battling the on going-brush fire. He thanked the entire chief's that came out for a meeting at City Station 14 on the spur of the moment and a follow up coordination meeting later that afternoon. Director Curry also expressed his gratitude and advised the membership that Cumberland County fulfilled the mission requirements, whereas other counties apparently packed up in the middle of the mission and just left without notifying anyone in charge. President Johnson asked any department that may have some information that could be used to improve operations to make a list and we can forward it to the OSFM Mr. McCloud for follow up.
5. Chief Kenneth Hall gave a quick overview of operations at Hyde County and asked all the members to look at a power point presentation that was running in the back ground with pictures of the Hyde County Fire.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ID CARD COMMITTEE** Lt. Tara Johnson (Stoney Point) Chairperson

- **FYI.** Fire Chiefs are required to send a signed letter or memo with a firefighter requesting an ID Card. For any questions or an appointment contact 424-0694 or e-mail at tara@stoneypointfire.com

**FIRE PREVENTION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- No report

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** Chief B. Bullard (Stedman) Chairperson

- No report – See Old Business

**STANDARDS & POLICY COMMITTEE** Chief K. Hall (Cumberland Road) Chairperson

- No Report. (ICS Policy Final Pending)

**TRAINING COMMITTEE** Chief P. Strahan (Westarea) Chairperson

- No report

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** Deputy Chief S. Blackburn (Ft. Bragg) Chairperson

- No Report

**AUTOMATIC AID/MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE** Chief J. F. Hall (Bethany) Chairperson

- No Report – Chairman J. F. Hall inquired about foam and the need to have foam on hand that would meet the new requirements of Ethanol. Fire Chief Kevin Herndon advised the membership that DuPont has a 500 gallon foam truck on site that would be available if requested as well as an ambulance. For further details he asked all members to inquire with Ricky Martin a point of contact for DuPont. The foam truck should be requested through dispatch. President Johnson asked Director Curry if someone from his office can go out and inspect the trailer maintained by Spring Lake. Director Curry stated that he would have it handled.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** Deputy Chief Freddy Johnson Jr. (Stoney Point) Chairperson

- See Hand-Out

**RESCUE COMMITTEE** Deputy Chief Freddy Johnson Jr. (Stoney Point) Chairperson

- No report

**EASTERN FIRE SCHOOL** Chief R. Marley (Pearces Mill) Chairperson

- Fire Chief Marley advised that everything was on track for next years March Seminar and he will disseminate additional information as it becomes available.

**EMS DIRECTOR:** Colonel Wally W. Ainsworth

- Wally Ainsworth introduced Mr. Mike Royal who was named the new director as a result of some re-structuring at Cape Fear Valley Hospital. Director Royal addressed the chiefs and informed them that Dr. Reed was still his boss and he looked forward to working with all the chiefs. He has talked with some chiefs and is looking forward to talking with others on ways we can improve our partnership and looks forward to working with us. President Johnson welcomed Director Royal to the association.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR/ ECC-911** Kenny Curry, Director

- Director Curry announced that Chief Marsh and the Grays Creek Fire Department # 24 handled a recent Department of Insurance (DOI) re-inspection in a very professional manner even after the inspector changed the rules at the last minute. He stated that they adapted and overcame the stumbling block introduced by the inspector. Job well done. Chief Marsh stated that he attended the DOI class and followed the class protocol for the

inspection and the inspector changed the procedure several times during the inspection process on the fly and thanked those departments that assisted with his rating.

- Scotty announced that it was important to re-habilitate our firefighters during incidents when the temperatures are at record highs. He stated that if needed assistant county fire marshals are available to assist in support functions during incidents as needed.

**HAZMAT** BC Hieu Sifford - POC telephone for HAZMAT is 433-1729.

- No report.

**FORESTRY DISTRICT** Ranger J. Johnson

- No report

**FTCC** Ernest Ward

- No report

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE** Sheriff Butler

- No report

**HIGHWAY PATROL**

- No report

**CHRISTIAN FIREFIGHTERS** Chaplain Casanova

- No report

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** Fire Commissioner Ed Melvin

- Commissioner Melvin addressed the membership and briefly talked about the financial complexity and stated that he will present to the commissioners our program.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

- Fire Chief Chuck Hodges announced to the membership that the Hope Mills Fourth of July Parade is scheduled for 10 am Friday July 4<sup>th</sup>. He invited everyone to participate and asked all members to call him by close of business this Friday June 27, 2008 if they are planning on bringing a truck. He stated that the parade will start at Hope Mills Junior High School and complete at the municipal building on Rockfish Road. Chief Hodges can be reach at 910-424-0948.

- Director Curry reminded everyone that the 9-S Inspection scheduled for all departments in July is still ago and everyone has a copy of the schedule.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting Adjourned at approximately 2115 Hours

Respectfully Submitted By:

*Freddy Johnson*

Fire Chief Freddy Johnson  
President

*Mark A. Melvin*

Deputy Chief Mark Melvin  
Secretary