

## Cumberland County Fire Chief's Association

### Minutes of the May 19, 2008 Monthly Meeting

The dinner meeting was hosted by the Cotton Fire Department Station # 4. The Association thanks the Cotton Fire Department for the use of their facility and their superb hospitality. The meeting was conducted one (1) week early due to the up-coming Memorial Day Holiday. (This change was approved by all members during the June 2007 meeting).

**Opening Prayer:** Fire Chief J. F. Hall provided the opening prayer.

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

**Members Absent:** Eastover FD # 1, Vander FD # 2 & 8, EMS, Spring Lake FD # 22, Westarea FD #10, 15 & 20

**Associate Members Absent:** Life Link, Sheriff's Office, Forestry, County Commissioners, Christian Firefighters

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the April 2008 meeting were not discussed and will be approved during the June 2008 meeting. A hard copy of the April minutes was handed out to all members for review.

**Guests:**  
Mandy Valiquette, Local Government Federal Credit Union  
Bill Carter, Local Government Federal Credit Union, Commercial Loans  
Honorable District Court Judge Laura Devan  
Gordon A. Joyner, Executive Officer NC Association of Rescue & EMS  
Joel L. Faircloth, Jr. Deputy Executive Officer NC Association of Rescue & EMS  
Robert Hicks, Assistant District Attorney

**Vendors Present:** None

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

#### **Meeting Point of interests:**

- **Next Chief's Meeting** will be hosted on June 23, 2008 by the **Cumberland Road Fire Department # 5 and conducted at Purolator on Natal Road.** The general membership meeting will begin at 7:00 pm with Dinner.
- President Johnson passed out the following informational papers;
- Minutes from the April 2008 Meeting. (Minutes were not approved during the May Meeting).
- Domestic Preparedness Letter
- ISO Automatic Aid Dispatch Information

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Emergency Services Director Kenny Curry presented the association a recommendation from the Communications Committee concerning the Automatic Aid Dispatch Procedures. He stated that Keith McCloud from the Department of Insurance (DOI) had apparently mistaken his requested and that Mr. A.C. Daniels Sr. Rating Inspector corrected the issue on man-power credit. Every department must have four (4) firefighters along with one (1) Engine Company on the scene of every structure fire within their perspective fire district. However the 9-S 6 Mile Rating as well ISO standards require an automatic aid dispatch protocol. Therefore the Communications committee recommends that we start a test phase of automatic dispatch effective June 1, 2008. Director Kenny Curry provided an example dispatch procedure to all members present. A discussion followed by all members followed with a procedural vote by the entire membership with all members in attendance voting in favor of the new automatic aid dispatch protocol. Kenny stated that this will be a learning experience for all of us to include his dispatchers. He stated we have been dispatching one way for the past twenty (20) plus years so slip-ups on the new system may occur from time to time until we perfect the system. He urged all members to write down problems and provide them to either Chief Bullard (2301) Chairman of the Communications Committee or himself. We will further discuss the progress during our next meeting in June.
2. Kenny stated that all those departments that have not submitted the model and serial number for their VHF base stations by Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup> will not be included in the repair contract offered by Cumberland County for VHF Base Stations. He stated that he had requested this information for the past two (2) months and time is up on Friday. Please submit this information at once if you have not.
3. Kenny also stated that the protocol or radio procedure for initiating a call is already covered within the current standards. He stated that the preferred method would be TO – FROM, however they have no problem if you use TO - From or From – To.
4. President Johnson brought the membership up-to-date on the Jr. Firefighter exclusion recently published and adopted by the Department of Insurance (DOI) as a result of Child Labor Laws. He has spoken with Senator Rand, and he is aware that this is a state-wide problem, whereas he and other law makers are receiving mail from all of the state of North Carolina concerning this single issue. We will keep the membership abreast on this issue.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Gordon Joyner, Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Services, Inc addressed the association and provided a complete review of association benefits. Currently nine (9) Cumberland County Fire Departments are members of the association.
  - Cotton FD # 4 - Medium Rescue Provider
  - Cumberland County EMS – Ambulance EMS Provider
  - Cumberland Road FD # 5 - Medical Responder
  - Eastover FD # 1 – Heavy Rescue, Water Rescue & High Angle Provider

- Fayetteville FD– Ambulance EMS, Heavy Rescue & High Angle Provider
- Spring Lake FD # 22 - Medical Responder Unit
- Stoney Point FD # 13 & 19 – Medical Responder Unit, Water Rescue & Heavy Rescue Provider
- Vander FD # 2 & 8 – Ambulance EMS Provider, Medium Rescue Service
- Westarea FD 10-15 & 20 – Ambulance EMS Provider, Medium Rescue Service

Gordon also updated the association concerning the up-coming change of the Emergency Rescue Technician certification changes. Whereas the current standard does not provide sufficient training to meet the required standards. In closing he urged those departments that are members to update their records and take advantage of their scholarship programs.

2. Station 26 Beaver Dam Fire Department has purchased additional land for a second station and requested a second station number for the new department. Beaver Dam would very much like to keep their station number in classification with 26 and therefore requested to use the vacant station # 6 for their future department. Deputy Chief Hank Harris spoke up and reminded the membership that the Cotton Fire Department had already requested the use of # 6 for their second department to be built in the near future. This request was officially presented to the association and approved. Beaver Dam will make a subsequent request in writing next month for a different number.
3. President Johnson asked the members to monitor a Federal Legislative Bill H.R. 980 a bill sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy (D) Mass. The bill requires MANDATORY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING for public safety officers. The bill referred to as the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, would require all state and local governments to engage in collective bargaining with their police, fire and EMS personnel. This bill will also have implication for certain volunteer fire departments with full time or paid personnel. Please contact your local senator and voice your objection to this bill. A list and points of contact for all Senators can be found at <http://www.senate.gov>
4. President Johnson advised the membership that the Hurricane Season is starting June 1, 2008 and asked all Chief's to look at their preparedness. Erratic weather patterns are affecting our entire country so let's prepare and be ready.
5. President Johnson informed the membership that the final report is out on the Charleston South Carolina Fatal Fire. He asked all members to make it a point and read the report and take internal corrective action. We should always learn from other mistakes.
6. Next month or June is Fire Safety Stand-Down please participate in this important fire safety initiative.
7. President Johnson informed all members that the SAFER grant application period will open for 30 days starting May 27 and ending June 27, 2008. He also provided an

overview of the Assistant to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Peer review process. Chief Johnson participated in the Peer Review process during the week of 4 to 9 May in Emmitsburg Maryland.

## **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@stonepointfire.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 - See Old Business concerning automatic aid dispatch.

### **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

- No Report

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

- No Report

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS REPORT**

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

- Kenny advised all members to prepare for some potential bad weather on Tuesday May 20, 2008. The National Weather Service has issued an advisory for potentially severe weather for Tuesday that could affect Cumberland County.

**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

- No Report

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

- Deputy Fire Chief Tracy Smith advised the membership that his department was hosting a IS 300 class at Pearce's Mill Fire Department starting on Tuesday May 20, 2008 anyone who needs the class is invited.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:

*Freddy Johnson*  
Fire Chief Freddy Johnson  
President

*Mark A. Melvin*  
Assistant Chief Mark Melvin  
Secretary