



Fauquier County
Fire Rescue System
30 John Marshall Street
Warrenton, VA 20186
Phone (540) 422-8800 Fax (540) 422-8813
www.fauquierfirerescue.org

Battalion Chief RJ Arft, Chair
Michael Moore, CVFR, Co-chair

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

12/05/2023 Minutes

Committee members present: Battalion Chief RJ Arft, Michael Moore, CVFR, Captain Matthew Shields, Lieutenant Kenneth Neam, Acting Lieutenant Tyler Stevens

Staff members present: Administrative Assistant Lindsay Flippo

I. Call to Order

BC Arft called the meeting to order at 0904 hours.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was presented to the committee. Captain Shields made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Lieutenant Neam and unanimously approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the October 26, 2023, meeting were presented. Captain Shields made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Lt. Neam and unanimously approved.

IV. Sub-Committee Reports

- a. **Peer Fitness** - Tech. Landman was not present, however did send updates. Technician Lewis and Technician Loan are currently working on a PT program for the next recruit school. Technician Reed keeps Facebook up to date as well as creates and implements monthly fitness challenges. The group is also working on getting prizes for challenges. Lt. Reneau requested peer fitness t-shirts, that are NFPA approved and moisture wicking. There is a current trial run in the field, and very there have been few issues. The trial will run till new budget cycle. With a resignation, the peer fitness group is currently down a member, and they have reached out to department. They will also need to reach out to Volunteers. The group is currently coordinating with CPAT testing for new hires for the recruit school starting in January.

There was discussion on the best way to distribute the peer fitness bulletin. Battalion Chief Arft made a motion that future peer fitness bulletins be sent out as a safety bulletin. The motion was seconded by Captain Shields and with no further discussion, was unanimously approved.

- b. **Peer Support** – The system recently held a training class, that included peer support personnel along with a few volunteers. The instructors were public safety oriented and brought good points for the future of our program. Proactive vs. reactive, watch out for personnel, EMDR for PTSD/Anxiety. The peer support team will meet sometime in the next few weeks to discuss revamping the program to help better sever the needs of our system members.
- c. **Logistics** - Lt. Flippo was not present, however did send updates on two issues. The swapping of mobile radios for Wi-Fi project is about 50% complete, with the southern end stations covered. The new Gas Meters purchase are in the pending FY 2025 budget, slated for July 1, 2024. Once the budget is approved, the Special Operations Committee will research different meters and make a recommendation for the purchase of new ones.

V. Old Business

- a. **Driving/Accident policies** - Issues discussed: there are too many differing policies, releasing drivers before they may be ready, training time is just not available, and carelessness/lack of attention. System wide policy to condense the others and make it uniform for all system members. OP 702 was recently reviewed by Michael Moore, who recommended to remove I b and c for liability purposes, among other reasons. The possibility of updating the BC portion of IndustrySafe reporting to allow station officers more responsibility was also discussed. Also, there are outdated policies, both system and county wide, that should be updated to reflect the changes that have happened our system over the years.
- b. **PPE/Uniform** – Meeting on Thursday, December 7th to review and clear up questions on Ops 128 and 710. Personal purchase policy (leather helmets/gloves/hoods) also in the works. Will also discuss adding personal gear in OP 128 to the new personal purchase policy.
- c. **Dr. Chou Station Visits** – taking Dr. Chou around the County to discuss NFPA 1582 with personnel on December 12th and 13th in the morning. A GO will be sent to the different battalions so they can meet at central location for discussions.

VI. New Business

- a. **Exhaust systems in stations** - Plymovent vs. No Smoke. Meeting with representative from Ward Diesel Wednesday, December 6. They will need to touch every truck in the county, replace filters every three years, what costs will be associated with it.
- b. **Work performance evaluation** – Per NFPA 1582. Staff will be testing at Station 3 in February, 2024. This is going to be a 5-year introduction. Tech. Kevin Landman is developing, and he will reach out to the field, give personnel metabolic equivalents. This year, it is voluntary, but starting in 2025, plan on implementing across the field. Third year would work with peer fitness, fourth would work with both peer fitness and Dr. Chou. The question was also raised about including volunteers as well.
- c. **Station Visits with Fire Marshal** – will be conducted over the next few months.

VII. Action Items

- a. The peer support group will meet on December 19th to revitalize the program. They hope to find new and different ways to reach more personnel and the needs of our system members.
- b. The committee will work on reviewing the multiple Operating Procedures and policies to condense to one or two, so the policies are more consistent and concise.
- c. The committee will work to find a way where people can take ownership of their accident, help personnel realize mistakes, and take accountability for their actions. Also look at ways to hold more accountability for drivers with multiple infractions.
- d. Uniform/PPE will discuss a new Personal Equipment Purchase Policy, that will be sent to the Executive Committee and legal for approval.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by at 1112 hours by BC Arft. Captain Shields seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 9th, 2024, at 0900 hours at Station 3 Rescue.