



County of Henry

Department of Public Safety

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The ESAC meeting was held at 7 p.m. on May 19, 2015 at the Public Safety Training Center. The meeting was facilitated by Rodney Howell, Director, Henry County Department of Public Safety.

Agency attendees were as follows:

Jasper Peters (AFD), Jeffrey Beam (CFD), Brian Shuler(FFD), Randy Smith (DSFD), William Martin (HFD), Donald Turner (PHFD), Cotton Trent (RFD), Jeff Fulcher (BRS), Daryl Hatcher (FCRS), Melissa Hubbard (HRS), Travis Pruitt (RRS), J. R. Powell (911 Ctr.)

Agencies not present:

Bassett Fire Department, Axton Life Saving Crew

Public Safety attendees were as follows:

Rodney Howell (Director), Matt Tatum (Deputy Director/EMS Coordinator), Suzie Helbert (EMS Training Coordinator), Lisa Garrett (Deputy Fire Marshal), Kiah Cooper (Asst. Fire Marshal), Kenny Shumate (Volunteer Coordinator), Pam Mason (Secretary) Jimmy Foley (HCDPS)

Public attendees were as follows:

Tommy Martin (DSFD), Darrell Pace (CFD)

March 15, 2015 minutes were approved as written.

Old Business:

EMS Capitol Request

- It was questioned whether the funding will continue to be denied.
- Rodney informed that he included the request each year, but he can't predict what the outcome will be.

Fire Capitol Request

- CIP future funding line up: Fieldale, Axton and then Collinsville; then the rotation will start over.
- The request increase was not approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Communications 101 Class

Kenny Shumate stated that there had been about 300 volunteers that have attended the class to date. There will be make-up classes scheduled on future dates (TBD).

Anyone is invited to attend any company/station class if you are not able to attend at your department.

Upcoming classes are:

- Horsepasture Fire Department and Rescue Squad will hold a joint class on May 26, at the fire department at 6:00.
- Axton Fire Department will hold one on June 12, 2015 at 6:00.
- Ridgeway Rescue Squad will advise when they schedule one.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant

No reply from FEMA yet

Rooster Walk

The Rooster Walk is coming May 21-25, 2015 (Memorial Day Weekend) to Henry County. It will be located on Hobson Road in Axton. Volunteer assistance may be needed during the festival as approximately 4,000 people are expected to attend throughout the event.

Bobby Phillips is the coordinator for the Emergency and Safety Plan.

Mandated Training

VDFP has a "Fire Chief Officer 101" class. This is a 16 hour class and may be more beneficial for the upcoming mandated training of the three top positions in the fire department.

Therefore, the mandated training discussed in previous meetings will be put on hold until more information on this class is provided.

New Business:

Ambulance re-stocking issue:

- There have been several incidents of calls being run on ambulances with inadequate or lack of supplies and/or equipment. This issue needs to be resolved as soon as possible before correct care is unable to be given.
- Any suggestions will be welcome. Thoroughly checking off units should be done every day. Re-stocking after each call should be mandatory to ensure the equipment is available.

Heavy Tactical Rescues (HTR Incidents) & Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- Need resources to be able to respond properly.
- Discuss and utilize with the adjoining county mutual aid agreements if they have proper resources to assist. Too much is never a bad thing.
- Each incident warrants its own need of personnel and equipment.
- Is swift water training needed or cost effective at this point?
- The Smith River is not a "rated" river and therefore the rapids are not rated.

New Director:

- As of June 1, 2015, Matthew Tatum will be the new Director of Public Safety.
- Restructuring of Public Safety has been discussed with County Administrator and Deputy County Administrator. While needing some reworking, it came with a positive look.

Communications – J. R. Powell

- Homes with identification plaques for better ability to locate.
- Remember to use different channels on large incidents (LZ OPS, etc.)
- Request switch over only after first officer/truck signs on scene to size up what is needed. When additional information is given (additional assistance, disregard and clearing scene) it needs to be on the Normal Fire or EMS Com channel.
- Fire Departments are still requesting additional information on calls with hazards or suspicious circumstances. As with EMS, give a short report and if the need to stage until scene safety has been established. The only way now is if they scan the EMS channel.
- When a call involves a business, give the name for easier and faster response. (Dollar General, O'Reillys, etc.)

Other Topic Discussions:

Air Truck Response:

- Company 15 has a lock box for the keys to the station. Everyone should have the code to enter the building and respond the air truck.
- Who is dedicated to respond? Ridgeway, unless busy and then county personnel will respond with air truck.
- Refresher classes need to be attended to operate the truck. Just because you can drive it, doesn't mean you know how to operate it.

Dispatch:

- Dispatch is understaffed for the call volume the county and city law enforcement, Fire & EMS, etc.
- One dispatcher to deal with a large incident works best as they know details of the call.

Upcoming Training:

See attached for a list of upcoming training classes.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 @ HCDPS @ 6:30 p.m.