

Santa Rosa County
Emergency Services Advisory Committee
August 24, 2005
2:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members present:

Stephen Cozart
John E. Reble
Joe Diamond

Tony Simmons
Don Vanderryt
Werner Panchenko

Members absent:

Bryan Gibson

Staff present:

Sheryl Bracewell

Deb Grinde

Agenda approved as submitted for this meeting.

Minutes for meeting held on June 22, 2005 approved as submitted.

Persons to Appear

Chief Stephen Demeter, Midway Fire District, appeared at this meeting to make the ESAC Committee and the county aware of the full Hazmat team that is available to respond from the Midway Fire District. They have the ability to respond to Hazmat emergencies both within our county and in the Pensacola area. The career firefighters of the Midway Fire District have completed one hundred sixty (160) hours of Hazmat technical training and some have voluntarily completed State of Florida certification requirements for Hazmat technicians. At this time they perform at a local level and not a regional level. Chief Demeter explained that they have some of the capabilities for the regional level but not all. Chlorine kits, photo ionization kits, etc. are available; the unit is ALS capable and somewhat WMD capable.

The truck is located outside the building and some of the team members are here to answer any questions and to demonstrate the equipment at the end of this meeting.

S. Bracewell advised that Chief Demeter had sent a letter to the county Communications Center advising that the team is available to the entire county. S. Bracewell stated that they would be included as a valuable resource to the Center.

Review of Reports and Statistics

Reports for the months of June and July were reviewed by this committee. It was noted again that most of the lack of response occurs in the same fire districts on a routine basis. This committee will continue to monitor the progress in these areas including the night time and weekend responses.

Review of Correspondence

The only pending correspondence is a letter to Mr. H. Walker regarding the lawn maintenance concerns.

Old Business

Inmate Work Crews

Chief Reble has not received a response from H. Walker.

Fire Hydrants

A meeting was held with various water purveyors from within the county. The purpose of the meeting was to advise them of their responsibilities including inspection and maintenance of the fire hydrants and the flow testing of the hydrants. Recognizing that the AWWA recommends flow testing on a ten-year basis, we requested they be tested more often as on an annual basis.

The attendance was probably only 50%; however, it was the first meeting of its kind and seemed to be well taken. The representatives recognized their responsibilities to the citizens, acknowledged state law in regard to this issue and were very supportive of the plans that were presented to them. The water purveyors advised that they do not have the personnel to complete these tasks and suggested that the county for a crew to carry out the assignments, including the inspections, testing, maintaining and any related reports or record keeping, etc. The county, then, could bill each water district for these services accordingly. Chief Reble advised that the BOCC was receptive to this idea. It was also recommended by the BOCC that the county purchase blue reflectors and make them available to each of the fire districts. The blue reflectors are not mandatory but will be available and recommended. If the fire district installed the reflectors the work crew would be responsible for maintaining them. If the Road and Bridge Department was responsible for damaging the reflectors it would become their responsibility to repair and/or replace them. Additionally, it was suggested that an ordinance be put in place that would require a reflector be installed with each and every new hydrant.

Chief Reble also requested and received authorizations from the Board of County Commissioners for this committee (ESAC) to generate guidelines for the hydrants. These guidelines will be for the color system, generating a standard numbering system and establishing testing and maintenance procedures and timelines.

This committee reviewed a map book and sample pages of legend compiled by the computer and GIS departments. Chief Reble advised that they have been building a data base in the CAD that will bring all the necessary information together for use by many departments and agencies. Once the guidelines have been established and this committee determines what is required the data will only need to be entered into the system. It is critical that the information provided for input is correct and accurate. We should include street names, hydrant numbers, fire district jurisdictions and water department jurisdictions.

Discussion by those in attendance determined the following:

It was suggested that, since the county has no wet barrel hydrants, the committee adopt page 30, Chapter 5 of AWWA M17 in total as the procedure to be followed for testing of hydrants . The motion was carried by this committee.

It was recommended that flow testing be performed on an annual basis in order to accommodate changes to the fire flow systems. The entry of the data into the system would then raise a flag if the hydrant was not meeting the requirements and would serve as a check and balance.

Motion made to follow procedures for flow testing as outlined in Chapter 6 of AWWA to the extent that it is feasible or able to be accomplished. This motion was carried by this committee.

D. Vanderryt questioned who would provide the necessary crews and equipment to perform the testing and maintenance of the hydrants. Chief Reble stated that the crews would be contracted by the County and paid for by the water systems and that the contractor (Santa Rosa County) would supply the equipment as a part of their overhead costs.

Discussion by committee ensued regarding the number of hydrants currently in the system, the number of future hydrants, the number of crews or the number of crew members necessary to accomplish these tasks. A condition of the contract would be that all hydrants be cycled on an annual basis.

Chief Reble described a couple of different methods of numbering the hydrants. Discussion ensued describing those that are already in place and other methods available. Discussed all aspects of issues regarding different ways to number including the water department name, the hydrant number, the flow rate, the fire district, etc. Noted that some departments have already started a numbering system. In order to avoid confusion we will attempt to infuse their numbering system into the county's system if feasible.

Determined that the numbering system will include the following:

Will include the prefix that identifies the water district; the district will be indicated with 3 letters
A number indicating the flow rate will be designated below the hydrant number
The hydrants will all be designated in red on the maps

NFPA Color Coding includes three (3) colors; they are red, orange and green. Blue has been added for any rate that is greater than 1,500. City of Milton is also color coding the caps.

Discussion held among committee members, Chief Demeter regarding the color coding systems proposed.

Motion made and carried to adopt the NFPA Color Code and include the color coding of the caps.

Flushing hydrants should not be used for firefighting and consequently they should not be included on the maps. These hydrants are neither tested nor maintained and have a limited flow of water. Motion made and carried that the flushing hydrants be eliminated from the mapping system.

New Business

Suggestion made that the quorum for this committee be changed from five (5) members to four (4) members. Motion made and carried that the guidelines be adjusted to reflect that four (4) members will define a quorum. Chief Reble distributed a record of attendance for the members and touched on the importance of attending the meeting. Chief Reble explained that a meeting was held this morning for the kick off of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The program provides citizens with training for different types of neighborhood emergencies. It is a network of community citizens who can provide help to themselves and others until such time that professional help arrives.

Public Comments and Questions

None

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM and members went outside the building to view the Hazmat equipment demonstrated by the Midway Fire Department.

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at 2:00 PM