

METRO AREA OPERATIONS GROUP

August 5, 2009

ENGLEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT
3615 S. ELATI STREET
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80110

MINUTES

Attendees:

Chris Brewer, Golden Fire
Greg Champlin, Denver Fire
Larry Coapland, Thornton Fire
Norris Croom, Castle Rock Fire
Joel Hager, Fairmount Fire
Chad Hyatt, Arvada Fire
Bob Matoba, Thornton Fire
Dan Martinelli, Aurora Fire

Michael Murphy, West Metro Fire
Mike Pattarozzi, Englewood Fire
Steve Pischke, Mountain View Fire
Roger Putfark, Pridemark
Tim Ruperto, Buckley Fire
Mark Schuman, North Washington Fire
Ron Barron, South Metro Fire Rescue
Roland Seno, Littleton Fire

I. Introductions

II. Approval of Minutes

III. Old Business

A. Strike Team Concept Review

There was discussion concerning the concept of a strike team and where we want to go. Clarification needs to be made, decide on where should strike teams not be used, work on just having a Level I strike team, how they respond, communicate, mobilize before we activate another strike team.

Norris will contact Bill to find out what is required.

B. Common Response Sheet - South area response time. The concept of having basic information on one sheet, two-sided, is a good idea. Mike will distribute a copy to everyone.

IV. New Business

A. MDT SOPS's

Littleton's BC's have MDT's in their vehicles and are concerned about multi-tasking with radios, cell phones, MDT's, etc. If you have an SOP pertaining to MDT's, please forward to Roland.

Aurora is looking at a software package and will forward when they receive it. Installation is \$100 per vehicle; they will be able to have needed information with verbal commands.

Some departments place MDT's in the back seat and have that individual provide the verbal directions.

Littleton Fire will be implementing a policy stating that their vehicles will come to a complete stop at all controlled intersections and red lights. South Metro Fire recently decided to do just the opposite and follow NFPA standards.

If you have an SOP, you have to follow it. Bottom line, people need to drive responsibly.

B. Medic Strike Teams

There was discussion about the formation of medic strike teams. It would be ideal to make one call and have 5 medic units 'with a drop of a hat'. Same structure can be applied as was at the DNC. It was suggested that we need a centralized location, i.e., the Ross Program (Resource Ordering and Status System). Denver Health is part of that consortium. RETAC would also have to play a part in it.

A mechanism to initiate resources is needed. More definitive direction and expectations are needed before this is brought up for discussion.

What is the objective? Concept was developed for the DNC. We are looking at developing it to provide further services.

Strike Teams – it is a great idea and a valuable concept; how do we develop it? Mike Pattarozzi would like to see strike teams state wide.

Efficient dispatch and response of equipment/people is required; we need to look at basic model and expand from that model. If it is not possible for a particular department to participate, you wouldn't provide a strike team unless you have all the pieces in place.

Initiate one region strike team to an area. Southeast strike teams encouraged individual strike teams. What if we had a regional strike team? Address the concerns that come out of the exercise; the exercise will be determined by the availability of UASI funds.

There was a consensus to go forward. If the concept works with Level I Strike Teams, we would move forward. During the first exercise, everyone will work together. This will signify beginning of a new era in the fire service. It can then be taken to the regional group.

Mike Murphy offered the use of West Metro's facility; have that location as a central point of contact when representatives are chosen. Commitment is needed from the strike teams, contingent on back-fill money. There may be a possibility of taking the exercise to COOP.

Regions were asked to supply a representative, preferably someone who has experience; they don't necessarily have to be on the committee. Mike Murphy's contact number is 303-989-4307, ext. 517.

V. Area Operations Groups Reports. No discussion.

VI. Round Table

Castle Rock Fire

- Their budget was cut 5%. Next year, they may be cutting 10% from where they are currently.
- One vacancy they are trying to fill; 223 applicants.
- CPAD – 120 people are taking it.

Littleton Fire

- Roland sent an e-mail to Automatic Aid agencies regarding their positive pressure ventilation attack, asking agencies, when they pull up to the scene, not to move the fans.
- No pay increases, no out-of-state training.

Denver Fire

- Public Safety Department must cut \$38 million from their budget; Fire must cut \$9.7 million from their budget.
- Union meeting on 8/5/09 to determine what the bargaining unit is going to do. The city is asking that the union give up their 4.5% pay increase for 2010. As chiefs retire in the next one and a half years, they may not be replaced. The City may be looking at approximately 70 lay offs.

Sheridan Fire

- Ron Carter submitted his resignation

South Metro Fire Rescue Authority

- Possibility of no raises.
- Won't be sending rigs out of district for fund raising events.
- Working through the merger issues.
- Question was asked about the amount of contribution toward pension – 12 % Board contribution, 12% employee contribution. Percentage of contribution may increase due to other options available to employees.

Buckley Fire

- A new burn system will be installed within the next couple of weeks.
- Two dispatchers and two paramedics will be hired.
- The electrical building will be shut down on Saturday for modifications.
- Buckley is getting a new tender, with a 4,000 gallon capacity, from Pierce

North Washington Fire

- The Deputy Chief is retiring and the Battalion Chiefs will pick up his duties.
- They will not receive raises; there will not be any cuts to personnel.
- They lost an administrative person; a fire corps individual is assisting.
- They will be hiring a fire fighter created by a vacancy.

Arvada Fire

- No raises.
- AVL's will be installed in the rigs. If anyone has an SOG pertaining to AVL's, please forward to Chad Hyatt.

Castle Rock Fire

- Received a Safer Grant.
- Testing is complete; 3 firefighters will be coming on line (ratcheted back).

Aurora Fire

- Budget is complete, maintain 4 person minimum staffing.
- Everyone had to cut 1% - 71 will be laid off come January 2010.
- No pay raises.
- Fire - 3% locked in for next year; maintain current 2009 budget.

- They will hire six in January; they cannot overtime more than one individual per day; 4 people from administration will be returned to the line; only two on each shift will go to paramedic school (each employee has 4 years from date of hire to complete paramedic school); no furloughs at this time.
- 'Employment Practices' lawsuit for both Police and Fire; they have started to gather information.

Thornton Fire

- No raises.
- Four people will be hired on 9/4/09.
- Adding another engine.
- On 8/20, there will be a Sun Corps EPA exercise.

Englewood Fire

- Staff was asked to develop different scenarios. No lay offs right now.
- Association is voting to accept a zero percent raise.
- EFD accepted air light trailer delivery from NCR and will be modifying a vehicle for the trailer. The trailer will be stationed at Station 23 and Mike will inform everyone when it is put into service.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10/07/09 at 1:30p.m. at EFD. Please forward agenda items to Mike Pattarozzi. Voting for a new chairperson will be held at the next meeting.