**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 4, 2010**

**Call to Order**

President Reggie Romines called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. at Lakewood Fire Department, Station 21 at 5000 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood, WA. The following were present:

Dexter Habeck, Eatonville FD Jeff Jensen, Tacoma FD

Ken Sharp, Lakewood FD Jim Sharp, Lakewood FD

Mitch Sagers, UPFD Dan Rankin, University Place FD

Eric Watson, Gig Harbor FD John Burgess, Gig Harbor FD

Mike Miller, Gig Harbor FD Bill Jarmon, Gig Harbor FD

Scott Casebolt, Gig Harbor FD Tom Sutich, Gig Harbor FD

Doug Willis, CPFR Keith Wright, CPFR

Ruth Obadal, CPFR Bryan Pearson, CPFR

Baron Banks, CPFR Pat Donovan, CPFR

Tim Pierce, CPFR Wayne Garden CPFR

Gary McVay, PCFD #13 Cliff McCollum, PCFD #13

Bob Vellias,SPFR Chris Grant, SPFR

Paul Webb, PCFD #18 Reggie Romines, GFR

Tony Judd, GFR Kathy Hale, GFR

Todd Jensen, GFR Tom Mason, GFR

Jerry Thorson, PCFD #22 John McDonald, PCFD #22

Garry Olson, PCFD #23 Jay Wiggins, PCFD #27

Eric Hamry, Milton PD/Metro SWAT Denise Menge, Recorder

**Flag Salute**

Ken Sharp led the flag salute. He welcomed everyone to what will soon be West Pierce Fire & Rescue. The merger of Lakewood and University Place is underway and they are starting to move offices. December 1st they should be pretty much running as one organization. They were able to get the issueon the February ballot instead of the April ballot.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the October 7, 2010 minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Kathy Hale reported the account balance is $7,808.27 with $7,687.83 for EMS for a grand total of $15,496.10.

**Correspondence**

President Romines reported a meeting notice for the Pierce County Council was received, scanned and sent out to everyone via e-mail.

**Guest Speaker**

President Romines stated before our schedule guest speakers speak, he would like to introduce Katie Keely from the Child Advocacy Center. New protocols are coming out and the County Police and Fire Chiefs need to sign off on them. Katie thanked everyone for the opportunity to be here. She stated these are not new protocols, they were revised in June of 2010. Copies were distributed for those who would like them, if there’s not enough copies she can get more. She is trying to go around to all of the agencies to get signatures. She is missing all of the fire agencies except for Tacoma FD. The binder with the signature pages was distributed around the room for those agencies present to sign if they felt comfortable doing so.

**Presentation on the Active Shooter Protocol:** John McDonald reported that for the past six months, a joint committee of the Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association and the Pierce County Police Chiefs Association has been working on refining a protocol that can be used by both police and fire agencies in planning for and responding to Active Shooter Incidents. Since the shooting at Columbine High School, public safety agencies across the country have been struggling with how to respond to situations where delayed deployment of resources will likely lead to on-going loss of life and/or great bodily injury to innocent persons. We believe that standing outside until the incident is mitigated is no longer an option if we are to protect and save lives. The active shooter protocol supports the deployment of Rescue Teams which consist of both police and fire personnel and whose sole purpose is to conduct a rapid triage, stabilization and extrication of injured persons from areas that have been previously swept by law enforcement contact teams. It is the goal of this committee to train every law enforcement office and firefighter in the county in the Active Shooter (Response to Violence) Protocol through both classroom training and exercises. Several agencies have already completed the training.

Those that have worked on the joint committee have been himself, Tim Pierce, Eric Hamry, Bryan Jeter with Puyallup PD and a Commander of Metro SWAT, Wayne Garden and also Judy Murphy and Russ McCallion for an EMS perspective.

John stated the general concept of this group was to develop a county-wide protocol and have it added to the Tac Ops Guidelines. It would then be up to each individual department to decide whether or not to adopt it for their agency. There has been a paradigm shift in how Law Enforcement sweeps a building, etc. and training has been developed and has been presented in a couple of agencies regarding rescue teams, deployment, etc. A training curriculum for Chief Officers is being developed. This is something that is being done all over the country, not just here in Pierce County.

At this time, John McDonald turned the floor over to Tim Pierce, B/C with CPFR and Eric Hamry, LT with Milton PD and Metro SWAT. Tim went through the draft protocols (a copy was e-mailed out to everyone prior to the meeting).

It was stressed that Law Enforcement and Fire go in as a team and come out as a team. All of the specifics are covered in depth by the trainers. They are looking into getting grant funded equipment for the course. Lt. Hamry stated they are not trying to turn firefighters into tactical medics. This is not a tactical medics class. Time is critical on an active shooter scene. Every twenty (20) seconds another person can be killed. The sooner we can get aid in, the better the survival rate is.

Jerry Thorson stated concerns with use of the Unified Command. Lt. Hamry stated this is an educational effort for the Law Enforcement and it is being addressed in the training. Chris Grant stated concerns with communications. Lt. Hamry stated they are working with LESA regarding this issue. Jeff Jensen asked if they have talked to labor on this? John McDonald stated that prior to agencies implementing this in their agencies, that is something they will need to do. Discussion followed. Wayne Garden stated he has been the Incident Commander in a couple of training situations, one at Rogers High School and another at Bethel High School. There is a two hour training block and a one hour hands on. The first one didn’t go so well, however, they learned from it and the second one was much better.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue will be hosting this training in December. Anyone that is interested is welcome to attend and observe.

The committee is trying to get grant funding to offer the Active Shooter training four (4) different times in 2011. It was asked if there was any potential for a full scale drill to be held also? Lt. Hamry stated they are working on having a full scale drill in 3rd Quarter of 2011 at the Tacoma Mall.

Gary McVay made a motion to adopt the Active Shooter Protocol as presented and make it part of the Tac Ops Manual. Garry Olson seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

The Association thanked John McDonald and the rest of the committee for all of their hard work on this. John stated Tim Pierce did the bulk of the work on the policy.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Program/Speaker Committee**

Keith Wright stated he has already started working on this for next year. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please get them to him.

**Audit Committee - DORMANT**

**Banquet/Awards Committee**

Todd Jensen reminded everyone to sign up for the Banquet. He’ll send out the fliers again.

**Nominations Committee- DORMANT**

**UASI Committee**

Jeff Jensen reported the wish list has been submitted to the working group to review and then forward to the core group. The number one priority on the list is for structural collapse and haz mat training in the amount of $600,000 which would cover overtime and backfill. Other items on the list are response vehicle, mini ambulances, haz mat decon and PPE equipment, structural collapse equipment, etc. November 16th it goes to the working group and then the core group meets on the 29th.

**Regional Communications Committee**

Jim Sharp reported the Joint Operation Board by LESA had their first meeting last week. REPC Interoperability and Tri-County Regional Radio Network were discussed. Fire Service is well represented. He stated that he is starting to see a lot of the same faces showing up at different communications related meetings, which is good to have the consistency in players as well as the trust, etc. It is all positive.

**Code Committee**

No representative present.

**DIVISION REPORTS:**

**EMS**

No representative present.

**MetroTraining**

Bryan Pearson reported the Metro Training group met recently and worked on the 2011 schedule. Tom Mason stated another meeting is scheduled for December 2nd to look at Joint Training being held each quarter.

**Training – TEW Training/Exercise**

Gary McVay reported TEW met today. Requests for funding are coming in and that’s good to see. Back fill, overtime and instructors are covered. Also, please remember that it is about a two (2) month process to get money approved. Also, classes that are required by Department Policy cannot use grant funds.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS:**

**American Red Cross**

No representative present.

**Department of Emergency Management**

PC Alert has about 6,000 opt-in sign-ups so far. They are sending out flyers and information on this. Also, a heads up there have been two meetings to date for a working group to look at white powder substance like calls. They are just starting the process and fire is involved.

**EMS**

No representative present.

**Fire Marshal**

No representative present.

**State Chiefs/Western Chiefs**

Jeff Jensen reported the 305 standard revisions came out. The State Chiefs committee along with the Commissioners have reviewed them. Bryan Pearson has been actively involved with this committee. Bryan stated there are about twenty folks on the committee and they went through the entire standard and put together a list of recommended changes. These recommendations were submitted at a hearing on Monday. The draft standard as it is has some financial impacts to agencies and there is a lot of work to be done. One of the things the committee is asking is that the implementation of the standard be delayed to July 1, 2012. The Association might want to form a committee to review and put together a plan on how to comply / implement the standard. Jeff Jensen stated he will get the document to Denise to put on the PCFCA website.

**PS Clean Air Agency**

No representative present.

**PC Fire Commissioners**

Bill Jarmon reported they had their annual Conference last week in Pasco and had around 300 in attendance. Bob Skaggs was re-elected as President. Next year their conference will be held in Spokane. With the Thanksgiving Holiday, their next meeting has been moved to November 18th at Edgewood at 1900.

**Dept. of Natural Resources**

No representative present.

**Unfinished Business**

Nothing at this time.

**New Business**

Mitch Sagers stated that today, in recognition of fallen officers, many restaurants are donating profits.

**Good of the Order**

Bob Vellais asked how many districts are looking at implementing impact fees? There was a show of hands. He stated that each district has to go to the County Council with plans to get impact fees implemented. If we each try to do this independently and they all look different, it could negatively impact us. He would like to see a group of those interested work on this together. The fee structures for each district could be different, how we assess the fees and just make sure we are all talking the same language. President Romines stated the State Chiefs are also working on putting together a model plan.

Ruth Obadal stated on behalf of WA Task Force 1 Policy Board, Steve Bailey is in the final interview process of replacing Tom Miner.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

*There is NO Regular Meeting in December. The Annual Banquet will be December 2nd.*

*The next Regular Meeting will be January 6, 2011. The meeting starts at 11:30 at Graham Fire & Rescue.*

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