

MSFA Safety Committee Minutes  
Sunday, October 16, 2005  
Level Volunteer Fire Co - Harford

The MSFA Safety Committee October meeting was called to order at 10:01 am on Sunday October 16, 2005 by Chairman Hoby Howell at the Level Vol Fire Dept. Donuts and coffee was provided prior to the meeting. 14 committee members were present. Guests included 1<sup>st</sup> VP Bobby Balta, and 11 members of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemens Association including President Gene Worthington. And Elaine Huttenloch

**Members present:** Chair Hoby Howell, (Fallston, Harford), Vice Chair Russ Healy, (Williamsport, Washington), Jack Gouty, (Jessup VFD, Anne Arundel), Jackie Olson, (Ferndale, Anne Arundel), Gunter Corrado, (Mt Savage, Allegany), Jim Decker, (District 16, Allegany), Gerard McGann, (Mt Savage, Allegany), Ray Stevens, (Chesapeake City, Cecil) Sec. Barbara Steiner (Church Creek, Dorchester), Harry Stone (Deep Creek-Garrett), Joe Slavotinek (Elkridge, Howard), Peter Lott, (Kennedyville, Kent), Bill Huttenloch, (Forestville, Prince George's), Bennie Shelton, (Sudlersville, Queen Anne's)

**Moment of Respect:** A moment of silence was observed in memory of Hugh Owen's 4 month old granddaughter who passed away earlier this week.

**Salute to the Flag.** The meeting was opened with a salute to the Flag led by Chairman Hoby Howell.

**Welcome.** Hoby thanked all for coming. Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemens Association President Gene Worthington was introduced. He welcomed the committee to Level VFD and to the Cumberland Valley Booster meeting.

**Minutes** of the previous meeting – motion by Bennie to dispense with reading of the minutes and accept as sent out. Seconded Jack. Motion passed.

**Welcome** by Steve Heffner – Past Pres of CVVFA – Greeting. Glad to be here and thanks for being here. Members of CVVFA introduced themselves.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Balta** – Happy to be here. Greetings from Pres. Sachs and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Sterling.

Thanked committee members for serving on the Safety Committee.

Hurricane efforts resulted in opening a joint operation center at MEMA. Lessons learned

- need better preparation. 4-5 people not enough to run center. Those who man desk at center need better training.

Trying to get cadre of people for extended time at desk. More than 8 hours, maybe 12 hours for 24/7 coverage.

Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Snow Hill on November 4 & 5. Will stay at Quality Inn on 16<sup>th</sup> street in Ocean City.

Maryland Weekend at National Fire Academy – February 1<sup>st</sup> weekend.

Carlos Alfaro had surgery – Cards would be nice – 1670 Weeping Willow Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Donna Fretterd is doing better. She has been moved to a nursing home facility.

Maryland Fire Memorial ceremony in Annapolis. Looking forward to dedication in June 2006.

Statistical forms needed from fire departments. Only 40% are in  
Thanks to members of Safety Committee for helping Bobby with his work.

**Mr. Hawn:** CVVFA –

Highway safety issues- Held class at their meeting on Saturday.

Safety Vests – need to be worn by all. Need to be worn over turnout gear by those  
who are on the highway near traffic. Drivers also need to wear vest all the time.

CVVFA will do a photo shoot on the PA Turnpike on Oct 26, 28. Safety oriented

Will use section of PA Turnpike in Unionville and tunnel to do an incident  
scenario

Asking Safety officers in companies to get everybody to practice safety.

Responderssafety.com for safety information on internet.

**Hoby:**

Safety Seminar in Ocean City 2006

1. Met with Pinoak and set up times for 2006 convention seminars

2. Alan Baldwin will assist with 2 seminars

CVVFA will set up booth again in same room with our display at  
convention

Great to have both groups in the same room

Make big poster to steer folks into room

3. Pocket masks – to be given out at the display in the room. Gerard moved

Stoney seconded motion to give out pocket masks (same type as last year)

Jackie will get masks in another color, most likely orange.

Last year we had about 1800 masks. There are a few left. To be given out  
at Seminar on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Jackie will meet with Vice Chair to determine which type to buy – with or  
without gloves. Price last year was \$4.00 due to method of purchase.

4. Signs from Pepsi- Gerard still working on issue. Asked to get 2.

Suggestion to hang sign over area near stairway at entrance of area.

Also hang on apparatus outside

5. Safety Committee Seminar October 29<sup>th</sup> at Maryland City VF and Rescue

Flyer is out. Encourage members to attend

“Preventing Firefighter Deaths Caused by Firefighters Disorientation”  
presented by “Captain William M. Mora.”

Located at 3498 Fort Meade Rd, Laurel MD 200724. (located on Rt 198)

Lunch will be provided. Contact Jackie Olson at 410-222-8278.

Members of committee were asked to help out with the seminar.

Bobby Balta will contact MFRI to see if training credit can be given for  
this type of seminar. Hope to have credit available for future.

Gene Worthington suggested that copies of the flyer be sent to MFRI.

Grants: Joe Slavotinek Still working on grants. He was advised to meet with Steve  
Austin

Health and Wellness – Russ Healy – Welfare of firefighters and EMS personnel –  
Many people in 30s, 40s having heart attacks.

Concerned for firefighters – feel need physicals yearly to find out exactly what  
shape their health is in. Blood tests and other tests can reveal problem

situations – i.e. colon cancer, diabetes and other items.

Joe stated that Howard county offers free yearly physicals – less than 10% take advantage of offer.

A CVVFFA Chief stated that he can make it mandatory for firefighters and EMS Providers to get physicals – paid for by the company. He requires a form to be filled out and returned to the chief. It is up to the chiefs in Maryland to enforce the regulation.

Safety Committee to work to educate the chiefs to enforce regulation.

Anne Arundel County requires yearly fit test- Volunteers can't ride if they don't take it.

No member can take a class prior to taking a physical . Also for EMTs

If you ride you 're company responsibility - so need to be fit.

Now – whatever county or company designates what is required .

Maryland is an OSHA compliant state – accepted the 1500 guidelines or has a Standard that is equal – should be adhered to.

Some companies can't afford to pay – If want physicals – must come up with way to pay for them.

County deems requirements for fire service in county.

Gene Worthington – Health and Wellness document signed in 2002 as legal document. Are to be complying with the document – except where money is an issue. Time to go back to Mr. Fielder of state budget department and get the money put back into the state budget to pay for physicals. State had surplus of money. Money can no longer be an excuse.

VP Balta – plans are to go after the money.

Gene – the money is there.

Asked if possible to get Health and Wellness on agenda as a main presentation.

Hoby – Something has to be initiated Pres. Sachs is setting up to speak on it

Bill Huttenloch- Do main seminar

VP Balta – DLLR would help get in on the floor.

Health and Safety standard adopted in compliance with 1500 – signed, to go into effect in 2002.

Training Committee – Jackie – was unable to attend meeting.

Hoby – Hugh Owens was working with Maryland Fire Chiefs through Ron Siarnicki on The Everybody goes Home – Hope to get done this year- to be a training program.

Hoby has taken Hugh's place working with this initiative.

Hoby will contact Mr. Anderson of NJ.

Ron and Hobo will be meeting with Steve Edwards of MFRI and Dan Stevens to bring someone from MFRI on board to get training in Maryland.

Hoby to be contact with Steve and Dan. Will get dates for meetings.

Hope to have something by the first of 2006.

Steve set-up free training course at any fire station of any sort. Contact him.

JJ Lynott is training liaison for Safety committee. [jjlynott@yahoo.com](mailto:jjlynott@yahoo.com)

Next meeting will be at Anne Arundel – Millersville

November 20. lunch will not be served, however a breakfast is promised.

No meeting in December. Looking for a location for the January 15, 2006 and February 19, 2006 meetings.

Bill Huttenloch – Quality Control officer for PG county presented information on injuries.

10 injuries – 3 back – ambulance providers

1 fell off ladder – no safety spotter – make sure safety spotter people are there.

7 career, 3 volunteer

2 volunteer – burned – back of ears, glove area

1 slipped and fell on mat

1 hit by truck backing into station ( he was backup man)

27 vehicles were hit – 2% were firesides fault

rest were trucks sitting on scene and ran into .

Safety officer check for black mold – brown on tiles in ceiling

Fire Hat – strap of hat was still around brim.- not in use position. – was in fire

15 minutes. Hat - was destroyed.

Gear – Sun damaged fabric – rotted. Gear sat in rack that was in front of window

Gear good for 10 years service, clean when needed –

Pants – inside deteriorates. Get burned

Safety inspector – inspects each company once a year.

Gear is sent out every 6 month for cleaning if needed – is inspected

Sentex – new gear – buttons come off. Send to Rockville for cleaning.

Gear is 15 years old

Jack Gouty – Cleaning and inspection program in Anne Arundel County

Pickup pants in battalion – takes 4 days to get back – Career do it when they have a Kelly day - off 4 days .

Bill- Helmets – 66cs defective if white is showing – need to toss out

Maryland Fire service does cleaning Have extra gear for those whose is being out

Inspected 43 pumpers, 7 brush trucks, checked equipment, brakes, seat belts

Also tankers. 864 personal gear, 24 stations checked, 576 members

Adopted Maryland State Standard – PG has stricter

Leather helmets – deteriorate – needs skull saver.

Ben Franklin does not have skull saver inside. Fire can get into helmet

Gene Worthington – introduced Steve Austin – Brief Overview

Steve Austin:

1. Working on “Move Over Law” – MSP says it is difficult to enforce

Taking a low and providing guidance for public

Michigan State Police and Michigan State School system to show video at all Middle schools in state.

Difficult to reach motoring public with message – who hot fire trucks

2. Push to develop public safety vest for police, fire and EMS.

Should be in every riding position on all apparatus

To be worn by all an every incident – driver always (not for HazMat)

Anyone standing near highway needs high visibility vest

Jack Gouty –

Anne Arundel County 2 alarm fire – Firefighter stepped out of engine on 5 inch Hose. Broke both ankles and was dragged under fire truck

Rookie firefighter fell off roof – fell on another firefighter and broke his collar  
Bone and broke back of 3<sup>rd</sup> fire fighter.  
Seminar on CBRM – Terrorism at Savage VFCo on December 7 at 7pm  
Check this out on line Maryland Fire Chiefs.org.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm Motion by Joe, Seconded by Benny  
Next meeting to be a Millersville on November 20

Lunch was served by CVVFA

Respectfully submitted  
Barbara Steiner, sec.

Directions to Millersville:  
8501 Veterans Highway, Millersville MD 21108  
Travel to Rt 97 via whatever direction you are coming

Eastern Shore \_ Rt 50 to Bay Bridge, to Rt 97

Western Maryland \_ Rt 70 East to 695 toward Catonsville, Glen Burnie (East – South) to  
Rt 97

Rt 97 to Benfield Blvd.  
Exit towards Severna Park – (exit 10)  
Travel 0.3 mile  
Turn LEFT on Veterans Highway  
Travel 0.4 miles  
Arrive at 8501 Veterans Highway - Middletown