

MSFA Safety Committee Minutes  
Sunday, November 20, 2005  
Millersville, Anne Arundel

The MSFA Safety Committee October meeting was called to order at 10:01 am on Sunday November 20, 2005 by Chairman Hoby Howell at the Anne Arundel facility in Millersville. Breakfast of fresh fruit, bagels, muffins and coffee was available for the members. 15 committee members were present. Guests included Pres. Sachs, Bobbi Stevens and Margaret Gouty

**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), Dan Stevens, Charles –Training Committee Liaison), Sec. Barbara Steiner (Church Creek, Dorchester), David Kline, (Frederick), Harry Stone (Deep Creek- Garrett), Bud Campbell, Peter Lott, (Kennedyville, Kent), Bennie Shelton, (Sudlersville, Queen Anne’s), Hugh Owens, MD Chief’s Assn.

**Welcome.** Hoby welcomed group to Anne Arundell County, Jackie also welcomed group.

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

**Hoby** Glad all got here safely, thanks for coming.

**Pres. Lee Sachs:** Good morning to everybody

1. Friday & Saturday rollout instruction training session for Nation Fire Fighters initiative “Everybody comes home” – Asked Chairs of Safety and Training Committee to sponsor . Certified instructors were invited. 40 attended. Wasn’t a typical class, Wasn’t what was expected. Need to communicate with presenters. MFRI program came from NFF training. Outcome/ concept was different. Will get it fixed and out there and get structured.
2. Other Issues – Legislature convenes 2<sup>nd</sup> week in January – efforts to get additional money . Money for trustees fund, for line of duty deaths and disabilities, increase in appropriation. State give funds for giving out information (Fire Prevention info etc.) Fixes get addressed.  
Low Interest Loan Fund- Glitches being worked on – still not quite correct.  
Workman’s Comp Law (deals with safety) – last year asked for statewide law requiring every company to have coverage for Workman’s comp. Last year bill was changed, amended – Law says every Volunteer EMS in the state must be covered by Workman’s Comp (for firefighters and other things done at station).. Working on this.
3. Committees doing a great job – almost all are functioning well. A lot of national efforts being made to have solution of problems that came as a result of Katrina
4. Meeting with Governor in 2 weeks. Hoping for guidance – hope to get optimistic
5. Thanks for work, service that safety committee does.

**Minutes** of the previous meeting – motion by Stoney, seconded by Jack to accept as sent

out.. Motion passed.

**Hoby:**

1. Safety Seminar: October 29<sup>th</sup> at Maryland City VF and Rescue- thanked those who attended. Cost of seminar was \$1500. Those who attended received knowledge, good presentation. 5 members of committee attended.

Decision to be made as to whether committee should so seminar at convention or continue as now.

**Lee:** Outcome of folks attending was disappointing. Baltimore County had poor turnout at their session. Suggested putting best education programs we can at Ocean City We have 3 opportunities – seminars, floor presentations, instead of separate. Changes are made at O.C. Happy to hear new ideas.

Have larger crowd, other resources, food, beach, - things that attract folks.

**Jack:** Should discontinue-with poor responses. Could use money to have different, expanded program at convention

Spoke to captain's superior – that presentation was well worth it.

**Hoby:** sent e-mail to presenter – Thanked Jackie for food, finding place.

**Jackie** – sent captain certificate and MSFA patch and MD City was also presented with Certificate

**Russ:** agrees we can utilize money for greater responses, can use throughout state for safety – i.e. flash sign – agree – hold back on guest speakers.

**Jackie:** Seminars – best way to go. Last Anne Arundell county last year required safety officer to attend.

Mailed out over 800 notices for seminar.

**Hoby:** Mailed out posters – who many got posted?

**Stoney** moved, Jack seconded a motion that seminars be done at Convention in O.C. – Motion passed.

**Hoby:** Cumberland Valley Vol Assn will do seminar in O.C.

Presenters have 2 different seminars to present – will do for free

Pinoak will stay with setting up of seminars. Hoby has spoken to him and set up times, etc for ours. Talked in past for possible setting up presentation on stage – i.e. Captain Mora – be good idea for safety committee to have onstage speaker.

Jack also feels a good idea.

**Lee:** try to put program on that encompasses everybody - with providers (approach), scope presentation

No commitments have been made.

**Russ:** Need to talk to presenter.

**Lee:** Kenny Bush, Leonard, Pinoak, officers set program on stage.

Needs outline to consider for on stage – will include something on national disasters.

Asked Hoby to get ideas together – scope of what could present

**Hoby:** plug in for Gary McGinnis – He is helping in Katrina area. He set up presentation Thanks to Gary for setting it up.

**Liasion: Training Committee – Dan Stevens:**

1. Lee covered Training the Trainer: New Jersey course was presented – told to modify for Maryland – was some good stuff – was too long (150 slides)
2. Finished teaching Safety Officer class. Son received several certifications as a

- result of having other courses and adding this one.
3. Was unable to get video and slides MFRI was supposed to have. Items are out there Need to be able to get them through MFRI – Bellstreet SW and Supermarket stuff.
  4. Wants to get 44 field units who attended seminar back and get them enthused again.
  5. Board of Advisors –MFRI to meet December 13, 7PM
  6. FD Safety Officer class- only offered in half the regions (North East, Lower Shore, Southern Maryland). Asked for by Safety Committee and Training Committee. Excellent class –
  7. Spring schedule is posted on Website.
  8. Several classes coming up
  9. Maryland Weekend at Fire Academy – Feb 3-5.
  10. Steve Carter left MFRI – left vacuum – looking for replacement

### **Health and Wellness**

- New Jersey – pre-physicals for any volunteer in state – offered free – donated by in memory of a firefighter.
- Russ – Washington county give free – 8% take it. Thinking about making it required during probationary period – than go through county (free)
- David: Frederick Co. –made mandatory
- Russ - #1 killer of fire fighters is heart attacks.  
Did raw survey 4-5 years ago. 45-55 age group has heart attacks.  
Set up refreshments at meetings of donuts, fruit etc and look at what is Eaten.
- MFRI Education communication- all day at Montgomery County Training Academy  
Credentials and re-cert for fire fighters. Career/volunteer. November 30.  
Lee – Is IC NIMS friendly: - yes.
- ATAC – anti terrorist advance com. –  
10 code systems are not consistent
- Safety Officer – 30 hours – meets NFPA Standard.  
Lee took class at MD Weekend – ISO – had good response last 2 years
- Jack: credentials – of personnel looked at at National level for National mutual response  
Go to incident out of state – don't have proper documents – may not be allowed in  
Thinks will get a card – that says qualified – to prove what you have – i.e.  
MDL, shot record. Must have card that says what they have  
Start getting folks to classes. NFPA – FF 1
- Dan: Maryland is ahead of curve – want to be sure Feds use NFPA that we use as Standard
- Lee: New national effort – headed in right direction – Volunteer side doesn't have people  
Speaking for them on national level. Section speaks for Chiefs, other Organization, by state.
- Russ: Look at local hospital – have to wear card with personal info on it to get in.
- Dan – Recert for Fire fighter – strong feelings on both sides – Companies who do regular Drills could satisfy this.
- Hugh: Attended class with Dan

Thought had Maryland statistics plugged into class – impressed oh how it was put together.

Work 16 initiatives – to do a drill a month using these. Put in place when get documentation.

NJ – fire fighter can be a chief, - 5thstate in deaths. NY , PA first 2 states to get a class to address problem.

Program is a good one. Canned – take back and teach – work on initiation that deals with your company problems.

Hoby to get together with JJ to get program out to counties throughout MD. Set up date for this – to talk over ideas to help MFRI prompt through out Maryland.

Areas in US have very little to work with/ little money-very rural

Very fortunate Maryland had facilities

Hugh – Thanks for Card.

Hoby- thanked Hugh for working with Safety Committee.

Hoby 1. Budget for Committee presented.

2. Cameras- purchased – given to committee members to take shots at incidents that show good safety – how fire engine is parked – bad stuff too.  
Ladder on roof – done correctly or incorrectly. Pictures for display board.  
Currents ones are old – wants something fresh – unique – not photos all at 1 incident. Hoping for good shots for board in June

3. Wear safety vests:

4. All are good committee members – come out – go out and take pictures. – see unsafe practices in station – gear laying at door – O2 bottles not chained.

Russ: any info on Highway Safety Comm – dual committee –

Lee: Lost interest – beat down with legislative effort – State Police oppose effort.

Committee dis-effective legislative action.

Safety Committee has every right and go ahead to take initiative – if decided to be cooperative effort – need to work together.

Bob Jacob focused to get law passed – Highway issue to get public more aware – Regulated on safety – was unsuccessful

Fire Service is our focus.

State Police don't like laws they can't enforce

Easiest way to pursue is to look at it for Safety Com

Russ: Own people/family – EMS, FF, and Ladies Aux.

Safety tips – slow down, speed kills, Drugs & alcohol/Driving don't mix

4 slogans to get as Public Service announcements on TV

Margaret: Can get magnetic ribbon

Russ: can get on 15/20 second blips on film to get on PS on TV.

Russ: Health & Wellness

Met with sub com – Bill Huttenloch – can't do anything til Jan.

All about own family

To incorporate some stuff from Level meeting – helmets & tear – will give stats to Russ

Hoby: VP Balta – Get out to folks – get individual FF – pre-req medical physicals in dept.

Bud: Requiring firefighters – new – need physical for 50+ need to push them

Hoby: Also have younger having heart attacks. – some won't take physicals – may show shouldn't drive.

Bud: Insurance will not give written statement that can't drive after certain age.

Russ: 47 year old had heart attack on pump panel

Hoby: Only thing we can do is get information out – Howard county – mandatory for Career – part time turned down – volunteer get them free.

Russ: give out information

Jim: brought it up at his company –went on deaf ears.

Peter: Was told by locals – they are volunteer, can't make them.

Hoby: can do with volunteers if in by-laws., can only make them aware.

Jack: Anne Arundell, PG counties do have requirement for physicals - can't take a class before have physical.

Hugh: get statistics – make it black & white – your family depending on you.

Jack : in by-laws, got t, if not ins small counties – no money – won't join

Lee: At least one half of members are career – have health insurance – almost all favor annual physicals – is to the insurance company's benefit to things prevented His company got a grant for physicals- One time only – everyone who wanted to ride had to get physical – use own doctor or use their provider – many didn't take free – went to own doctors, can get tougher – can go to own doctors –more comfortable.

We're not doing what we need to do. Some found health issues – were corrected Ran from ages 16 through 80s – get document that says person can do duties of a Firefighter.

We can do better – more than we're doing

Hugh: can Safety Committee apply for grant? No – have to be a fire department/EMS to apply

Lee: Cost is high if go with FNPA – 900 times all. Must be a continuing program.

Russ: continuously bombarded with issue – how important to get physical

Lee: 40 of 100 deaths were heart attack

### **Hoby: Smith Stathem Safety Award**

Need to make changes on instruction sheet – Rules need to be updated on web (we made changes last year). Use information to nominate person from company or county.

Want a name from each committee member this year. Submit a name and write up something.

Needs our help – would like to see several people up on stage. It's a great honor when your fire company has a person on stage

Russ: presentation made- no description done to what person did to receive award.

Hoby: problems is time factor

Jack: May be a way to deal with it = give a 1 sentence description

### **Meeting dates:**

December – no meeting. January – Russ- need meeting to organize – Margaret – won't accomplish anything. Voted no meeting in January.

February 19<sup>th</sup> next meeting. To be at location of Eastern Shore Assn meeting place.

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Millersville Anne Arundell (where we are today)

April 9<sup>th</sup> – Note date change due to Easter and Exec Bd

Meeting to be at District 16 in Allegany – Jim Decker host – contact him  
May 21<sup>st</sup> – need place

June – not meeting due to convention in OC - June 17-23.

### **Around the Room**

Jack: 2 weeks ago Fire Chief killed in woods fire. Took rake & went off on own. Found body next morning on hillside – caught by fire. Don't go off by yourself.  
Remember fire company in your prayers.

Gerard: 2 banners to be ready for April meeting. Bus accident – Lady driver got out of school bus, it started to roll, she ran back to try to stop it. Fell, went under, got dragged. Multiple injuries – got 3 pts violation – Trooper wrote ticket for illegally parking of vehicle sue to position of bus after accident. Left key in ignition

Lee: Thanks all

Margaret: Store is on website. Jim Decker got his shirt. Jack still has bags

Jackie: Safety issues for winter – put something on MSFA website

Russ: have article in Trumpet.

Hugh: Working with Hoby to get program on line.

David: Chip Jewell – new book – History of Fire Fighting in Fredrick County. Fire information

Bud: researched 26 company websites in Maryland. Want good photos.

Pete: House fire – fully involved surrounded/drowned, during salvage found propane tank to take to gas company. Discovered tank was a water expansion tank for heating.  
Had steam – could have burned if had a hole.

Stoney: Seat Belts –go West - left on 68 – use seat belts to pull over – catch dope, speed, Intoxicated. When come West to meetings- leave dope home

Bobbi: asked about Donna. Bud- She's doing better. Still in Pines.

Lee: Keep Robin Brown & mother in prayers – had serious surgery as did mom.

Dan: Mike Clements – ESPP elect – safety for first responders – CD

Pep Co, DE & PG counties – get copies to districts – look at it and see if you can use it

Russ: 1. distributed flier from Toyota dealing with hybrids

Website for info listing on bottom of sheet. Pull up & go into –distribute to rescue Squads and EMS.

2. Water – Winter – water practices change. Review equipment, ropes, poles, practices of rescue on ice,

Inventory boats, winter equipment, Review winter practices on water.

3 Made presentation at Exec Board in Snow Hill

Hoby: Lee – to see if Hoby can have Exec Com days off.

Motion to Adjourn: Stone moved, Jack seconded. 12:30 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Barbara Steiner, Sec.

Location and direction to Feb meeting to be emailed as soon as info is available

To all : Have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas

Barb