**MSFA Training Committee Meeting**

Saturday, November 2, 2013, 9:00 am

MFRI Western Maryland Regional Training Center, Allegany County

**Chairman Dan Stevens** called the meeting to order. He opened the meeting with the Pledge. Dan welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for taking the time to attend. He thanked MFRI’s Western Maryland Regional Coordinator, Todd Dyche for hosting the meeting and for the delicious fresh-baked assorted pastries and coffee.

**Committee members present** were: Chairman Dan Stevens, Vice Chair Kingsley Poole, Richard Blair, Tim Dayton, Susan Grote, and Bobbi Stevens. Liaison present was: Hugh Owens, MFCA.

**Committee members not present** were: Mark Bilger, Victoria Cunningham, Jerry Dorsey, John Dulina, Dale Fishack, Janet and John Fisher, Leon Fleming, John Korman, J.J. Lynott, Tom Musgrove, Richard Smith, Charlie Simpson, Russ Strickland, Scott Wood. Liaisons not present were: Monte Mitchell, DNR; John Dulina, MEMA; Lynn Gilroy, MFRETC, Larry Preston, MFRI, Donald Howard, MFSPQB; Barbara Knippenburg, MICRB; Janet Fisher, Safety Committee.

**Guests present:** Todd Dyche, MFRI; Jason Eckstine, WCVFRA (Longmeade); James Ulrich, WCVFRA (Smithsburg EMS); Andrew Droll, Georges Creek Ambo. Serv.; Dwayne Kitis, MIEMSS (Eastern Garrett VFRD); Dale L. Hill, WCVFRA; and Charlie W. Wills, Potomac Heights VFD & RS.

Dan explained the purpose for the meeting was to review the MSFA Ten Year Education and Training Plan (hereinafter called Training Plan), which is updated every three years. The Training Plan has been effective in precipitating change in training programs, procedures and policies. MFRI has been responsive to the Training Plan and MFRI does things right. One example is the regional training center concept. Another is that the Comprehensive Safety Officer course that leads to certification. Regions have been critical of the MFRI’s registration-for-classes process. MFRI is working on this. MFRETC and the Higher Education Commission are looking at, and working on, the VFIS EVOC training to get a license. There were requests for administrative training and MFRI developed a 12-hour course being offered throughout the regions. The Western Maryland offering is November 23rd and 24th, at Midland. The Upper Shore offering was October 26th and 27th. And the Southern Maryland offering will be December 14th and 15th. A PDI on EMS for the cadet classes is being offered in Southern Maryland the third Friday evening of November from 7-10. It was discussed that, regionally, there may be a shortage of instructors for the Safety and Survivor classes or students do not sign up because instructors were not available and classes canceled, which eventually created a lack of students signing up. But this has since been clarified, corrected, and resolved. Rick Blair said the DNR firefighter program through MEMA, ESF4, has been updated. The DNR rescue ESF9 is being worked on.

Suggestions for discussion and possible implementation in Training Plan:

1. The explanation of “ESF” be included in the Training Plan. ESF stands for Emergency Services Functions (National Standards), and is a part of NIMS (National Institute Management System).
2. MIEMSS Mid-Term Goal: EMR bridge to EMT reciprocity.
3. Regional cooperation to offer classes that two regions want but can’t justify two classes because of demand. Offer one class at location mutually convientient to accommodate travel time in both regions.
4. MFRI Short-Term Goal: Statewide announcements through MFRI when a new class is offered after the schedule has been published.
5. Coordinators ~~R~~ responsibility with regard to Cadet Program: Responsible to meet with the feeder high school counselors to screen students.
6. Out of State firefighters that train at MFRI. Currently, they do not count in the headcount to start a class and sometimes classes fail that would not if out of state students were counted.

MFRI is looking at expanding PEAF to online training.

**10 Year Training Plan Update Meetings** - Regions were established and committee members from the respective regions graciously volunteered to set up the meetings. The breakdown is as follows:

North Central – Leon Fleming and Scott Wood - August 25th Sykesville

Western Md. – Kingsley Poole - November 2nd

Northeast – Victoria Cunningham and J.J. Lynott

Upper Shore – Larry Preston

Lower Shore – John and Janet Fisher – December 1st

Southern Maryland – Dan and Bobbi Stevens

P.G. County – Hugh Owens

**Maryland Weekend** will be January 25 and 26, 2014. Registration closes December 16th. There’s a “save-the-date” on MFRI’s website. Before you can register for classes at the NFA you must obtain an SID Number.

**Next Meeting will be announced when it has been scheduled.**

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