

ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE/EMS BOARD
FEMS BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024 – 1800 HOURS

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Fire/EMS Board was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 1800 hours in Room 246 at the County Office Building–McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia.

The following members were in attendance:

Dan Eggleston, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
George Stephens, North Garden Volunteer Fire Department
Greg McFadyen, Seminole Trail Volunteer Fire Department
Kostas Alibertis, Western Albemarle Rescue Squad

Others in attendance:

Christina Davis, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
David Puckett, Albemarle County Fire Rescue

I. Call to Order

Chief Alibertis called the meeting to order at 1801 hrs.

A. Moment of Silence

Participants observed a moment of silence.

B. From the Board: Matters Not Listed on the Agenda

There were none presented.

C. From the Public: Matters Not listed on the Agenda

There were none presented.

II. Consent Agenda

A. July 2024 Minutes

There was no action taken on the Consent Agenda, as there was not a quorum present.

III. Committee Updates

- A. Executive Committee**
- B. Training Committee**
- C. Operations Committee**
- D. Recruitment & Retention**
- E. Quartermaster**
- F. Apparatus Committee**

Chief Alibertis mentioned that Rescue 1 has had two deaths in the past week: Steve Chappell, a MED-COM operator; and Bill Henderson, who taught EMT classes.

IV. Unfinished Business

A.

V. New Business

A. Townhouse FOG

Chief Puckett reported that this FOG is already approved, and the only change was related to the response, which Stephanie had talked about at the last meeting.

B. High-Rise FOG

Chief Puckett reported on the High-Rise FOG (five stories and up) and Mid-Rise FOG (up to four stories), stating that high-rise has a slightly larger response plan, with an extra ambulance and engine due to the size and complexity of the floors. He said that they had previously addressed the “high-hazard” buildings such as nursing homes, which may not be five stories tall but may have many people who are not ambulatory.

Chief Eggleston asked if Brandon Akard had provided statistics on how many buildings in the County meet the mid-rise criteria.

Chief Puckett responded that he did not recall that it was provided, but he was pulling some ISO information from Mr. Akard, and there is some information already from the assessor’s office.

Chief Alibertis commented that it must not have anything to do with occupancy, citing the example of Piedmont Place in Crozet, which is four stories plus a rooftop but doesn’t have a lot of occupants; whereas Mountainside Senior Living is six stories with 80 occupants—so it would definitely qualify.

Chief Eggleston noted that there are several buildings in Old Trail that are four stories or more.

Chief Alibertis mentioned that they are connected.

Chief Puckett stated that four stories would constitute mid-rise, which is the same as multi-family and garden-style apartments; high-rise would only be five stories or greater, which represents very few buildings in the County.

Chief Alibertis asked if there was any consideration just for number of people, as Old Trail connects a bunch in a row instead of one tall building.

Chief McFadyen emphasized that this is a concern for his station, because the sheer number of people inside Lowe’s, Sams Club, or COSTCO warrants extra response, especially given the size of the building. He noted that 2600 Barracks Road just keeps adding wings to the building, and an easier metric to consider would be square footage—and this is in First Due.

Chief Puckett acknowledged that it is in there, but it's not something he can action CAD off of.

Chief Eggleston noted that they are trying to assess the risk at a more granular level.

Chief Alibertis said it could be done by the battalion chief or one of the officers.

Chief Stephens commented that Northrup Grumman has about 500 people.

Chief Puckett pointed out that for commercial and industrial properties, people are typically awake and ambulatory, and there are fire alarm systems and evacuation plans. He stated that the larger concern is with buildings that contain people who are sleeping, particularly non-ambulatory residents.

Chief Eggleston asked what a commercial fire brings currently.

Chief Puckett responded that it is five engines and a truck; one of the next FOGs due is for commercial, which will cover strip malls, big box stores, etc. He said that this is currently lumped together in CAD, with no strip mall delineation—but Chief Burkett is thinking that in the future, a strip mall/commercial response plan will be the same as garden apartment/townhouse response, which would be four engines, two trucks, and an ambulance.

Chief Alibertis stated that they needed to look at what the medic response is, noting that there were very limited rescue resources available on a recent call in Dunlora. He emphasized that they needed to be careful not to put too many resources on one call, as they are now getting a lot of “system busy” hits. He noted that one was in Scottsville.

Chief Puckett noted that there were about 50 calls in the County by that afternoon, which was extremely busy.

Chief Alibertis added that they really need to have some latitude for adding and subtracting resources.

Chief Puckett and Chief Eggleston agreed that it cuts both ways.

Chief Eggleston said that a lot of times responses are modified based on call data and what dispatchers are conveying, but it is a good starting point. He added that with some of the new buildings that are going in, as well as the existing ones that are further deteriorating, they are getting some high-risk facilities.

Chief McFadyen stated that in Seminole's area, they are continuing to see where an ambulance parks and gears up and then becomes another crew—but it ties up that crew, so they end up having to call for another ambulance. He noted that in some of these areas, two ambulances are already going to be on dispatch. He said that Seminole would like to explore how they will determine when the ambulance does that

gear-up; and if they want to do that gear-up, they need to announce that they will gear up the same way as an engine crew because it changes the order of FOG. He stated that this wasn't happening currently, and he wasn't sure if it was worth pulling additional ambulances when those calls would continue to happen.

Chief Stephens commented that this was a common practice in 7's area and wherever Scottsville was interacting with North Garden. He said they have had a secondary where there has been an injury, and they have to juggle to get an ambulance.

Chief Alibertis said that he encourages his responders to just not get in the way.

Chief Puckett said the instruction is for responders to arrive, put turnout gear on, and also bring their cot and bag—so basically having the right equipment and being ready for anything.

Chief Alibertis stated that they should meet the need, including getting people who inside a structure.

Chief McFadyen stated that if there are four engines and two trucks, his question is which would get the people inside.

Chief Alibertis said you could designate one of those crews as a secondary EMS crew until an ambulance arrives.

Chief Puckett said that was the way he approached it.

Chief Eggleston announced that ACFR was doing station visits this week, and a lot of what they've been discussing is related to limited resources. He said that they were getting ready to start the hiring process for North Garden and for the second unit at 18. He reported that they have 141 applicants for those positions, and he is hoping they can get some good people out of this recruitment.

Chief Alibertis stated that the last item for discussion was LODA, and they needed to streamline the process for Augusta Health so the chiefs can simply forward the authorization forms.

Ms. Davis said that she would look into making that happen.

Chief Alibertis added that there should be a backup for Ms. Davis also.

Chief McFadyen asked if they could just make it one appointment.

Ms. Davis said that she would ask Augusta if that would be possible.

Chief Alibertis stated that it's probably one person/one appointment so they can talk

about lab results with the patient—and there may be something there that merits a different exam.

Chief McFadyen said that last month, they were tracking a 26-day delay in WorkMed; now they are up to a 34-day delay. He added that they are trying to process people through recruitment and accelerate this process.

Ms. Davis mentioned that a Seminole member had called her this morning to ask about physicals, and she provided the phone numbers for WorkMed and Augusta but also offered to assist if he ran into any delays or other issues.

Chief Eggleston asked if they had better physicals and results from Augusta.

Chief Alibertis said that Augusta has been very responsive.

Chief McFadyen noted that you had to call Augusta for results, as they do not automatically send them to Ms. Davis.

Ms. Davis explained that they do send them, but it takes about a week to get them.

Chief Stephens asked if there had been any decision made about the Firefighter I class at Seminole.

Chief McFadyen replied that Seminole would be running the Firefighter I class, but they had encountered some obstacles with instructors. He said that Rob is aware of the need from North Garden and other stations, and Seminole is currently trying to find one or two additional instructors.

Chief Stephens said they are also looking at Nelson County and other options.

Chief McFadyen emphasized that Seminole was definitely going to do the class, but they just needed the additional instructors. He added that this was part of the concern about physicals, as UVA students were now coming in. He noted that the class started on October 7, 2024.

Adjournment

At 18:23 hrs., the FEMS Board adjourned its meeting.



FIRE RESCUE

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ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD ATTENDANCE LOG

Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2024

VOTING MEMBERS (OR DESIGNATES)

Chief Dan Eggleston (Albemarle County):



Chief Virginia Leavell (CARS):

Chief Gary Dillon (Crozet):

Chief Todd Richardson (Earlysville):

Assist Chief George Robinson (East Rivanna):

Chief George Stephens (North Garden):



Chief Timothy Cersley (Scottsville Fire):

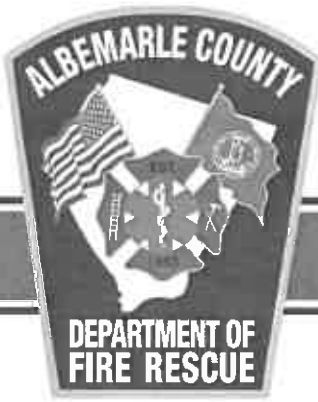


Chief Greg McFadyen (Seminole Trail):

Chief Dustin Lang (Stony Point):

Chief Kostas Alibertis (Western Albemarle):





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ALBEMARLE COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD ATTENDANCE LOG

GUESTS & OTHERS

Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2024

Guest/Other

Organization/Agency/Affiliation

Christina Davis

ACFR

David Puckett

ACFR
