

Minutes of the St. Clair County Fire Chiefs Association July 31, 2003

The meeting was hosted by the Swansea Fire Department who had arranged for a presentation from Arch Helicopter. The presentation began at 6:30 at Mel Price Park with the landing of one of the helicopters. The presentation moved back to the Swansea firehouse at approximately 7:15pm, and Matt Casten with ARCH completed the presentation, highlighting what ARCH requires when they are called for assistance. Departments who were not in attendance and would like the presentation done for their department should contact ARCH.

Dave Miller, Jeff Ifland, and Ron Kronenberger with Emergency Response Management Systems were then introduced and gave a presentation of a computerized management system for pre-fire planning.

Wally Miller with the St. Louis Fire Sprinkler Alliance was introduced. Wally advised the group that the Alliance is there to work with any department on sprinkler codes. The Alliance will have a sprinkler seminar on plan review on September 16, 17, and 18, 2003. Further information is available on the Alliance web site – <http://www.stlouisfiresprinkleralliance.org/>

Bud Haerer with Tri Alert Systems was introduced. Bud demonstrated kits for setting up landing zones for helicopters, and lights to assist with emergency scene safety.

President Feher called the regular business portion of the meeting to order.

Rich Rutherford gave the treasurers report which showed a balance of \$26,660.45 for the Chiefs Association, and \$906.78 for MABAS Division 32.

The minutes of the May 2003 meeting were approved as presented.

MABAS - St. Clair County has received \$140,000 in technical rescue equipment. This equipment will be transferred to Special Emergency Services.

There is a proposal to buy 40,000 mill spec masks for the fire service statewide. A discussion was held on the need for masks for every firefighter or whether a stockpile in the county would be appropriate. The approximate cost would be 20 million dollars for all firefighters. The general consensus was to stockpile the masks, but the question was raised about what would happen with the rest of the funding.

Mask kits are in place and a training program is available for use by each department. To get the program, contact Signal Hill Fire Department.

The FCC will adjust the bandwidth license effective January 1, 2004.

The MABAS executive board has approved a dues structure for all divisions. Dues for each division will be \$100.00 per year, effective January 1, 2004

Mayday procedures have been approved by the executive board and were made available. They will be put on the website.

The Illinois terrorism task force will be checking and updating hazmat equipment throughout the state.

The Missouri Fire Marshal has directed the Attorney General's office to see if one agreement could be signed for all Missouri departments to join MABAS.

Caseyville Fire Department's paperwork has been received and is now a member of MABAS 32.

The executive board has indicated that a MABAS agreement cannot be used for labor management agreements.

Statewide ID System – Several issues are still being looked at to see if ID cards can be incorporated thru the current drivers license system thru the Illinois Secretary of State.

Special Emergency Services – a public relations firm by the name of Flieshman & Hillier have been working to promote the haz mat team and have been working for gratius. One upcoming event they worked on is a promotion for the August 23rd Gateway Grizzlies game.

SCCSES did submit for a \$48,000 grant for a truck, 2 trailers and shelving from the Illinois Department of Agriculture for assisting with the technical rescue team.

On August 13, 2003, the haz mat team will have a presentation at the courthouse for Mayors, and village and city officials, to promote the team.

Legislative Issues - Several legislative issues will be going to the legislature this fall. Included should be:

- 1) enhancement for "spiller pays"
- 2) allow the private sector to join MABAS
- 3) technical rescue reimbursement
- 4) making it a misdemeanor to self dispatch to disaster scene's

MMRS – Dave Nulsen has attended the meetings representing his employer and the chiefs association. The St. Louis area has received a grant from the Federal Government and MMRS is looking at a needs assessment at this point. The patient tracking system is being worked on. Illinois hospitals have yet to be really included in the plans. Blood substitutes are being used in the area due to blood shortages and the SARS virus is still being looked at in the area.

Radio System – The county board has entered into an agreement with Motorola to install an extension of the Starcom System. The system will have 10 tower sites. This will cover county agencies only at this time. The system will be upgraded to meet the needs of the fire and ems services.

The September chiefs meeting will be a joint meeting with the District Trustees. Our local legislators will be invited to show them our appreciation for the support they have given the fire service in the county. A discussion was held on purchasing some type of appreciation gifts for the legislators. Motion was made and seconded to pay half of the total cost of the gifts, with the District Trustees also paying half. Motion passed.

SWIC – The haz mat team has had a railroad tank car and track donated to them that will become a training prop at the Freeburg Avenue training site. Work is continuing on the burn tower and other related facilities.

Jerry Burke, Executive Director for the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, has announced his retirement and a party is planned for him. A motion was made and seconded to give Jerry a \$100.00 gift for his retirement. Motion passed.

Chiefs Training at U of I, is scheduled for August 16th & 17th. Registrations need to be returned as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned