

NW GA Fire Chiefs Association

Meeting Minutes

10-25-2011

Amicalola Falls State Park (Shelter #2)

Dawson County

18:00 hours

Minutes by Chief Satterfield

At 18:00 hours Chief Nichols' opened with prayer before the meal.

At 18:28 hours Darrell Mitchell open the business session of the meeting and Frank James opened business session in prayer.

Jason, with US Forestry Service, discussed the following:

- 1587 homes in TX from one fire
 - Residence were warned of ticking time bomb
 - CWPP – Get involved – and will bring in funding to give homeowners a break
 - US Forest Service is assisting GA Forestry Service due to State cutbacks with personnel and equipment
 - Encouraged to promote fire wise community program and increase more participation
 - Discussed foreclosures, homes with no maintenance, no one around, and fire loss could be heavy, and we know where these foreclosures are located.
 - Ask for assistance as it is a proven fact that homes protected by fire wise programs survive wildfires. 10 days or more without rain = high fire danger

Steve – VFIS discussed the following:

- EVOG Revamp is complete and out
- Backing program for trailers
- Backing program in general

Chief Swafford – Firefighter Association discussed the following:

- Thank you for attending Conference in Columbus, GA
- Excellent learning opportunities
- State Firefighter Pension Fund possibly will incur dues increase
- Will work soon on legislative process
- Fire Service Conference to be in Dalton, GA August 23, 24, and 25th of 2012
- Conference in Albany, GA 2013
- Conference in Macon, GA 2014

Ray King – Discussed Muster update

- Cartersville, GA in April, 2012

- Dalton, GA in May 2012 (Dalton may not participate due to police and Fire Games and Annual Conference)
- Ft. Oglethorpe , GA in June 2012
- Plans are to involve Explorer Scouts in Muster

Chief Canada – Fire Chief Association discussed the following:

- Great Conference and Speakers
- Attendance was low but expected
- Look forward to Dalton, GA in 2012
- Board of Public Safety
 - Heavily Law Enforcement weighted
 - 1st Year term will be building relationship and how Law Enforcement views fire service
 - Retirement of Dale Mann
 - New Leader is the former State Representative Tim Bearden from Villa Rica, GA , Chief Canada has met and talked with Mr. Bearden and He is aware of the Fire Service and needs.
 - Mr. Bearden has had input on HB – 186 ; will be changes to bill but the changes are unknown
 - Dale Mann reception will be on 10-13-2011 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 - Tim Bearden starts new job November 11, 2011
- Chief Swafford stated Insurance Commissioner Tim Hudgens said a rewrite on HB 186 would occur but no one knows what will happen. There is discussion of the Insurance Commissioner being in charge of all ??? Chief Swafford suggested keeping our ears open and be prepared to contact your State Representatives for our opinions.

Darrell Mitchell – GFA for Chief Wall

- GFA is gathering 3 contacts for each FD for email blast – including, classes, news and information. If not receiving email blast please call Tina Layfield at GPSTC. Contacts are normally a Chief, Training Office and one other person. If you wish not to receive emails call and add another person.
- Openings in IMT classes as we speak, Mission Specific, Walk in after email blast

Darrell Mitchell – Training Committee Discussion was as follows:

- Fire Investigator One on November 28, 2011 Bartow County Fire Training Center
- NIMS / Dawsonville, GA
- Instructor 1 December, 2011, 5 – 9
- Fire Officer 1. December 16 – 1 month, 2011
- Chief Swafford- Paramedic Class is in the work more info later date , If you have training needs please call someone on the Training committee. Attempting to build instructor data base so if interested let someone in the NW Chief Association know
- Hazardous materials OPS, Tech refreshers; GFA has money for these classes contact Sharon Sparks if interested.
- Structural Fire Control Class in Caves Springs, GA

- Pressurized Container
- Pressurized Container Live Fire Instructor course
- November 17, 2011 Advisory Board Meeting at College... time???? Email to follow
- Thank you for input

Chief Henderson – Rules Committee Update discussion:

- Vote of Thanks to those who served on the Rules Committee
- Committee has tried to take what is best for Fire Service to put in rules: getting close to finished product
- Hopefully all can live with the results of committee
- Many issues are being pushed back to Fire Chiefs; to deal with their people as they see fit
- There is a difference of expectations of a Fire Fighter between career vs. Volunteers. There must be certain continual training among all fire fighters.
- A topic that must be addressed at tomorrow’s Committee Meeting is the actions of Camden County who is using prisoners to man fire stations and fire department personnel become guards. (Council must discuss these decisions).
- The Rules Committee must hear from Chiefs. If you have something to say, “Please attend meeting and have your say”. “We (Rules Committee) don’t know what is best for everyone, so each of us must let the committee know how we feel.”
- Updated version of Rules Committee is dated 9-30-2011 and is available on the Web site.
- Recertification – will discuss medicals/must discuss medicals
 - At this time any EMT can sign off on vital signs, cost money to go to Dr. “You must have medical to volunteer.”
 - Discussion- Frank James: “How does a person having a medical affect the rules? Does not see relevance with medical.”
 - Discussion – Chief Mitchell – “Sharon Sparks last 5 structural Fire Control classes – tried to send 9 people home due to medical, what standard are you basing this on?”
 - Discussion – Chief Henderson – “A support firefighter provides their own information.” “A requirement under NFPA 1001. The next version this will be removed and will say you must be fit per medical person.””
 - Discussion – NFPA 1582 says you cannot serve as a Firefighter is you have had heart surgery, knee replacement of hip replacement
 - Much discussion followed

Chief Swafford – Do not wait on public comment time. Speak up now. We are basing 2011 rules on 1974 law. Advancement over the past 30 years has superseded the law. All firefighter must meet a basic Rules Standard!!!!!!!!!!

Chief Henderson – Discussed:

- Looking at Core Comps for each position / define hours
- Drivers/ Engineers- you do core comps for that job
- Chief Officer now 40 hours of training with no core comps

- Misunderstanding - supposed to be certified in your primary job i.e. firefighter, inspector, pub ed, etc...
- If you go from being an Inspector to firefighter the inspector lies dormant until you return to inspector
- Much discussion on this matter

Chief Swafford – Asked “What is your opinion of the firefighter prisoner situation in Camden County?”

- Is Camden County violating Title 25?
 - Chief Satterfield and many others in room feel this is a violation of law (Title 25).
- Chief Nichols stated “County Managers are watching this model as answers to counties’ budget issues.

Next meeting date will be Tuesday November 22, 2011. Location to be announced.

The executive committee needs to appoint a nominating committee. Please contact all nominees to insure acceptance.

- If you wish to run for a position call an Executive Committee Member – do not be shy – let us know what you want to run for.

Thank you to Chief Swafford for the homemade soup dinner with cornbread as well as the shelter accommodations. What a beautiful drive to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 19:55 hours.

Bruce Satterfield

Jon Canada

FRANK JAMES

Jared Harris

Doug Flury

Milton Keller

Chuck Nichols

BRUCE BALLEW

Sam West

Daniel Morris

GLENN P DAVIS

Gordon Henderson

Lance Swattall

RAY KING

GARY McGHEE

Tim Satterfield

Darrell Mitchell

Dalton Fire

GAINESVILLE FIRE

CARTERSVILLE F.D.

GA Northwestern Tech. College

FT OGLETHORPE F/R

DAWSON Co FIRE

Catoosa County Fire Dept.

FORT OGLETHORPE FIRE & RESCUE

CITY OF ELLIJAY FIRE

Ellijay Fire Dept

FORT OGLETHORPE FIRE RESCUE

Rome Fire Dept

Dawson County

CARTERSVILLE FIRE

FORT OGLETHORPE FIRE & RESCUE

Dawson County ES

Cherokee County Fire E/S