



Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

Safety and Health Committee

Minutes of meeting held December 18, 2023

The Safety and Health Committee of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association held a meeting on December 18, 2023, at 1900 hours, via Zoom. Members of the committee present were:

David Lewis, Chairman
Dick Devore
Joe Chornock
Dave Black
Dave Reid
Pete Mellits
Paul Neal

A draft copy of the January 1 issue of Back Step Talks was provided to the committee prior to the meeting for review. Since the time to review was short, the committee was offered a deadline of December 22 for any comments or corrections. Additionally, while there is a LOT of good content in the articles, we need pictures, diagrams, or charts to catch the attention of the reader. All committee members were asked to forward any inputs to Dick Devore prior to the December 22 deadline. After that date, Dick Devore and Chairman Dave Lewis will work on revising the draft and provide it back to the committee on December 28 for final review.

We also had a discussion on possible additional activities for the committee. While the bulletin is getting good feedback, it is felt that we need to do more to extend our outreach and convey the health and safety messages. Some ideas discussed were:

- Host a Health and Safety Symposium – we would need a subcommittee to work on an agenda and identify speakers. Possible funding through MFCA SAFER grant funds and sponsorships.
- Host regional training nights around the state on key health and safety topics – we would need to identify host companies in each region and identify speakers/topics.
- Develop a toolkit for company safety officers (HSO and ISO)

After the first of the year, we will begin planning for the April Back Step Talks Newsletter. For that release, we move to NFFF Life Safety Initiative #9 (Fatality and Near-Miss Investigations). Committee members were asked to begin thinking about topics related to LSI#9

It was noted that the MFCA Safety & Health Committee submitted a project request to MFCA for SAFER funding to permit sending personnel to the Fire Department Safety Officer Association (FDSOA) conference on January 16-18, 2024, in Phoenix, AZ. There were six applications submitted and MFCA will be funding all six. Three committee members (Dave Lewis, Joe Chornock, and Dave Black) are among the six attending.

The Upcoming schedule for committee actions is:

December 22 – Comments, plus pictures for the January newsletter due

December 28 – Second draft released to committee for final review

January 1 – Release of Back Step Talks

January 29 – Committee meeting to begin planning for April newsletter

The committee will meet again (via Zoom) on Monday, January 29, at 7pm. The link for the meeting is

<https://umgc-edu.zoom.us/j/9191998865>

Thanks again for everyone's continued support and participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 1930 hours.

Submitted by: David Lewis, Chairman