



# Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

## Safety and Health Committee

### Minutes of meeting held January 29, 2024

The Safety and Health Committee of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association held a meeting on January 29, 2024, at 1900 hours, via Zoom. Members of the committee present were:

David Lewis, Chairman  
Dick Devore  
Dave Black  
Joe Chornock  
Rhonda Cohen  
Jon Johnson

MFCA approved the committee request to sponsor 6 people to attend the Fire Department Safety Officer Association (FDSOA) conference on January 16-18, 2024, in Phoenix, AZ. This request was funded through the MSFA/MFCA SAFER grant. All 6 personnel spoke very highly of the conference, and it was decided to release a special edition of Back Step Talks to share what was learned. The 6 attendees will write the articles with a proposed release in mid-February.

The purpose of this committee meeting was to discuss the proposed content for the April issue of Back Step Talks. This issue will focus on NFFF Life Safety Initiative 9, which discusses the importance of learning from line-of-duty deaths and near-miss reporting. Each year, nearly 100 firefighters die, and more than 65,000 injuries are reported. LSI#9 asks us to learn from our mistakes so that we can reduce LODD's and injuries. After discussion, the following topics and writing assignments were decided:

- Overview of the LSI#9 goals – Dave Reid (already completed)
- Honoring our fallen – NFFF service in May, Maryland LODD's in 2023 – Dave Reid
- Guest article – Joe Chornock to ask Billy G to write something for us.
- Department actions in the event of an LODD (including MSFA Trustees, LAST support, and PSOB requirements – John Long
- What's Really Killing Our Firefighters – Dave Lewis to contact Lexipol for permission to reprint an article posted on their website (they have approved)
- Overview of the Everyone Goes Home program – Dave Lewis
- Encourage a Culture of Self Reporting so everyone learns – Jon Johnson
- Reduce the risk of cancer and cardiovascular disease through high dietary fiber – Rhonda Cohen
- Near-Miss reporting as an opportunity to learn – Dave Black

The upcoming schedule for committee actions is:

February 26 – Meet by Zoom for status updates

March 10 – Inputs due for April issue

March 21 – Draft released to committee for review

March 25 – Meet by Zoom to review April draft

April 1 – Release of Back Step Talks

April 22 – Committee meeting to begin planning for July newsletter

The committee will meet again (via Zoom) on Monday, February 26, 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