



Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

Safety and Health Committee

Minutes of meeting held November 4, 2024

The Safety and Health Committee of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association held a meeting on November 4 via Zoom.

Members of the committee present were

David Lewis, Chairman
David Black
Rhonda Cohen
Dick Devore
Pete Mellits
Heather Miller
Dave Reid

The meeting was scheduled to identify topics and authors for the next edition of Back Step Talks, scheduled for distribution on January 1, 2025. The next issue (Series IV, Issue 1, January 2025) will conclude our review of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives with a review of FLSI's #14, 15, 16. The content will include one (or more if needed) articles on each of the featured FLSI's. Following the committee discussion, the following topics/authors were proposed:

- Dave Reid will write the summary article (already completed and forwarded to the committee).
- Dave Black offered to write an article on safety features to be considered for new ambulance specifications.
- Dave Black also offered to provide an update on the Governors Commission on Lithium Ion Batteries, which he serves representing the MSFA.
- Pete Mellits offered to write an article on why fire prevention/community risk reduction should be considered a priority for departments as part of their mission.
- Rhonda Cohen offered to write an article on nutrition guidance for families of first responders,

The list is still short of what we need for content for the next newsletter. A call for help will be released as part of these minutes asking for additional authors. Some additional suggestions that need an author include:

- Safety improvements through technology advances in apparatus design (Dave Black is covering ambulances but it would be beneficial to have someone discuss heavier apparatus (pumpers, tankers, aerials, etc.).
- The evolution of sprinkler and smoke alarm legislation in Maryland (possibly reach out to Maryland State Fire Marshals Office – maybe Teresa Crisman would write this for us).
- Anything else related to FLSI 14, 15, 16, or any other safety related topic.

The following schedule was set for the next issue of Back Step Talks:

- Articles due December 15
- Committee meet December 30
- Issue released – January 1, 2025
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The committee will meet again (via Zoom) on Monday, December 30, at 7pm. An invite from the Zoom account will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Thanks again for everyone's continued support and participation.

Submitted by: David Lewis, Chairman