

Emergency Management Committee 2011 - Scott Gerber

The Emergency Management Committee meets regularly throughout the year and addresses issues as directed by the board of directors. During the past 12 months our committee has been busy with issues that affect all departments in Minnesota. The main goal of the committee in 2011 has been finalizing the statewide mutual aid plan. This project is ongoing and is the lead project of the Committee. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) is an active participant and facilitator in this project. This is a long term project, but the majority of the “foundation” is now in place. We plan to hold an exercise of the plan in early 2012. Ongoing plan education and plan maintenance will be key components as we progress forward.

Some of the specifics of the project are as follows:

We know that Minnesota has more than its share of disasters. Whether floods, wildfires, ice storms, or tornadoes, Minnesota has experienced its share of Presidential Disaster Declarations. The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association Emergency Management Committee is leading an effort with many other individuals and associations to enhance the mutual aid system used in the fire service in Minnesota. The effort is to create a system and process that is understood and utilized in times of need. Education is a critical cornerstone in this effort. The system and process identifies the following:

1. Mutual aid use in day to day response
2. Mutual aid use in regional response
3. Mutual aid use in Statewide Disaster scenarios
4. Mutual aid used outside of Minnesota (EMAC)

The Plan was used in 2011 for the preparation of spring flooding across the State and for assistance in coordinating of the response to the line of Duty Death in Cambridge. The FAST Team is part of this plan and coordinated by this committee. The committee has placed the Intrastate Mutual Aid plan on the MSFCA website for use.

The Emergency Management Committee consists of members that serve as representatives of numerous fire service and emergency management organizations throughout the state of Minnesota. Additional organizations represented include: HSEM, DNR, State Fire Marshal, MNSCU, MSP airport, and AMEM/MEMA. This cross section of talent on the committee enhances the wide variety of opinions expressed during our meetings.

The committee set additional goals and objectives for the year. In 2011 we have been able to get back to addressing these areas. The other goals include:

- Ongoing Participation in various State and Local Committees and Task Forces
- Continued development and encouragement of Fire Chiefs involvement in the emergency management process.
- Development and utilization of technology in the emergency management arena.

Our relationship with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and its representation on our committee has enabled our committee to stay in the forefront in reference to homeland security. The Senior Advisory Committee (formerly the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC)) has Ulie Seal, Bloomington Fire, as our committee’s representative. He will continue to attend the Senior Advisory Committee meetings and advise the Emergency Management Committee as to its activities.

Stuart Glaser, Stillwater Fire, has been actively serving as the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) liaison this past year in order to keep effective and efficient communications.

John Olson, New Brighton CERT and P2CAT, continues to represent the EM Committee on the State of MN Citizens Corps Council, and in addition represents the EM Committee as a member of Minnesota InfraGard®. Minnesota Citizen Corps and InfraGard continue to develop and offer programs across the State and our committee will keep the MSFCA board and all the members updated as to any information.

Finally, I would like to remind our membership that committee information is posted on the MSFCA website. We encourage you to read the MN Fire Chief magazine along with our Emergency Management Committee article. Our committee continues to provide our members with timely information referencing emergency management issues throughout the state of Minnesota. If any of the MSFCA members are interested in serving on the Emergency Management Committee, please contact Scott Gerber at 952-960-1650. I would like to thank all the EM Committee members for their hard work this past year and we will stand ready to face challenges in the future.

2011 MSFCA Emergency Management Committee:

Scott Gerber, **Chair**, Excelsior Fire District
Scott Anderson, Maple Grove Fire
Don Beckering, MNSCU
David Burke, MAC Fire
Bob Dahm, DPS - State Fire Marshal's Division
Tom Fasteland, DNR
Jim Flanders, Minnetonka Fire
Stuart Flaser, Stillwater Fire
Kim Ketterhagen, HSEM
Brenda Kremer, MAC Fire
Joel McColl, Savage Fire
John Olson, New Brighton CERT/P2CAT
Greg Pederson, Roseville Fire
Mike Richardson, Woodbury Fire
Kristi Rollwagen, MAD Emergency Management
Ulie Seal, Bloomington Fire
Luke Stemmer, St. Louis Park Fire
Jerry Streich, Centennial Fire District