



AMHERST COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES COUNCIL

**119 Taylor Street
Amherst, Virginia 24521
(434) 946-9307
EMERGENCY DIAL 911
August 14, 2024**

MEETING MINUTES for August 14, 2024

Location: County Administration Building @ 1800

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Members:

Amherst Fire Department
Monelison Fire Department
Amherst County Public Safety
Pedlar Fire Department

Steve Drummond, 1st Assistant Chief, ESC Chair
Joey Malott, Chief
Bradley Beam, Director
George Napier, Chief

Non-Voting County Members:

Ben Bond
Marcia Gilpin

Amherst County Public Safety, EMS Division Manager
Amherst County Public Safety, Office Manager, Scribe

Public Attendees:

Jeff Tanner
Lee Day

Amherst Fire Department
Pedlar Fire Department

- I. The meeting was called to order at 1800 by Steve Drummond Chair.
- II. Invocation was led by Lee Day and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Drummond.
- III. Approval of Minutes:
 1. Approval of June 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were presented for the June 14, 2024 meeting for approval. Motion to approve June 14, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Steve Drummond. Seconded by Joey Malott. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Old Business

1. Background Check

Per Ben Bond, he and Ryan Sandy of Amherst Fire & EMS Department are establishing an Account with Virginia State Police for background checking. Brad Beam stressed that the County will "help" but this procedure/policy "will not" be mandatory.

2. SOG Development Mutual/Automatic Aid/Nature Codes

It was discussed that each Department would determine who, if any member could respond via POV to automatic alarms if they are dispatched second due. Steve Drummond suggested that it should be ranking officers.

Brad Beam asked for a motion to approve these SOG's. Motion to approve SOGs made by Steve Drummond. Seconded by Joey Malott. Motion carried.

Amherst County Fire Response Nature Codes

Discussed the items listed on the Fire Nature Codes Spreadsheet attached in the Packet.

Target List was developed for Ladder Truck and second due for high hazards.

V. New Business

1. Strategic Planning and Five-Year Capital Improvement Purchases (CIP)

Brad Beam stated that the plan is to meet with each department to discuss their "Needs", not necessarily their "desires" for the upcoming Five Year CIPs. Discussed compiling a list with each department's leadership team. Joey Malott stated that Monelison Fire will be needing a new generator. George Napier stated that Pedlar has a new generator. Amherst Fire Department has no generator presently.

2. Three More SOGs

Three (3) more draft SOG's were previously emailed to council members and hard copies were passed out by Brad Beam to attending members. Brad asked that these draft SOG's be reviewed and they will be discussed at the next ESC meeting for any edits. They include MVA/Brush fire, and Hazmat

Amherst County Fire & EMS
SOG Brush Fire
8/12/2024

Brush fires can be extremely dangerous and should be treated as such. Call for resources early and don't become complacent.

Dangers of a brush fire include:

- Falling trees, specifically dead trees with fire in them
- Fire spread that cuts off escape routes
- Heart attacks and other medical emergencies
- Smoke inhalation

Incident command should be established early on in any brush fire incident. Accountability is as critical on brush fires as it is on a structure fire. IC must know where all personnel are at all time.

PPE is addressed in a separate SOG, however helmets, long pants, and boots are always required on a brush fire.

Anyone operating a chain saw should have proper training in its use and must be aware of their surroundings. Chainsaw chaps will be worn by anyone operating a chainsaw, along with the above mentioned PPE.

Backfires should only be done in coordination with command and performed by trained personnel.

Virginia Department of forestry should be requested on any incidents that involve multiple departments, where a bulldozer is needed, or their manpower would be beneficial.

US Forest Service should be contacted for any brush fire that occurs in the George Washington National Forest.

Park Police should be contacted for any fires that touch the parkway.

Amherst County Fire & EMS
SOG Hazardous Materials
August 12, 2024

Hazardous materials responses should be treated slow and methodical with safety being the number one concern.

When responding to a HazMat response you should consider wind direction, weather conditions, topography of land, waterways, and high hazards in the area, such as schools or nursing homes.

Anyone operating on a Hazmat incident should only work within their scope, whether they are training in operations, or as a technician.

Using the most recent DOT guidebook is a great resource.

Any Hazmat incident should include calling the Virginia EOC in Richmond and request a call from the regional hazmat coordinator.

If the incident involves the railroad, they should be contacted immediately.

When dealing with a known product requesting a Safety Data Sheet from the company or transporter.

If a hazmat team is needed Lynchburg Fire is a great resource. The IC should start by requesting a call from the on-duty Hazmat Battalion Chief.

Only send personnel down range when it is absolutely necessary for life hazard and any hazmat scene should be treated as an IDLH.

Remember water is not always a friend to every chemical that is burning.

Class B fire should be combated using class B foam, most fire engines are carrying class A. Before starting fire attack with class B foam, you should have enough foam to last 15 minutes for the initial attack.

Amherst County Fire & EMS SOG

Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA)

Any Motor Vehicle accident that is in a roadway, leaking fluids, or has injury will generate a Fire Department Response. EMS will be dispatched for any accident with injuries, or unknown injuries.

A brief size-up should be given when the first unit arrives on scene. This should include the number of vehicles, extent of damage, and position of vehicle. Examples of damage are, minor, moderate, and heavy. Examples of positions would be, vehicle overturned, vehicles over the embankment and so forth.

Command should be established as soon as possible. The IC should be trained to a minimum of the level being performed. For example, the IC should be certified in Vehicle Extrication when operating on an entrapment.

Engines should be parked in a blocking position when possible. A blocking position is far enough back for a buffer with the apparatus wheels turned into traffic and away from Fire & EMS personnel. A second engine, tanker, or ladder truck should be used for a blocking/buffer vehicle when responding to an accident on the bypass.

PPE is covered in a separate SOG, however all personnel will wear traffic vest on every motor vehicle accident.

No personally owned vehicles (POV) should respond to MVA on the bypass, unless authorized by a chief officer. A handline should be pulled for any vehicle accident that requires extrication.

An absorbent material should be applied to fluids that have leaked out.

Extreme caution should be used when electrical lines, or poles are involved.

VI. Matters From the Floor

1. Per Brad Beam, new radios (200) with dual band capability are ordered and 7 radios will be issued to each department. A list of department members need to be submitted. These radios will have the capability to connect with both Rockbridge County (in process of agreement) and Nelson County (already has agreed to connect). The radio will have capability to connect with cell phone via a sim card in areas where cell signal present but not radio signals. Brad stated that his Public Safety Budget has funds available to cover the Sim Card Cost for 1 for each department.
2. Brad Beam brought forth for discussion the possibility of forming an Honor Guard with members from each department totaling 16. They would have a special patch and would participate at various functions such as Parades, Funeral of fallen comrades, Event Openings such as athletic events, etc. Suggested that the department members take this suggestion back to their departments for discussion and feedback. This would be further discussed at the next meeting.
3. It was discussed by Brad Beam that the money for another multi-department banquet to be held has been given from the County. He stated that there was positive feedback received regarding the prior event held at Sweet Briar in January. The County would pay for the facility rental, food and non-alcoholic beverages. Departments will be responsible for any alcoholic beverages. It was suggested by Steve Drummond that each member discuss with their appropriate departments and bring back two dates to consider in January 2025, and bring to the next meeting for discussion and decision. Brad stated that plans should be confirmed soon so necessary reservations can be made.

VII. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Drummond. Motioned seconded by Joey Malott. Next meeting September 11, 2024.

FIRE NATURE CODES

Code	Description	PS Response	Number of Fire Department	Ambulance Needed	Notes
FAA	ACCIDENT- AGRICULTURAL	800 thru 802 & 806	2	Y	Involving farm equipment/machinery
FAI	ACCIDENT- INDUSTRIAL	800 thru 802 & 806	2	Y	Involving commercial/industrial equipment/machinery
FAC	AIRCRAFT EMERGENCY	800 thru 802 & 806	All	Y	Aircraft (helicopter, fixed wing, motorized) accident/crash
FALARM	Fire Alarm Commercial	N	1 plus AFD for Ladder	N	
FAPPL	FIRE ALARM Residential	N	1	N	
FBRUSH	APPLIANCE FIRE	As needed & 806	2	Y	
FCHEM	BRUSH FIRE	N	1	N	
FCHIM	CHEMICAL/HAZMAT SPILL	800 & 801	1	Y	
FCONTROL	CHIMNEY FIRE	800 thru 802 & 806	All	Y	
FDUMP	CONTROL BURN	N	1	N	
FELECTR	DUMPSTER FIRE	N	1	N	
FEXPL	ELECTRICAL FIRE Inside EXPLOSION	As needed & 806	2	Y	
FGAS	Gas leak inside Natural gas/propane	800 thru 802 & 806	All	Y	
FHAZ	AS Leak outside Natural gas/Propan	As Needed	2	Y	
FINV	HAZMAT (not otherwise listed)	N	1	N	
FLOCK	FIRE INSPECTION/INVESTIGATION	800 & 801	1	As needed	
FLZ	THROUGH THE LOCK	As Needed	1	As needed	
FMUTUAL	LANDING ZONE	800 & 802	1	N	
FNAT	FIRE MUTUAL AID	N	As requested	N	
FMISC	NATURAL DISASTER	All	As needed	As needed	
FSMOKE	MISCELLANEOUS FIRE	As needed	As Needed	N	
FSTAND	SMOKE INVESTIGATION	N	1	N	
FSTRCOLL	STANDBY	N		N	
FSTRUCTC	STRUCTURE COLLAPSE	All	2	Y	
FSTRUCTR	STRUCTURE FIRE- COMMERCIAL	800 thru 802 & 806	All	Y	
FTECH	STRUCTURE FIRE- RESIDENTIAL	800 thru 802 & 806	All	Y	
FVEH	TECHNICAL RESCUE	800 thru 802 & 806	2	Y	
FWATER	VEHICLE FIRE	As needed	1	As Needed	
	WATER RESCUE	800 thru 802 & 806	AFD & MFD	If in Amherst County	
	Search and Rescue	800thru 802 & 806	All	Y	
	Power Pole or outside electrical fire	N	1	N	
	Traffic Accident with injury	806	1	Y	
	Traffic Accident with entrapment	800, 802 & 806	2	Y	
	Traffic Accident No Injury	N	1	N	
	Tree in Roadway	N	1 if VDOT not available	N	

Consider adding a second Fire Department if MVA (up to IC)

Tornado, flooding, rock/landslide, earthquake

COMMERCIAL FIRE ALARM LIST

MVFD first due:

- Schools → All, Job Corps, Caterpillar Clubhouse
- Temple Christian School
- "Big Box" stores → Lowe's, Wal-Mart, Food Lion (Seminole)
- Strip Malls → Amelon Square, Seminole Plaza
- Industrial buildings → Amelon Commerce Center (behind Food Lion on 130), Cooper Steel, Monacan Indian Nation, JHC, HT Hackney, Trucking Company on 130
- Apartment Complexes → New construction
- New Subdivisions (Willow Branch, etc.)
- BRRJ
- Hotels → Red Roof Inn, Knights Inn
- Large Churches → Grace Baptist Church

AFD first Due:

- Schools → Sweet Briar College, public schools
- Industrial → Buffalo Air Handling/Greif/Glad
- County Admin/Courthouse/Sheriff's Office
- Large Churches → Clifford Baptist
- Sawmills
- Shopping Centers → Ambriar, Amherst
- Medical → Centra Medical Group, Fairmont Crossing
- Apartment Complexes → Lord Jeffrey, Newington, Dulwich

PVFD first due:

- Camp Crossroads
- Schools
- Sawmills

**Culvert Structures to Camp Crossroads – VDOT needs to determine Wt. Loads, Vehicle Width Limits