



*Cook Inlet MFF
Workgroup*

COOK INLET MARINE FIREFIGHTING WORKGROUP

WORKGROUP MEETING MINUTES



COOK INLET
SPILL PREVENTION
& RESPONSE INC.



0900 Meeting called to order

Roll Call

Captain John Taylor	Chair MFF WG
Dale Butts	Seward FD/AVTEC
Arron Glidden	Homer Harbor
Scott Walden	Kenai Peninsula Borough Emergency Services
Todd Duke	Resolve Marine
Jeff Johnson	Resolve Marine
Dan Miotke	Training Officer Homer FD
Robert Painter	Chief Homer FD
James Baisden	Chief Nikiski FD
Greg LeBeau	Witt/OBriens
Al Terry	Chief Anchor Point FD
Robert Archibald	RCAC (MFFWG Member)
Vinnie Catalano	CIRCAC
Jeff Tucker	Chief Kenai FD
David Devillas	Global Diving & Salvage
Mike Davidson	Battalion Chief Anchorage FD
Dave Kroening	Anchorage FD
Robert Cicciarella	Chief Kachemak Emergency Services FD
Mark Tornal	Workgroup member

General Discussion

The meeting kicked off by welcoming the new members who have offered to help the MFF Workgroup in its endeavours. The meeting was well attended with 4-5 persons who could not attend due to other commitments. In welcoming the new members, it was explained what we are all about and the work we intend to put out to the CIHSC surrounding MFF, No better way than to discuss our Mission Statement. The Homer Harbor-master's Conference Room was graciously provided for the meeting.

Safety Moment

A safety moment was provided by the chair with many giving input after it was presented with their experiences. The theme was mentoring and leadership of Command Staff that filters downward to all members of the organization. The chair is asking that members attending the next meeting think of Safety Moments to share that are firefighting specific. Either personal or process safety is encouraged.

MFF Certification

Dale Butts provided an update on State MFF certification and its progress at the State level. Dale is on the Standards Counsel working the issue. The State has accepted NFPA 1005 as its Standard and will adapt requirements as the project proceeds forward. There is presumed to be several levels of certification with various task and experience that will be determined. Care will be taken to ensure the levels of requirements do not keep smaller departments from obtaining some level of certification due to their inability to access larger ships.

It is also envisioned that some sort of "Task Workbook" could be the direction taken. This allows firefighters to complete various task and have them signed off by their department training officers. Some thoughts came out of his presentation from the group. For example, it might be possible to use computer training for certain task or levels of training in part. LA/LB Fire Departments have recently come online with an online system that is designed to qualify 1,000's of their firefighters by progressing through various levels in their off time online.

While this is in its early stage of development, the progress is more than encouraging. Many very large FD's in the lower 48 are not at this level yet and the ones who are have just started. It is hoped that the State will get the further approvals from IFSAC or Pro-board before the MFF Symposium next year. If so there may be an opportunity to exercise some training geared at certification. Even if it is not ready by that time, it is on the right track and moving forward.

As an explanation, certification is an important step for the safety of firefighters and for improved response protecting industry assets. It is without doubt a speciality area of firefighting and cannot be lumped into general structural firefighting.

The chair thanks Dale for his hard work and effort in pursuing this goal and working with the standards committee to make it happen. We should get a good update by the end of the year on progress.

Review of readiness survey

A round table discussion was held on the questions asked in the survey and how each department sees themselves as prepared for a major or minor marine incident. Without exception all departments see the need for much more training. The MFF Symposium has in some cases been the only outside MFF training received by most of the departments.

Chief Davidson made the comment that their response to a ship fire at the berth is and will be commensurate with the level of training they have. That was echoed across the board and is the only acceptable and proper answer any department should give. A discussion was held on the relationship between Salvage and Firefighting group's integration with local FD's and how that would occur. This is a topic that could last days but it is clear that the symposium will once again address this valid concern next year.

The chair stated that the MFF group will recommend to the CIHSC at large on the coming meeting on 13 May to consider holding a Table-top exercise discussing just this topic. The roles and responsibilities of multiple parties must be drilled table top to work. This is accomplished in larger ports in the US on an annual basis and the Chair will address this with the USCG via the CIHSC meeting and a follow-up email. In addition to this exercise it is also recommended that the same type of table exercise is conducted on Cruise ship incidents. Years ago the USCG and Cruise Industry held such an exercise which was well received by responders and planners.

In the interim all departments are taking the stance of making good and informed decisions on response. With a greater degree of knowledge, training, resources and coordination/planning is where the group wants to come out in the end.

MFF PLANS

Jeff Johnson, Todd Duke and the Chair met with LCDR Matt Mitchell, USCG Sector Anchorage on 12 May. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on Plans that are used for Marine Firefighting, making them fit for Purpose for the Fire Service and insuring the various plans that discuss MFF are on the same page. LCDR Mitchell is responsible for all Plans and Review in Sector Anchorage and has agreed to work with the MFF Workgroup to this end.

In this area there are essentially two plans we are discussing. The **Western Alaska Marine Firefighting Plan** is a high level view of assets available. It is connected with the area security plans and is based on the assumption that a Marine Fire, particularly a vessel fire, may require resources beyond those locally available. It can be used in conjunction with other plans, e.g., Major Marine Disaster, Marine Transportation System Recovery, etc. It revolves around contingency planning. It may be of some use to firefighters and should certainly be consulted, but it is not what the first arriving engine company needs to mitigate a vessel fire.

The second and more useful to firefighters is the **Cook Inlet Subarea Contingency Plan**. In this plan Appendix 2, Annex F is the Resource Guide and Marine Firefighting Section. This is the plan that we are discussing to make more user friendly for the fire service. That may mean additions to section F or it might mean a standalone piece specifically designed for the fire service.

As the review process moves forward for the Subarea plan, a side track will be worked within the MFF workgroup and the USCG. We are proposing and planning a two day workshop to develop this with workgroup firefighters input this winter. It may not be accomplished by the fall meeting for the CIHSC but hopefully before 1Q next year.

MARINE FIREFIGHTING SYMPOSIUM

A discussion was held on the 2017 MFF Symposium. Approval for this symposium is granted but the contract is not signed yet. (Please see Report to the Committee May 2016 for more details).

This symposium has been delivered every two years for over 2 decades, free of charge to fire service personnel. We see this as the glue that will bond the above and future topics of the workgroup; The venue will be in Homer AK. May 6, 7 & 8th (Friday, Sat and Sun). We are expecting a very large turnout as logistics for this symposium will be much easier than symposiums of the past. The weekend also allows for volunteer firefighters who compose the vast majority of firefighters in the state to attend. The PWSRCAC will sponsor and we are sure there will be some involvement from the CIRCAC to some level as well. Thousands of the States firefighters have had valuable MFF training given in these symposiums. This one being in Cook Inlet will also be able to address or potentially address local CI response issues as well. The symposium has been open to firefighters from across the state.

Budgets are not just a concern for industry these days, but directly affected are state and local budgets and this is always seen in the fire service. The RCAC should be applauded for its continued support for such an important aspect of not only fire fighter safety, but also industry and public asset protection and environmental protection arising from a vessel fire.

1130 MEETING COMPLETED

The chair will update the workgroup and the HSC with all the new participants in it post HSC meeting. We are very proud of the work being put into this workgroup and the tangible results of that work. Thanks to everyone participating as a team to reach our mission statement.

Respectfully

John

Capt John Taylor

Chair MFF Workgroup/HSC LNG member

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