



International Association of Fire Chiefs

EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call

November 11, 2021

Attendees: McEvoy, Deardorff, Becker, Shimer, Croom, LaSala

Excused: Riley, Maxwell

Chief McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. ET

Fire-Rescue Med update

Chief McEvoy reported that he is waiting to hear from the IAFC conference department about planning for Fire-Rescue Med (FRM) and Fire-Rescue International (FRI). There has been discussion about holding an in-person component for FRM at FRI. The EMS Section also would like to have a virtual component to FRM. The date for the virtual FRM will be contingent on the date for FRI.

Heart Safe Community awards

Chief McEvoy said that the EMS Section is planning to review the nomination form and website for the Heart Safe Community Award program. The section will review recommendations from the award's sponsors.

EMS officer development

Chief McEvoy reported that there is an interest in developing a company officer development program for EMS officers. The purpose of the program would be to build a middle management in the field of EMS. The EMS Section will contact the U.S. Fire Administration identify National Fire Academy classes that support the development of EMS officers.

First On The Scene

Chief McEvoy reported that the First on the Scene (FOTS) classes are now being taught. He said that he would write up an article for ICHIEFS magazine to get the word out about the classes.

National EMS Advisory Council Meeting and Follow-Up

Chief Becker reported on the November 3 and 4 National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) meeting. Charles O'Neal has been appointed the new chair of NEMSAC. He reported that the NEMSAC heard reports from the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS). The council also discussed EMS workforce shortage and mental wellness issues.

Chief Becker continued to follow developments with the effort to require a college degree for EMS certification. There is a NEMSAC Preparedness and Education Committee that may focus on this issue.

The next NEMSAC meeting is expected to be a face-to-face meeting in May 2022.

Emergency Triage, Treat and Transport Program

Chief Shimer asked about participation in the Emergency Triage, Treat and Transport (ET3) program. We was concerned that there has not been much data from the program. The EMS Section will look further into this issue.

PCG Webinars about CMS billing

Mr. LaSala reported that the IAFC EMS Section will be hosting webinars with PCG to educate fire departments about billing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As non-fire-based EMS organizations face workforce issues, fire departments are being asked to provide treatment and transport. The first webinar on November 17 will discuss how to bill CMS. A follow-up webinar on December 1 will discuss the CMS cost reporting requirements. Chief McEvoy will be the host for both webinars.

Federal Update

Mr. LaSala discussed upcoming legislative issues, such as the pending cuts to Medicare reimbursement through sequestration if Congress does not act to prevent them. He also reported that CMS will require cost reporting in 2022 and 2023 from EMS agencies that are reimbursed by CMS. Mr. LaSala also discussed the effects of the recent CMS and federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) COVID-19 vaccine mandates on fire and EMS agencies. Fire and EMS agencies remain under the control of the June OSHA Healthcare Emergency Temporary Standard and state and local requirements.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Chief Croom updated the EMS Section leadership about Colorado's efforts to restrict the use of ketamine by EMS agencies.

Roundtable

Chief Deardorff announced that the EMS Section budget is due to the IAFC Treasurer by December 3. The EMS Section leadership will review travel and award commitments for 2022. The EMS Section leadership also discussed the practical effects of the new 9-8-8 nationwide mental health crisis and suicide prevention effort for local EMS.

Chief McEvoy adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.