



International Association of Fire Chiefs
EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call
July 14, 2022
3:00 pm (Eastern)

Attendees: McEvoy, Riley, Croom, Becker, Deardorff, Shimer, Maxwell, Joles, Richardson

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

1. FRM 2022/2023

Chief McEvoy reports that FRM had approximately 200 online attendees at FRM and approximately 500 registrants. For the first time, FRM attendees could receive CAPCE credit. Overall, the conference went well, and the speakers were excellent.

For 2023, the EMS Section is considering keeping FRM as a virtual conference. The majority of sponsors support the virtual conference format. There was discussion about charging a nominal fee to attend in 2023.

2. Heart Safe Community Awards 2022/2023

Chief McEvoy discussed opening the Heart Safe Awards earlier for 2023 to recruit more applicants. He even suggested opening the 2023 application period after FRI and then doing a large announcement/roll-out in January 2023.

The 2022 winners were:

- Large Community: Spokane Valley Fire Department, WA
- Small/Mid-Sized Community: West Allis Fire Department, WI

Both winners had impressive programs. Chief McEvoy was glad that they made announcements about the awards in their communities.

3. National Fire Academy Courses for EMS Officers

The EMS Section Board would like to recommend a list of classes for EMS officers to take at the National Fire Academy to develop a cadre of EMS officers. Chief McEvoy asked Chiefs Maxwell and Richardson (the two At-Large Board Members) to help him produce a draft of classes at the National Fire Academy that EMS officers should take.

4. EMS Section Election Results

Chief McEvoy reported the unofficial results of the EMS Section elections:

- Treasurer: Kevin Joles
- At-Large: Lee Richardson

The official results will be announced at FRI, and the new officers will be sworn in at the EMS Section meeting on Friday, August 26 being held from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM in Room 207 of the Henry B. González Convention Center.

5. Fire-Rescue International (FRI) Schedule

Chief McEvoy updated the EMS Section Board members about logistics for FRI. He asked that EMS Section board members attend the FRI opening session on the morning of Wednesday, August 24. The EMS Section Board will be meeting on Thursday, August 25. The EMS Section meeting will be on Friday, August 26, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM in Room 207 of the Henry B. González Convention Center.

6. Planning for VCOS Symposium in the Sun

Chief McEvoy said that the EMS Section Board will meet at the VCOS Symposium in the Sun on November 10-13. The EMS Section Board members were asked to arrive on November 10. The EMS Section Board will be holding meetings on November 11 and 12, including potentially with the VCOS Board.

7. Federal Update (Ken)

Mr. LaSala discussed the focus on passing the Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Services Act (H.R. 2454/S. 2037). This bill would retain the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) urban, rural, and super-rural add-on payments for EMS transport. If the legislation does not pass, these payments will expire. Fire chiefs can contact Congress about the add-on payments using the IAFC Legislative Action Center: <https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/legislative-issues/action-center>

8. Roundtable

- Chief Becker reported that the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) board has been working to update the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) standards for EMS Education programs. Any time the standards are updated all the sponsors are asked to endorse the updates. Chief Becker sent the updated standards to IAFC CEO, Chief Rob Brown, for review. Chief Becker is planning to attend the IAFC Board of Directors meeting at FRI with CoAEMSP Executive Director Dr. George Hatch, to ask the IAFC Board to approve these changes. Chief Becker reported that the changes are minimal and include:
 - revision of the required goal statement to remove the exit point language;
 - removal of a key governmental official advisory committee representative;
 - addition of language for clinical coordinator responsibilities (not a position); and
 - addition of a preparedness plan in place that assures continuity of education services in the event of an unanticipated interruption.

Chief Becker reported that other language changes on the CAAHEP template are minimal and do not affect/change any of our existing processes. Appendix B now reflects the curriculum/competencies from the National EMS Education Standards.

Motion: To endorse the CoAEMSP board's update the CAAHEP standards.

Motion made by Chief Croom; seconded by Chief Maxwell; and unanimously approved.

- Chief Becker also discussed the recent proposal by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) to update the eligibility criteria for initial EMS education. NREMT has a 60-day stakeholder comment period that will end of August 17.

Chief McEvoy adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm (Eastern). The next EMS Section Board meeting will be in-person on August 25.