



International Association of Fire Chiefs
EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call

September 14, 2023

3 PM (Eastern)

Attendees: Joles (Chair), Croom, McEvoy, Richardson, Riley

Chief Joles began the meeting at 3 PM (Eastern).

1. VCOS Symposium in the Sun Logistics

Mr. LaSala reported that hotel rooms had been reserved for the EMS Section Board members attending the meeting in conjunction with the VCOS Symposium in the Sun. A meeting room has been reserved for all day on November 10. A meeting between the EMS Section and VCOS Boards is scheduled for 10:30 AM on November 11.

Chief Croom reported that the IAFC Executive Committee also is meeting during that time. He will be attending the EMS Section Board meeting based on his availability.

The EMS Section Board will register for the VCOS Symposium in the Sun.

2. Fire-Rescue Med

Chief Joles reported that the EMS Section is looking to host FRM next year at the Orleans hotel in Las Vegas on April 30 and May 1. He is working with Chief Croom, Chief McEvoy, Chief Ken Riddle (PCG), and IAFC staff to plan the conference. The conference will be a 1.5- to 2-day conference without any breakout sessions.

3. EMS Section Membership Recruitment

Chief Joles reported that he met with the IAFC membership department to discuss recruitment for EMS Section meetings. Chief Riley recommended granting free EMS Section membership with attendance at FRM.

The chiefs discussed the following initiatives to recruit EMS Section members:

- Have EMS issues discussed at the general session of FRI.
- Add more EMS educational content at FRI.
- Add EMS Section members to Knowledgenet.
- Use Salesforce to automatically send “Thank You” letters to EMS Section members for renewing with the section.
- Have the EMS Section chair contact EMS Section members that do not renew their membership.
- Add free EMS Section membership to IAFC members using small community applications.

The EMS Section Board also discussed past EMS Section initiatives to give free EMS Section membership to new IAFC members. They asked for a breakout of paid versus comped (though life memberships) EMS Section members.

4. IAFC EMS Section Webinar Series with PCG

Chief Joles announced that PCG will continue to sponsor and cooperate with the EMS Section on a monthly EMS webinar series in the fall. The first webinar will be on September 19 at 1 PM (Eastern) and cover alternate payment methodologies for EMS reimbursement.

5. 2024 Meeting Schedule

The EMS Section Board discussed the EMS conference schedule in 2024. They discussed the possibility of attending the National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner and the VCOS Symposium in the Sun in 2024. In addition, they may have to schedule an EMS Section business meeting if it is not held at FRM.

6. Friday Calls with National EMS Organizations

Chief McEvoy said that the EMS Section will have to appoint a representative to attend the monthly calls with the other national EMS organizations. These meetings were started during the COVID-19 pandemic to coordinate the EMS response. The next call will be October 13 at 1 PM (Eastern).

7. Heart Safe Community Guide with VCOS

Chief McEvoy recommended working with the VCOS to develop a guide to create heart safe communities. He recommended creating a team from both the EMS Section and VCOS to develop the guide. He also recommended asking PulsePoint for technical assistance and sponsorship. The EMS Section would like to have a guide developed by FRM. Chief McEvoy will recruit EMS Section members for this effort on Knowledgenet.

8. Opportunities for “One-Pagers” with PCG

Chief McEvoy recommended working with PCG on educational one-page issue briefs on major EMS topics. The topics would include GEMT, billing for reimbursement, and other instructional topics. He recommended looking at past joint videos with PCG and developing the issue briefs from them.

9. Federal Update

Mr. LaSala gave an update on pending legislation. Among the draft bills discussed was an amendment to address attempts by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to reduce EMS reimbursement and a bill to reauthorize opioid response training for first responders.

10. Roundtable

Chief Croom reported that the EMS Section would have to update its bylaws. He discussed new policy groups developed by the IAFC President and Board Chair, Chief John Butler. Chief Croom is serving on the committee examining board policies. He also highlighted the workgroup looking at training and education issues, because it will need input from the EMS board and section members.

Chief Richardson reported that his department is receiving an award at EMS Expo at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, September 20.