

Fire Advisory Meeting of September 9, 2014
Town Hall Conference Room A, 7 Summer Street

Attendees: Kermit LaBounty (Chair), Jay Collette and Larry Thurston (RVFD), Ken Preston and Dana Williams (RCFD), Cindy Spaulding (LEPC #12), Alex Northern (VTC Fire Science), Keven Taylor and Paul Campbell (ERFD), Kevin Wheatley and Jeff Brassard (BFD) and Tuthill Doane (Braintree rep)

1. Call to order

Mr. LaBounty called the meeting to order at 1905 hours.

2. Minutes

On motion by RCFD Assistant Chief Williams, seconded by ERFD Assistant Chief Taylor, the committee voted to approve the minutes of August 12, 2014 as written. Unanimously approved.

3. Implementation of the Mutual Aid Agreement with VTC

Mr. Northern of VTC requested the subject be added to the Fire Advisory meeting for discussion. RVFD Chief Collette provided the committee with an email of questions from Town Manager Adams to be discussed.

Jay,

I want to work up a draft MOU between Randolph and VTC for fire training and other mutual aid as is appropriate. Can you give me some idea of what you consider appropriate in the way of joint programs with the VTC program and personnel?

- Will our units make local training available for VTC students?
Yes.
RCFD has been training with VTC Fire Science Program student for a while.
RVFD is scheduled to the last Monday of the month.
ERFD and Brookfield FD are to be announced at a later time.
VTC Fire Science Students are available for evening trainings when scheduled. While in session. Mr. Northern has confirmed the VTC Fire Science students will be available to participate in evening trainings with RFD and BFD while school is in session.
Interfacing with VTCFS is up to respective FDs
Respective FDs will coordinate with VTC FS to use facilities at the VTC Campus such as burn building.

- Will VTC offer reduced cost or no-fee training to Randolph?
No fee for the instructor's time, usage of the burn building, fire lab or mutual aid assistance

- Will students participate in any calls?

This is the objective to have VTCFS students participate in mutual aid assistance calls.

- If so, when and in what capacity?

Participation of VTCFS students is under the digression of the Incident Commander or needs at the scene and type of incident. FDs will not treat the VTCFS students any different and will integrate them at the scene when and where needed. Depends on the call and the IC commander. VTCFS students are level II certified but lack experience. If a structure fire, VTC Director Northern would participate in an interior situation to ensure the VTCFS student is following the directives. Again each incident is different.

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- Is the requirement going to have to use VTC student with the instructor or with the FD personnel?

Drilling is important and working with each other. Depending on the incident or situation, and under the discretion of the IC commander of the responding FD to determine assignments. Ability of training together is vital. The plan is to unify VTC group as a pod if need arose integrate with FD personnel. VTC instructor would like to be inside structure if students. For the purpose to do what the VTC students are able to carry out assignment properly.

VTC's insurance covers the VTC FS students and the instructor on any mutual aid assistance request. The certificate of insurance would name the towns who would request assistance.

- If allowed to join in fighting a structure or grass/forest fire, what gear will they require?

VTC FS does not have the appropriate ppe for grass/forest fires. VTCFS will obtain the required ppe: hard hats, work gloves, safety glasses, and yellow shirts. Firefighting apparatus such as rakes, shovels and indian water tanks and other hand tools would be provided by the FD's to fight a grass fire.

All other types of incidents such as structure fires or motor vehicle accidents, VTCFS will bring their own ppe per the NFPA requirements.

- Will VTC be allowed to roll any equipment?

VTC FS has a fully equipped fire engine

- Does Alex monitor your communications networks?

Yes, VTCFS instructor does monitor RFD's tone outs. Permission to official program the RFD radio frequencies in VTCFS mobiles and portable is forthcoming.

- Do students have pagers?

VTCFS students do have pagers are programed with VSP Royalton Dispatch/WRVA frequency and are dispatched from VSP Royalton to mutual aid assist response to WRVA calls.

Protocol for RFD/BFD to request mutual aid assistance from VTCFS will go through Barre City Public Safety Dispatch to VSP Royalton Dispatch to activate VTCFS.

- Etc., etc.

- What do you folks want and expect from the opportunity to work with the VTC program?

We (FDs in general) have the need for manpower and equipment at any all hazards incident and would like to tap in to young talented individuals such as VTCFS to subsidize FD personnel. This will provide the sustainability to rotate personnel as needed.

I assume that the council has discussed the nature of the joint relationship and all three agree on how and when it would work, as proximity could be a factor.

Yes, all three RFD and BFD agree the use of VTC FS during the hours of Mon-Fri, 8:00 to 16:00 hours with no holidays or summer breaks would be beneficial. RCFD may use will use during day time on a incident by incident basis. The instructor may be on campus in the evenings at time if there is a need during after-hours requests.

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VTCFS Northern will provide an updated certificate of insurance and a letter requesting permission to officially program RFD's fire frequency in the VTCFS mobile and portables.

4. Communications

RVFD Chief Collette presented the committee with a quote and update to the deaerating communications issue. RadioNorth has assessed all equipment and locations. It is determined that the issue is the antennas and the age of them at the tower on Rand Road. It was suggested to replace the antenna and coax cable. The cost for the replacement is \$5860.00. Once the project is complete, Randolph through the Capital Budget-Fire Equipment will pay the expenses and Brookfield FD will be invoiced for a quarter of the cost.

5. Auxiliary/Apparatus Equipment

There was nothing to discuss on equipment.

6. Other Business

- VTC will take RCFD's place in conducting fire prevention at the Randolph Elementary School.
- Bent Hill in Braintree is open for first responder equipment and light vehicle traffic
- Gilead Brook Road closure to through traffic for culvert replacement. September 22 to October 1, Access to area above road closure via Tatro Hill. RVFD will provide first response mutual aid to this section for Bethel FD. RVFD Chief Collette warned that there is a section prior to the Macintosh Rd / Gilead Rd intersection which will allow s for turn around, but once past that area it will be very difficult to turn change direction once at the intersection with fire equipment.
- Dry Hydrant on Peth Road needs painting and is operational
- Harlow Hill fire hydrant has been painted black; the hydrant does produce 600 GPM. The hydrant will sustain filling a truck but not a straight hose connection. The question is why was it painted black?
- Dry hydrant at Chelsea Mountain Road, home owner needs to be notified the hydrant is not operational and should be painted black for out of service.
- Hazardous Materials Response Plan Discussion-based exercise scheduled for 1800 hours on September 24, 2014 at the Bethel Town Hall is an HSEEP exercise and is required to have representatives from each RFD station in order to satisfy special conditions to the radio grant received through the State of Vermont.

7. Adjournment

At 2035 hours, on motion by RVFD Assistant Chief Thurston, seconded by ERFD Assistant Chief Taylor, the committee voted to adjourn until its next scheduled meeting of Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 1900 hours in Town Hall Conference Room A, 7 Summer Street. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Spaulding
LEPC #12 Rep