

Buffalo County Mutual Aid Association -MEETING MINUTES -

Amherst: Glen Brown
Buffalo County Sheriff: Dave Butler, Neil Miller
Elm Creek:
Emergency Management: Darrin Lewis
Gibbon: Lee Vohland
Good Samaritan:
Kearney: Eddie Baer

Kearney PD: None
Miller: Randy John, Wesley Quail
Pleasanton: None
Ravenna: Don Zimmer, Tim Lammers
Shelton: Christina Eutsler, Mark Choplin, Jim Perersen, Mark Lovelace
Guests: None

Meeting called to order by President Glen Brown.

MINUTES -- There were no official minutes for last month's meeting.

PROGRAM -- None

OLD BUSINESS --

Jeff Davis is still working on putting together another NIFRS training. Training dates will be announced in the near future.

Darrin reported on the Radios that were ordered last month from the 2006 Homeland Security Grant. 90 Portables have come in we are still waiting on the Mobiles to come in.

NEW BUSINESS --

It was brought up that we need to program the radios before they can be distributed. This is something that the Fire Departments need to have input in. A plan needs to be developed for the programming of the frequencies, what frequencies need to be in the radios, and how they will be zoned. It is important that we get this right the first time as it cost \$30.00 a radio to program it. It was suggested that the next Mutual Aid meeting be a planning meeting for the radio frequency programming, and that that meeting be held at the Law Enforcement Center where there is plenty of white board to record the information.

Darrin reported that it is very important for all Departments and Agencies to be NIMS compliant and to be able to prove that each Department or Agency is compliant. If each agency can not prove that they are compliant, there will no longer be any more Homeland Security funding for those agencies starting this year. Each Department or Agency must be able provide the certificates showing that each individual within that organization has taken the appropriate IS courses, IS-100, 200, 700, and 800. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency has said that the Federal Government will start coming out to the local levels to check for compliancy starting September of 2007.

Neil brought up that it's that time of year again (Burn Season) he just wanted to make sure that all the Fire Departments were on the same page with burn permits, warnings and citations. The Sheriff's Office would prefer to give a warning first for not having a burn permit, and then cite the following infractions but ultimately it will be up to the Fire Departments and Fire Chiefs.

Neil discussed the Communication infrastructure, updates and backup systems in place at this time. Neil reported that they have been very aggressive with in the last 3 to 4 years in replacing old infrastructure base station and back up systems. He felt that the communication system is in very good shape at this time. The oldest station on the air after the end of this year will only be 3 years old.

Dave and Neil both talked about the Cell phone GPS tracking that the Communication center can now do, due to the completion of Phase II. All cell phone companies are on board at this time except for one. It is hoped that the last cell company will be on board in a short time. Dave talked about the updates to the LG map so that if a cell phone call comes in to the Communication Center and it is not in our county but within the surrounding counties, we can now tell where that call is being made from. In the past without the mapping from the surrounding counties, the call showed up in an open space outside the Buffalo County map.

Darrin reported on Radio Protocol for the Weather Spotting, and that that protocol continue as it has in the past 2 years as well as how the National Weather Service is doing business. This last weekend of storms, the National Weather Service put all of Buffalo County in a tornado watch for 48 hours without any indication of a severe thunderstorm in sight. Normally when a Tornado Watch is issued, the Buffalo County Emergency Management will call out spotters, but in this case there were no spotters called out due to no activity. Because this is happening from the National Weather Service, Darrin reminded all that were in attendance that if it looks like severe weather in their area, self deployment is OK, just let Dispatch know that your spotters are out.

Dave reported on Incident Dispatch using the Mobile Response Unit. Dispatchers have been trained and the first deployment will be for the Game and Parks Outdoor Expo. Dave pointed out that if it looks like departments are going to be on a long term incident or large incident that the Incident Commander should make the request for the Response Unit to be deployed. Wes Quail asked if the request was made for the unit for an event in Miller, how long it would take to get to the Miller area with all the personnel needed to run the unit. Dave felt that within an hour time frame they could be on scene and set up.

Darrin reported that he had put in for mitigation money to get each of the communities within Buffalo County a mobile 80 to 100 KW generator for the Fire Departments. This generator would be used for at least three different things -- to provide back up power to the Fire Departments and the warning Sirens for the communities, provide back up power to the wells and lift station, and to provide back up power to shelters.

MEMBERS REPORT--

Amherst-- None
Buffalo County Sheriff-- None
Elm Creek--None
Emergency Management-- None
Gibbon-- None
Good Samaritan-- None
Kearney FD-- None
Miller-- None
Pleasanton-- None
Ravenna-- None
Shelton-- None
President-- Jeff Davis

NEXT MEETING -- Next meeting will be on June 12th, 2007 at 8:00 PM - location Law Enforcement Center Kearney.
Meeting adjourned-- 21:35

Respectfully submitted, Darrin Lewis