



COVID-19 CALL-IN MEETING MINUTES March 30, 2020

CALL TO ORDER by: President Pearson [30] @ 1900 hours.

ATTENDANCE of OFFICERS:

- ❑ President Pearson [30];
- ❑ 1st Vice President Edwards [16];
- ❑ 2nd Vice President Fox [7/8/9/10];
- ❑ Secretary Johnston [17].

CHIEFS/CHIEF OFFICERS PRESENT:

- ❑ 7/8/9/10, 11, 3/6/12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 2/21, 22, 23, 4/24, 25, 26, 28/32, 29 & 30.

ATTENDANCE of AGENCIES:

- ❑ DSFMO, DEMA, DNREC, DPH, DSFS, NCCVFA, NCCEP, NCCEMS, NCC Communications.

NCC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION: Acting Chief Mark Logemann [NCCPD/EMS].

- ❑ Closely monitoring their PPE use and burn rate;
- ❑ Peak is anticipated to be around Easter;
- ❑ Burn Rate of PPE – need to keep track of that for reimbursement;
- ❑ Implemented today, anytime that we are doing any procedure that can aerosolize, that being BVM, intubation, CPAP, nebulizer or suction = they will be doing the N95 masks regardless of patient information [symptom, COVID19 or not].
- ❑ Chief Harris [13]: what does EIDS stand for? Mark stated that it stands for 'emerging infectious disease surveillance'. There are four questions that the caller is asked. The EIDS is being used in place of the '6' card.

DELAWARE PUBLIC HEALTH: Diane Hainsworth

- ❑ They did receive more PPE to the warehouse. They are packaging them into: N95 masks, surgical masks, gloves & face shields & gowns if they are available. They purchased eye protection when you have enough sets of safety glasses & goggles 2 pairs on each ambulance.
- ❑ With seeing how much worse it is getting in New York City – they are using trash bags & not gowns. We do have rain ponchos which would function in place of a gown.
- ❑ Told that they are getting hand sanitizer in but will probably be in a 55-gallon drum, so if you come to get some, please bring an empty gallon jug;
- ❑ We should be up to date with the requests. If you have additional PPE requests, please get them into us and will get them back to you based on your call volume.

DELAWARE STATE FIRE SCHOOL: Patricia Fox [7/8/9/10]

- ❑ The office will continue to be closed until at least May 15th. They are not doing any classes. If you have students in the recruit class or EMT class, tell them not to stress. They are working on ways to have them graduate. They will graduate though;
- ❑ They have weekly meetings with the Director;
- ❑ Chief Bowerson [7/78/9/10] asked if tomorrow is still the deadline for State EMT recertification:
 - Patricia stated that it has been extended to June 30th. CPR cards will go with the extension of your National Registry and your State card. [CPR cards will be extended if they expire before the June 30th deadline].

NCC COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION: Chief Jeff Miller [NCC Communications].

- ❑ Did make the adjustments by using the '36' card as it was exhausting our ALS resources; given the ok from the medical director to abandon the 36 card;
- ❑ Want to run this change for a week and then make determination to continue it;
- ❑ Now processing each call by asking if they have a fever, shortness of breath & EIDS. Will be putting that information in the cad & will also verbalize it. Will advise if they get a 'yes' to three of the four questions and they you can prepare for patient contact as per your protocols;
- ❑ Everyone should have gotten their EIDS protocol and should have received the coversheet that has the simple explanation of what it is that they are trying to do;
- ❑ Other 911 centers were asking about us not asking sore throat and aches and pains? Jeff state that they will look at that along with the medical director and potentially make that change.
- ❑ If the patient is on the State watchlist, our dispatchers will caution EIDS, if they are on the watchlist, your crews will be notified by the verbiage of ' a person at this location is being monitored by Delaware'. All they get is an address and that goes on the list for 30 days.
- ❑ Mike Edwards [16] asked how long does it take to get that notification into the system? Jeff stated late afternoon.

DNREC: Jamie Bethard

- ❑ Thanked St. Francis for deconning about 50 BLS units to date.
- ❑ Contacted Christiana Care about another decon station at their facility. They would be using the Bio-mist that is on HazMat 16. It appears to be favorable, but we are awaiting their approval and additional information. We are thinking of putting it at the critical care transport area.
- ❑ President Pearson stated that our Committee also asked if there was place that ambulances could move from under the canopy and decon. That would be in the same area. The crews could wipe down what they need to and there would be red bags for them to put the wipe, etc., into.

NCC OFFICE of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Dave Carpenter [15]

- ❑ Question to Diane on the new testing process? There is a new process that if you have someone that is has come in contact or is symptomatic, they should call their primary care physician. If they don't have a primary care physician, they can call the Division of Public Health and they will be given an appointment and location to get tested – their test will be routed to the Public Health Lab. Mike Edwards asked for the phone number & Diane stated that she will get it for us;
- ❑ Had a couple of staff members that were put up in the Clarion Hotel but food service not available. We are working on a solution to this issue;
- ❑ John Guzzo [14] asked how many rooms do you have and what is the criteria for obtaining a hotel room? Dave stated that they have a block of 8 rooms and if the crew is exposed and they need to isolate and they are told to isolate by DPH, they then can get access to a hotel room. Call DPH for whether they need to be isolated and also call Dave Carpenter so they can start planning for them;

- ❑ Homeless people that have COVID19, we are working on alternative housing site.
- ❑ Port-o-potties throughout the Counties for them to use since the restaurants and stores are closed.
- ❑ The form to recover your costs – Dave will be sending out to the Chiefs. It needs to be filled out by the person that has the access to the grant portal for the DEMA reimbursement recovery money for the emergency declaration;
- ❑ John Guzzo [14] we have to work on getting our own supplies. What is NCC doing to help us so that we all aren't fighting each other for the same supplies. NCC is acquiring the surgical masks and is checking into the delivery of them.
- ❑ Is the hospital replacing our N95 masks? Mark Logemann stated that the hospitals will not be replacing the masks.
- ❑ Is anyone is reusing N95 masks? Do we use them as well? Mark I – no restock

NEW CASTLE COUNTY: Ken Dunn

- ❑ NCC recognizes the PPE needs and limited supply;
- ❑ Ken Dunn [NCC]: Tuesday night there will be emergency ordinances that will be introduced into Council for several hundred-thousand-dollar range to purchase PPE needs to help everyone and will include for the fire service. Will include gowns, booties, head covering, gloves, face shields, surgical masks, N95, hand sanitizer and wipes.
- ❑ Call Ken with any emergency needs and he will see what he can do as the County Executive does not want anyone in the 1st responder world going unprotected.
- ❑ John Guzzo [14]: Can we put a burn rate list on DMRS? Diane will have someone look into that first thing tomorrow.
- ❑ County Executive has volunteered to have the County stockpile the items – let Ken know if that is what we would like us to do;
- ❑ County Executive has authorized waivers on the Auditor requirements;
- ❑ First or second week in April, you will see the permit fee money in your accounts in about \$34,000. All other money distribution will continue as scheduled [impact fees, etc.];
- ❑ Have been in contacts with a Smyrna Distillery [Painted Stave] is making hand sanitizer. April 4th is distribution date for us;
- ❑ Have instituted a thermometer policy at the 911 Center and have ordered 4,000 thermometers that are a one-time use that will be offered out to the fire service as well. They are going with anyone with a temperature of 100.4 they are told to go home. Jeff Miller [NCC 911] stated that the 911 Center is closed to everyone except for essential employees as they cannot afford to have the 911 Center employees to become ill with the virus. Kent &/or Sussex County call centers are not capable of handling the amount of calls that NCC gets should we be in a manpower shortage;
- ❑ Members that are put in a hotel, the County will cover meals at \$56.00 peridium per day.

DEMA: Director Schall

- ❑ State has ordered 300,000 pieces of equipment on Saturday and should be in shortly;
- ❑ Daycares are now closed unless they are servicing essential workers;
- ❑ People that are out of State that come into Delaware will be required to be on a 14-day self-quarantine;
- ❑ Surge capacity at the hospitals is 2 +/- weeks out per the models;
- ❑ Other facilities are being looked at to be used as hospitals;
- ❑ Status on ventilators is 'ok' for now as we had a stash on hand, and they are now at Bloom Energy to be refurbished for use [32 right now with another 100 and the State has ordered another 50]
- ❑ Supply chain – they are restocking;
- ❑ Traffic is down 30 to 50%;
- ❑ Reimbursement paperwork / grants – please keep track of what you are using, and the process will be

tedious;

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- ❑ Chief Harris [13]: Childcare facilities. AJ stated that they will open only to take care of children of first responders and essential personnel;
- ❑ John Guzzo [14] asked if the reimbursement form would be done at the end of all of this and not anytime soon. AJ stated that you might here of a 30-day lock in & FEMA is awaiting on that information.

NCC IT: Mike Hojnicky

- ❑ The laptops being brought into the County for service, please clean them with sanitary wipes before you bring them in. They will turn it around as soon as they can;
- ❑ The deadline pushed back to get them done;
- ❑ Jeff Miller: the patches will require another restart and will let everyone know ahead of time.

COVID19 COMMITTEE: 1st VP Edwards [16]

- ❑ Committee consist of: Chair Mike Edwards [16], Chief Harris [13], Chief Willis [20], Chief Sokira [14], Assistant Chief Lamborn [19], Chief Trincia Jr [4/24], Chief Schoeffler [29], Chief Bowerson [7/8/9/10 & Chief Cowperthwait [3/6/12];
- ❑ The Sussex County plan will not work for us;
- ❑ Committee met last week, and we have sent out a questionnaire that we need your feedback. We have received all but 5 back;
- ❑ Decon areas: Awaiting Christiana Care & St. Francis is doing already;
- ❑ Medical assists – how to handle;
- ❑ Would you be willing to share staff names should we lose 40% of our staffing [4 have answered yes];
- ❑ Chief Clark [26] asked where to send the list of staffing = send to Mike Edwards @ Eng165ine@gmail.com;
- ❑ Chief Shaw [22] asked what is the end goal of the committee is? Operations? Mike stated that they are looking at responses, etc.

President Pearson [30]:

- ❑ Thanked everyone for being on the call;
- ❑ We may be duplicating emails;
- ❑ Chief Shaw [22], we had an exposure on Friday. Is there any way we can draft a policy of what to do in this situation? Mike Edwards stated that they will get something together;
 - Patricia Fox: Has been working to update the infectious control contact list for DPH. Diane Hainsworth has sent out a procedure and if you haven't received it, check with that person or contact Patricia to see who is on that list;
 - Diane Hainsworth: they can't tell that there has been an exposure to your personnel unless you tell DPH.
- ❑ Chief Shaw [22]: stated that he received a call from the medical examiner, are they testing the deceased? Diane Hainsworth stated that occurred since a couple of people were exposed. Because the patient was treated at the hospital the day before, there was a high suspicion and she asked that they run a test. It is not done on everybody. If DPH knows of an incident, they will ask for whatever testing they can get.
- ❑ Chief Clark [26]: with the high rates of cases in the nursing homes, are any of the Chiefs changing their policies? Mike Edwards stated that EMS mandates full PPE.
 - Chief Woodard [25]: they are wearing full PPE. We also need to talk about EFD an notifying responding units of potential issues. He has put out a policy that anytime there is known quarantine, firefighters are to wear full SCBA. We need to prepare our firefighters as well as our

EMS for exposures. Mike Edwards stated that the committee is looking at that as well.

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- ❑ Chief Schoeffler [29]: asked Chief Shaw [22] if he is looking for a policy for what people are doing door to door on the ambulance or for the exposures. Chief Shaw [22] stated that we need a policy for everything. What do we do if we have an exposure? Chief Schoeffler [29] stated that he will send everything that we have on exposures and contacts numbers. We need to get on the same page regarding door screenings, ensuring that all of our providers understand that when we say PPE, they know what that means. The N95 needs to be fit tested in order to work properly.

NCCVFA: President Watson [NCCVFA President]

- ❑ Heard drop off location has been set up in Middletown;
- ❑ Do at each fire house? 11 & 13 are ok with doing it;
- ❑ You can use whatever the people drop off for your own department and if you don't want to use it, Debbie will advise on a number to call;
- ❑ Contact Jim if you want to be a drop off location.

DATE, PLACE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

President Pearson [30] stated that we will have additional call-in meetings like this in the very near future.

- ***Post meeting: Next call in meeting to be on Monday, April 6th @ 1900 hours. An email has been sent out regarding this.***

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 2017 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

NEW CASTLE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Charles E. Johnston

Charles E. Johnston
Secretary