

**TOWN OF HARRISBURG
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Harrisburg Town Hall
January 25, 2018
9:00 am**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Debbie Rogers Lowery, Tihisha Sharif, Janet Rackley, Boone Linker, Artie Craig, Tom Polito, Adam Abernathy, Larry Aldridge, Jason Patrick, Bryan Dunn, Jeff Williams

Meeting called to order.

Tihisha reviewed the purpose and functions of the Safety Committee for those who had not attended a meeting before.

Incident Reviews:

Review of incidents for the current fiscal year to determine preventability: Reviewed most last month, but tabled Fire Department incidents until this month.

- Firefighter responded to cardiac arrest due to overdose. Administered Narcan and at some point the patient became combative and firefighter was exposed to body fluids to the face. Questions were asked concerning required eye protection in this type of case, and Chief Dunn stated that there is face protection available but they are not required to wear it on all responses to this type of call. They normally do not wear it unless there is an obvious need. Determination: Non-preventable.
- Firefighter was playing football at the station and broke his finger. There were no rules in place at that time to say this was not an allowed activity. That has been changed following this incident. Determination: Non-preventable.
- Firefighter was taking the ramp out of the back of the smoke house when it slid and pinched his finger, and it took off some skin. He was bandaged, but there was no medical treatment necessary. Recommendation for the future is for everyone to be more familiar with equipment and the dangers. Determination: Preventable.
- Firefighter in recruit school was participating in ladder training and the ground ladder moved while he was transitioning from the ground ladder to the roof ladder, pinning his arm to the roof. There were instructors on site and in control of the situation. It may be that the ladder was not properly anchored, but since this happened in recruit school in Concord, we really don't know the cause. Determination: Non-preventable for our employee.
- Firefighters were participating in hose training when one tripped over a hose and rolled his ankle. He heard something pop and had severe swelling. Captain Craig stated that he

was not present at this particular training so they need to speak with the Captain who was on-site to get further information before we can determine preventability. Determination on this incident is tabled until next month.

- Firefighter participating in SCBA training on old Phillip Morris property. The training was about to wrap up and he went back in to watch through the thermal imaging camera. While there he started feeling dizzy and sick, and his vision became blurry. He passed out and was taken to the ER for evaluation. The determination was that he was dehydrated and the department is now encouraging hydration beginning at least one day before all scheduled training to avoid this issue in the future. Determination: Non-preventable.
- Fire vehicle was found to have dents in the door and running board on the passenger side. Looked as if someone backed into it, but there was no evidence of when or where it happened. Determination: Non-preventable. The department may begin daily vehicle checks.
- Firefighters were going to Aldi and backed the truck into a metal pillar. There should have been a spotter in place when the truck was in reverse. Determination: Preventable.
- When responding to a possible structure fire, firefighter failed to remove the airline that was connected to the truck. As he pulled out of the station, the airline broke away. He pulled over and gathered what was left hanging on the truck and then proceeded to the call. Employee did not follow proper procedure. Determination: Preventable.
- Firefighter was participating in hose and pump training and had to re-position the truck. While doing so, he side swiped a pole and broke a lens cover on the front bumper. Determination: Preventable. Due to the fact that this is the second incident for this firefighter, he has been suspended from driving the vehicles for 30 days.

Safety Rechecks:

Received pictures of corrections from the Fire Department and they did a great job handling this.

OSHA 300 Logs:

These are due January 31 and have to be posted by February 1. Debbie will be working on those for us.

Safety Awards:

Debbie will look to see who qualifies for safety awards once the OSHA 300 logs are completed. NCDOL offers safety awards each year to departments with injury rates under a certain level for their industry. Applications come out in February of each year and Debbie will take care of the application process for us. Departments must have at least 10 people to qualify for the awards. They hold a banquet to present the awards, and Tihisha stated that she puts money in the budget for the committee to attend the banquet.

Competent Person Training:

Debbie will be conducting Competent Person Training at the Belmont Fire Department on February 8. Encouraged us to send any employees who need this training.

NCLM Safety Grants:

Debbie again went over the requirements for applying for the safety grants and Tihisha gave a deadline of February 1st to get all requests to her for review.

The next meeting will be held on February 22, 2018 at 9:00 am.

Meeting adjourned.

Debbie Lowery, Safety Consultant

Larry Aldridge, Safety Officer