



Meeting held March 12, 2008  
At Pitlik's Beach Resort

Oneida County Lieutenant Jim Wood and Dive Team Leader Bill Nickels attended the meeting to update members on the progress of the Oneida County Dive Team. The dive team has a total of 10 members spread out throughout the county. Membership consists of sheriff deputies, firefighters, and general public; they are still looking to fill a few spots. The dive team will provide rescue and recovery services. The dive team will need assistance at scenes from area fire departments to speed the rescue process. They are planning on setting up training with fire departments so they are aware of procedures, terminology and what role the fire department will provide to the dive team. Anyone wishing to join the dive team will have to fill out an application and go thru a interview. If any of your members of your department are willing to join the dive team. They may contact Jim Wood or Bill Nickels at the Oneida County Sherriff Department by calling 361-5100.

**Approval of Minutes:** from January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

**Report from Treasurer:** Saving account \$1,222.72 Checking is \$262.18. A check was written out to Tom White for office supplies.

**Committee:**

**Communications:** Held a meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Discussed the request for two pages for fire departments/first responders and the dispatchers stated they are giving two pages but due to traffic there may be a delay in the second page. Discussion followed on notification of fire departments for severe weather. A request was discussed from the Minocqua dispatch area that Fire Departments do NOT get paged between the hours of 10:00 pm to 6:00am for severe thunderstorm watches. They would still be paged if a severe thunderstorm warning and tornado warning are issued. All felt that this would be acceptable and will follow that request out of Oneida Dispatch as well.

**Sheriff Department:** Nothing to report.

**DNR:** Nothing to report.

**LEPC:** Held a meeting and updated a few procedures and the status of membership. Changed our policy on meeting and will now meet twice a year unless an issue warrants a meeting.

**Nicolet Collage:** The Nicolet New letter will be sent out 4 times a year. Planning on getting a website. Working on updating training on vehicle extrication to include hybrid

cars. This class will be held June 14, 2008 and is a 22 hour class, If interested contact Lynn or Nicolet Collage. Looking for participants for an entry level firefighter class in Woodruff, Tomahawk, and Rhinelander. The collage will now charge your department for books for classes. It is a good idea to keep the books for other members of your department.

Vilas County is planning on doing a flash over class with the aid of the flash over trailer. Not sure of the location and the date. Any of your members wishing to take the class please contact Lynn at the collage.

Planning on doing a RIT class and refresher. Lynn will let departments know when this is going to happen. If you have any questions regarding any classes. Please feel free to contact Lynn.

**WPS:** Regarding the CO calls. Your department will not be charged to have a WPS truck come out to the location if the Fire Department request a response (Please Note) *On March 19<sup>th</sup> Michael send Tom an e-mail regarding the co policy. This e-mail will be posted with these minutes.*

If your department will like to do a power line down class, Please contact Michael. WPS does donate vehicles to non profit groups, how ever there is a lot of red tape, if your department will like more information contact them.

**EMS:** None.

**Emergency Management:** Sent out emergency response plans to area township chairman. Need to get updates of trailer parks and youth camps in your township or any other special needs areas. Please put this into your packet when the town chairman returns them.

Storm spotting class location and times are posted on Emergency management's website.

Discussed the switch over plan from old radio system to the new system in June or July, the consultants are reviewing the county plan and we hope to have the ok shortly. There might be some snags during the switch over and Ken K. advised fire departments to come up with a back up plan such as the old ten call phone system. Please make sure your radios are programmed for the new system as they will not work. Will have more information regarding the date of the switch over and what the frequencies are going to be.

If your department has a change in chiefs, please contact emergency management so they can update there records.

Will be conducting the state wide tornado drill on April 24, 2008.

**MABAS:** There was state wide meeting held in Wisconsin Dells. There was a MABAS card work night held in April at the law enforcement center for our area. Plans were to ask Vilas County to come to the meeting for the card training. The next step is to develop your department's card and contacts with the mutual aid units you would like to utilize.

We realize that the card process will be the most time intensive but continue to work on them.

**Old Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:** Benjamin Briggs is the new chief for Monico Fire department. Wayne K. state the DNR grant program will be ending in May or July 1, 2008.

Start a new committee for better turn out for the meetings, Try to get more departments to come to the meeting. One ideal was to send out information to the department via an e-mail. If the departments can just send a representative or Asst Chief to the meeting that would be great. This will keep all department informed as to what is going on at the meetings.

Elections were held and they are as follows, the president is Brian Gehrig and the Vice president and treasure is Dave Holland. A motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> on both to keep their positions as follows. Tom White was appointed as secretary for the association.

Motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn.

**NOTE FROM SECRETARY:** The association now has an e-mail address it is [ocfesa@charter.net](mailto:ocfesa@charter.net).

Tom White  
Secretary

The next meeting will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Woodruff Town Hall/ Fire Station starting at 7:00pm. This will be a non-dinner meeting. We will review the County Radio frequency switch over plan and Monty Timm from the Oneida County Firefighters will present letter of understanding for the use of the Fire Safety House. Very important meeting prior to summer break, Please attend

Reviewed BG

## POLICY ON CARBON MONOXIDE CALLS

**History:** Carbon monoxide (CO) in buildings started becoming a problem in the mid-70s when buildings began getting sealed tighter due to a rise in fuel costs. Prior to this, leaking windows or doors and poorly insulated buildings allowed fresh air in to help dilute CO if it was present. Utilities nation wide lead the efforts to identify CO problems and make the situation safe. However CO is a product of poor combustion, poorly or non-venting appliances, or equipment installation issues. It is not a result of the type of fuel purchased. Thus even though Utilities took the lead on CO investigations, there are no codes or regulations requiring Utilities to do so. Thus thru the 80s and 90s utility CO policies began to change to educate the customer more so than to respond to a CO concern. CO is a society problem that can be caused by the improper combustion of any fuel (wood, coal, fuel oil, kerosene, propane, natural gas, even wax in candles) not just a natural gas issue. During this period many Utilities worked to train and assist local fire depts on how to identify CO and eliminate the source.

**Today's position - WPS:** WPS believes customers are better served by purchasing a reliable CO detector that will monitor their indoor air for the presence of CO 24 hours/day, 365 days/year than they are by having anyone (Utility, Fire Dept, or Heating Dealer) come to do a one time check. We recommend CO detectors with a digital readout so customers can monitor CO levels as conditions in their home change. This helps them understand what's causing the CO and how to eliminate the source. CO detectors identify a potential CO problem long before the customer has symptoms, which is the best time to take corrective action. Over the last 40-50 years, smoke detectors worked much the same way to warn customers that there was a fire when the customer was unaware of it or when the customer was sleeping to alert them of the eminent danger. We need to continue to work with public officials such as Fire Depts to help educate the general public on how to protect themselves and their families from CO dangers.

**WPS's billing policy:** Basically our policy goes like this; If WPS receives a call where the customer suspects a CO problem, they are asked if they feel ill. If so, they are referred to seek medical attention, if they are not ill, they are referred to call their dealer of choice to check out their equipment. WPS does not respond to these calls. If a CO alarm is going off and a customer calls WPS, we will respond but the customer is billed for this at a rate of \$40 Mon-Fri from 7:00- 17:00 and \$80 outside of those hours. WPS will also assist 1st responders free of charge if they remain on site and ask for our assistance. WPS discourages our response to non-WPS gas customers. We will respond as a last resort to these customers, however the billing is charged at the T&M rate from the time we get the call until the time we get back home.

As you can see, it is in the customer's best interest to purchase a reliable CO detector (\$30-\$45) to 1) receive early detection before symptoms show, and 2) from a cost standpoint of \$35 vs a one time check for \$40 or \$80. In addition to these costs, the customer still need to repair whatever caused the CO. Early detection, is the key to customer safety and is the critical factor here. Without a CO detector customers generally won't make a call until they are sick and suspect CO poisoning or worse yet, don't consider CO a cause and they just stay home until they "get better" and lose conscienceness and never make a call to Police, Fire, Dealer, or the Utility.

### **Michael Cleven**

Manager Customer Service  
Wisconsin Public Service  
Minocqua, WI  
Office 715-358-4410