

**St. Lawrence County EMS Advisory Board**  
**November 22, 2011**

Meeting called to order at 1904 hours with President Chris Adams in chair.

Members present: Carol Muench, Richard McDougall, Phyllis McDougal, Ken Gardner, Donald Thompson, Curtis Newtown, Chris Adams, Grover Katzman, Kevin Wells,

Members excused: Jean McClear, Storm Cilley, and Wayne Love

Members absent: Ron Hance, legislative representative

Visitors: Craig Ballard,

Due to lack of a quorum, there were no official decisions noted in the May minutes.

**Presentation**

Dale Barker - Dale is the local FASNY representative who gave a presentation regarding college scholarships being offered by FASNY for current and future fire persons who wish to attend a community college. Dale reported this grant totals an available \$4.2 million dollars for volunteer firefighters. The individual grants are available for the next 4 years and will pay up to 80 credit hours but only if attending a community college. Some of those colleges in the North Country would be Jefferson Community College, North Country Community College, and Adirondack Community College. At this time, FASNY is interested in targeting the high schools with the hopes this will help with recruitment and retention of new members for local fire departments. The goal of FASNY is to recruit approximately 16,000 new members over this 4-year period. Dale also state for the cost of \$15 per year, there is available a \$10,000 Accidental Death and Dismembership which will double if there is a line-of-duty death. He reminded the members of the Advisory Board that FASNY does sponsor an EMS seminar weekend which is usually the first weekend in March.

Donnie Morrell – Mr. Morrell made a presentation regarding the utilization of Air Rescue in St. Lawrence. He pointed out the two routes of travel are south toward Syracuse or East to Burlington and that utilization is not being done enough. A helicopter coming up from Syracuse has a refueling problem if it comes to this county but the one from Saranac Lake can go any place in the county. Another concern is communications as one cannot get in direct

contact with either dispatch or ambulance service. One question that was asked by Donnie was “Is it best to take a severe trauma patient to a community hospital and delay transport to a trauma center by several hours or start heading south or east and meet a helicopter en-route and be that much closer to a trauma center?” Some of the concerns were summarized as to:

1. Education as to utilization of air medical services
2. 7am to 11pm are the only hours of operation out of Saranac Lake
3. Need to have an increase in requests for helicopter service by field EMS
4. Form a subcommittee for helicopter education

Two handouts were passed about to those members present. One was the Massena Rescue Squad’s SOG for requesting Air Medical Services and the other contained copies of our NCEMS protocols that included “Suspected Stroke”, “On-Scene Air Medical”, “Major Medical Triage Criteria”, “Fibrinolytic Therapy Checklist for Acute Ischemia Stroke” and DOH Guideline for scene response by air medical.

### **NCEMS Program Agency/REMAC**

Ann Smith absent – no report

REMAC – Curtis Newtown reported a committee is being organized to come up with priority dispatch codes.

### **Office of Emergency Services**

1. Emergency calls were as follows for the months of September and October:

	<u>EMS</u>	<u>Fire</u>
May	601	205
June	666	257
July	674	275
Aug.	690	223
Sept.	639	201
Oct.	682	201

2. Re: emergency calls being texted. Craig stated this is not a reality as yet. There is work that needs to be done on the CAD system. This means tearing it down for approximately 1 week so as to put in fax capability. After this, texting will be the next issue to tackle.

3. There was a discussion regarding the disasters associated with the destruction caused by tropical storms Irene and Diane. Crain stated the state mutual aid system was enacted but there were no requests for services for any St. Lawrence County departments. The BEMS is a statewide plan but the OFP plan moves around this and asks for FD ambulances.
4. Re: CON for Potsdam Rescue. Craig stated he has not received anything from the state as yet giving PVRS approval,
5. Reported that Clarkson University now has an EMS First Response team.
6. Gave thanks to Sheriff Wells for the use of AEDs used by his road deputies.
7. The County MCI trailer is now being stored at Madrid Rescue Squad building.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business**

1. The following people are up for reappointment: Jean McClear, Kevin Wells, Ken Gardner, Wayne Love, Curtis Newtown. Dick McDougal moved that all the names up for reappointment be submitted to the County Legislators.
2. Helicopter Committee – Appointed to this committee were Ken Gardner, Grover Katzman and Ann Smith

Next monthly meeting will be January 24, 2012 at 7pm. At this time with no more new business, Craig Ballard made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Curtis Newtown and carried at 2105 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald D. Thompson  
Secretary