

Craig Burkle  
Chairman

Carlton Fritz  
Vice Chairman  
**Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board**

Mary Ann Drobysch  
Secretary

**Date:** March 29, 2021

**Meeting called to order at:** 7:35 pm Via Zoom

**Meeting is unofficial due to the lack of a quorum.**

**Attendance:** 6 out of 15 members present

**Minutes:** Accepted as read

Bethel: Peter Maltese	P
Callicoon: Jim Doughty	A
Cochecton: Jason Knack	P
Delaware: Tom Dent	P
Fallsburg: Eric Ackerly	A
Forestburgh: Zachary Petrowsky	A
Fremont: George Conklin	A
Highland: Ken Anderson	P
Liberty: Carlton Fritz	A
Lumberland: David Hook	A
Mamakating: Mark Wharton	P
Neversink: Gary Frear	A
Rockland: Chris Tuleweit	A
Thompson: Chris Bastone	A
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

Minutes from the previous meeting, January 2021, were read.

**Coordinators Report:**

Covid numbers were down but have increased again. Currently 254 active cases, 14 hospitalizations and 615 in quarantine. Please take care, wear masks and social distance.

The County PPE bid was sent to all chiefs and fire districts. You can piggyback off the County bid.

Classes at the training center are on pause due to a confirmed case of covid. They could possibly open back up in May. There is some online training still going on. June will have the interior portion of FF1.

Large gatherings, such as Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day, Easter and other holidays look to be problematic and could increase the spread of Covid.

The 4 county Zoom meetings are going well, 110 to 210 attendees each week.

The review and update of the mutual aid plan and the arson task force plan are almost done. They will be brought here for review before being forwarded on.

The weekend at the Fire Academy is still on track.

There was a 21-year-old that passed away at the Fire Academy, his death is being investigated.

There have been 9 applications for 2 positions for State Fire Instructors.

There are 2 new skills instructors, they can assist in basic classes.

There have been meetings of the recruitment and retention committee and another will be held shortly. October is recruitment and retention month.

Rick has obtained some grants and other funding for a rehab team. They have received 17 applications and have met last week and will meet again next month. They hope to be online by July or August. This has been in the works for over a year and will be able to help with large scale incidents, not just fire, can be used for water rescues, police and search and rescues. They will have additional equipment such as tents, cots, medical equipment, flashlights, as well as some water and Gatorade. This is not to replace EMS, but to act as a supplement. Applications have been received from both Fire and EMS personnel.

An email will be going out to all the chiefs on workman's comp. Crystal Run **does not** take workman's comp. You will need to go to Garnett (Catskill Regional or Orange). You will need to check with any doctor you are going to see to make sure they accept it. If there are any questions call John.

Please bear in mind that there are portable repeaters available, but they will take some time to deploy to an incident, typically 45 – 60 minutes. Portable radios are also available. They have been used before in the Neversink Gorge and they worked well.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Arson Task Force:** There have been quite a few structure fires so far this year. They all have been either accidental or a determined cause.

**Radio:** Alex is sorry he could not make this meeting.

Sean Gill is the new dispatcher in training and John Sherwood has completed his training.

Motorola has been working on some of the audio issues.

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**Communications:** None

**Old Business:** Cari will draft a letter to the supervisors and legislators regarding the poor attendance by some members of this board. I will have the attendance for the past 2 years available for him.

**New Business:** The SCVFA will be holding a virtual memorial ceremony this year on May 2 for fallen firefighters from 2019 and 2020. Please send any pictures and credentials and contact the families. The ceremony will be taped, and drone footage will be available. A flag has already been purchased. Please contact Chet Smith with the information, even if there are none. He has been trying to contact all departments and it would save him some work.

**Good and Welfare.** None

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:00

**Next Meeting May 24, 2021 7:30pm  
at the Government Center**