



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Search and Rescue Board

Attendance	DATE	Tuesday, April 4, 2023	
	TIME	10:00 a.m.	
	METHOD	Zoom/Teleconference: 1-669-219-2599 Meeting ID# 686 738 8625	
	RECORDER	Sherrean Whipple	
Appointed Voting Member Attendance			
Member Name	Present	Member Name	Present
Joshua Fisher - Chair	X	Carol Lynn	ABS
Eric Antle	X	Matthew Marlow	X
Dan Coverley	X	Patty Polish - Co-Chair	X
Richard Fenlason	X	1 st Lt. Alex Pinto	X
Doug Fisher	X	Billy Samuels	X
Legal/Administrative Support Attendance			
Representative		Entity	Present
Rodney Wright		SAR Coordinator–Nevada Division of Emergency Management	X
Samantha Ladich		Senior DAG – Nevada Office of the Attorney General	X
Sherrean Whipple		Admin – Nevada Division of Emergency Management	X

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Joshua Fisher, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Sherrean Whipple. Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair Joshua Fisher opened the first period of public comment for discussion. There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chair Joshua Fisher called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the June 21, 2022 SAR Board meeting. Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, made the first motion to

approve the minutes. Eric Antle, Nevada Division of Forestry, seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. SAR Board Membership

With the retirement of Steve Morris Jr., the SAR Board welcomed Sgt. Matthew Marlow from Las Vegas Metro Search and Rescue. Richard Fenlason, Nevada Emergency Medical Systems Program, announced his retirement after 23 years. Mr. Fenlason's last day will be the first week of July. Mr. Fenlason recommends Kevin Haywood as a recommended replacement. Per NRS, David Fogerson, Chief of Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security, will review and make his appointment.

Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, welcomed Sgt. Marlow to the SAR Board. Mr. Samuels added that Sgt. Marlow brings a dual asset to the SAR Board when it comes to his capabilities with the terrain of the mountain and his ability to search and rescue. Sgt. Marlow thanked Mr. Samuels.

5. Interoperability Channels

The dedicated channels for the list of NiVFOG channels, VTech 10, 11 -14, then Vmed 28, 29, Vela 31, 32, and VR16, are the recommended minimum channels for other SAR groups that come into another county to use to coordinate for responses.

Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, asked if the channels are able to be patched and monitored? Mr. Samuels is concerned since the fire departments in the valley, won't have those channels preprogrammed into their radios. The south is on SNAC and Metro Comm.

Richard Burger, Department of Public Safety, the SNAC and Metro Comm are 700, 800, P25 - phase two and phase one systems. The proposed frequencies are VHF. On the state side, they use the Harris EX System, and they don't currently have the capabilities to patch the frequencies from the state radio system to the VHF system. Mr. Burger is not sure if Metro or SNAC have that capability either. Mr. Samuels will defer to their communications specialists.

Patty Polish, Lyon County SAR, asked how is this information going to be disseminated to the counties? Rodney Wright stated that if the Board makes the approves the channels, then the NiVFOG will be updated and sent out to the counties.

Doug Fisher, Elko County Sheriff's Office, asked if other agencies are using the National SAR channels? Richard Burger, advised the Board that NSAR has been changed to NSAR-16, and depending on the county, the difference is the tone is different and would standardize the frequencies and tones throughout the state.

Patty Polish, moved to approve the 10 channels. Richard Burger, made a correction that there are 12 channels, which are duplicates of Vmed 28 and 29, there are no tones on these channels, they

are labeled NV cord 1 and 2. DEM/HS has those frequencies and uses them for air medical operations.

Patty Polish, modified her motion for the approval of the 12 channels.

Eric Antle, Nevada Division of Forestry, seconded the motion.

All were in favor and motion passed.

6. Typing SAR Resources in Nevada

Chair Josh Fisher made a suggestion in the last meeting that a statewide typing of resources, be completed. Using CalOES as an example, but not exact, that when a request is made internally or externally from another state, that the typing is similar across the state. Example, if a request for a Type 1 Back Country personnel is requested, that would mean all those involved in the request within the state, are aware what that request is and what is necessary to fill that request. Chair Fisher isn't saying that the smaller agencies or counties, have to have those particular resources, it just helps makes those who are receiving the request, that the system is standardized.

Rodney Wright, DEM/HS, commented that back in 2015. This may have been the last time typing of the state's resources were noted. Typing would ask each counties SAR to make a list and identify what resources they have available. Mr. Wright continued that this would not require the counties to make a commitment to send out those resources, but it would allow the state to identify their shortfalls and where the state needs to concentrate on the typing of resources.

Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, asked what kind of typing will be asked for. Rodney Wright, what we are looking for is what the actual SAR capabilities and assets has in their possession. Not outlining every fire and rescue equipment. Mr. Samuels stated that he will work with Matt Marlow to supply a list of those capabilities and assets.

Sheriff Dan Coverley, Douglas County, stated that there needs to be an agreement on the language used and the language needs to be our own. Rodney Wright stated that SAR will use the FEMA resourcing typing library, and use those definitions, which is the national standard and that is what most states are using. Dough Fisher, agreed that using the FEMA resource typing library would make it clear. Patty Polish, would like to include the typing of the radio capabilities.

7. SAR Training Opportunities

Rodney Wright, DEM/HS, presented training opportunities that they can bring to the state. The first training opportunity would be the Basic Inland SAR course the is offered by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Mr. Wright stated that he would like to bring this course out to the rural counties and is tentatively scheduled for April of 2024 in Elko. This is a 2-day event with a TTX on the 2nd day. This is a seat restriction, but they will offer day one, a virtual option for those who can't make it. The course instruction will outline resources, capabilities, mission types, the FAA, distress beacons, overdue aircraft, search theory, and mission operations. It will also discuss

legal issues pertaining to SAR. Once sign-up information has been worked out, this will be released to SAR and passed down to the counties.

The second SAR training opportunity is a course offered by Texas A&M Engineering. Rodney Wright stated that the Wide Area Search PER-213 course is a 3-day, and it is 24 hours course. The focus will be on preparedness, response, search management, planning, mapping, and other hands-on exercises. The cost for this course is free to the state, but there needs to be a site to host this course. Once a host has been designated, then a date will be determined, but won't be scheduled until 2024 due to other states already have scheduled this training.

Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, asked if anyone attended this course to see if the training can cater to the state of Nevada. If not, it would be nice to send a SAR Board member to attend the training to see if the course is applicable to Nevada. Rodney Wright stated that this will be discussed.

Additionally, there are four online courses that are free and can be taken by any member of the SAR Board or SAR community. Rodney Wright, also wanted to have a grant discussion to find grants that help pay for training and instructors for SAR. Mr. Wright is still seeking the grant information and asked if anyone on the SAR knows of this kind of opportunity, to let him know and he will research it further.

8. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC)

Rodney Wright, DEM/HS, stated that counties have approached with questions of asking for airport resources. Mr. Wright stated that any county asking for a resource for AFRCC, must go through the state Duty Officer, and they will make that initial phone call, letting them know that it is an approved request. The Duty Officer will take the basic information and talk with AFRCC and give them that on the ground point of contact for an incident. This way DEM doesn't act as a third-party information source, that could lead to wrong information being relayed.

Rodney Wright, continues the Duty Officer follows a form that contains three questions that the AFRCC asks. If any of these three questions that are marked in red on the form, are marked, the AFRCC will not be able to assist. These three questions are; is the subject involved in a criminal matter, is the subject a danger to self and others, or if the subject doesn't want to be found.

Rodney Wright stated that there is other information that is listed on the form that the AFRCC will be asking directly are; what kind of resource are you asking for – mapping, air patrol, helicopter capabilities. The other service that the AFRCC can do is a cell phone forensic, but there is finite of time that the cell phone providers will hold. AT&T will dump information after 72 hours, and no cell phone forensic can be used. Other cell phone providers have a max of 48 hours. Mr. Wright wanted the SAR to understand that if cell phone forensics is needed, the sooner it is requested, the better.

Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, advised using IMAC/EMAC, Civil Air Patrol, or Las Vegas Metro has a quicker response time. Rodney Wright, added that this was asked if AFRCC is asked to help in an incident, and that local resources will be used first.

9. Public Comment

Chair Joshua Fisher opened discussion on the second period of public comment. There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

Chair Joshua Fisher called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Billy Samuels, Clark County Fire Department, made the first motion to adjourn the meeting. Patty Polish, Lyon County Search and Rescue, made the second motion. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting was adjourned.