

Manatee County Fire Marshals Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of June 11th, 2024
Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue Admin Building, 10am

Members Present:

Fire Marshal Rodney Kwiatkowski – WMFR
Deputy Fire Marshal Marc Massella – CHFR
Fire Marshal Michael Blake- EMFR
Deputy Fire Marshal Leticia Ownbey – PFD
Bureau Chief Andrell Miller - NRPD
Bureau Administrator Jalex Leissler – WMFR

Members Not Present:

Deputy Fire Marshal Frank Meola – SMFR
Fire Marshal Jane Herrin – LKFD
Fire Marshal Chris Melser – BFD

Guests Present:

Loretta Merrill – Development Services

1. **The meeting was called to order at 10:04am by FM Kwiatkowski. The pledge of allegiance followed the call to order.**
2. **Changes to Agenda:** *FM Kwiatkowski informed the group that the topic of hydrants will be added to New Business.*
3. **Guest Comments/Presentations:**
 - a. **Planning/Zoning: What is a Spec Home? – Rob Wenzel** *Rob Wenzel not present. Will be moved to next month's agenda.*
4. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Juvenile Firefighter Succession:** *Southern Manatee not represented.*

Chair

Fire Marshal Rodney Kwiatkowski
(941) 201-7904
kwiatkr@wmfr.org

Vice Chair

Deputy Fire Marshal Marc Massella
(941) 727-2076
mmassella@chfr.org

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- b. **Firework Permit Lead Time:** *FM Kwiatkowski left a message for Heather Sonntag in Code Enforcement. He is awaiting a response. The goal is to get Code Enforcement and Fire on the same page when it comes to lead time.*

5. New Business

- a. **Hydrants:** *FM Kwiatkowski informed the group that Manatee County has been busy painting hydrants in response to complaints. FM Kwiatkowski requested that the county paint only the shaft, leaving the bonnet untouched so that the department could paint it. He offered this information to the committee to see if any other districts are interested in doing the same. PFD, NFRD, and EMFR do not have bonnet colors on their hydrants. They are one solid color. All others agreed that they would not like the bonnet painted.*

DFM Massella commented that he would like to pursue better communications with Utilities when a new hydrant is installed.

- b. **Elevator Lead Test:** *BC Miller asked the group if anyone else has been receiving elevator lead tests in their spec home plan reviews. Nobody else is. Loretta Merrill will conduct research to bring back next meeting.*
- c. **Model Homes:** *Discussion ensued about whether to classify model homes as commercial or residential. Loretta Merrill will research how the building department classifies them and speak on this at the next meeting.*

6. Department Reports:

- a. **North River Fire Department:** *Chief Joe Sicking has been going to communities in his district to speak on Ad Valorem assessments.*
- b. **Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue:** *Not represented.*

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- c. **East Manatee Fire & Rescue:** *FM Blake reminded the group that EMFR is hosting a Tourism class this Thursday, June 13th.*
- d. **Parrish Fire Department:** *DFM Ownbey told the group about a lithium ion battery fire in her district. The fire was caused by the overcharging of a golf cart.*
- e. **Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue:** *DFM Massella spoke about the districts first food truck fire, which occurred recently. The owner was present, but stepped away to use the restroom. The food truck had improper suppression.*

Cedar Hammock is having its annual Open House on November 16th, 2024.
- f. **West Manatee Fire Rescue:** *West Manatee is having its annual Open House on November 3rd, 2024.*
- g. **Bradenton Fire Department:** *Not represented*

7. **Next Meeting:** *July 9th, 2024 at 10am - Southern Manatee Fire Rescue.*

8. **The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am by FM Kwiatkowski.**

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