



Report to the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

*As required by Senate Resolution 60
...to establish a special bipartisan legislative commission to develop legislation to
provide direct and indirect assistance for the purpose of improving the delivery of
emergency services in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

November 2004

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Members of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pursuant to Senate Resolution 60, of the Session of 2003 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are pleased to present to you the report of the Senate Resolution 60 Commission. As directed by the resolution, the members of the Commission have developed a comprehensive set of issues requiring legislation to provide direct and indirect assistance for the purpose of improving the delivery of emergency services in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Upon a review of over twenty-five prior reports and studies, the Commission was intent on focusing on the issues of funding emergency services, assuring of personnel to respond to incidents (recruitment and retention), assuring legislative/political integration into the process, and the delivery of service; being honest and direct regarding the issues, problems, and resolutions to the problems affecting the fire and emergency medical services delivery system in the Commonwealth.

The Commission has developed twenty-three (23) recommendations identifying the issue, problem, and resolution, for action to now be taken by the General Assembly to manage the fire and emergency medical service delivery in the future. Pennsylvania has an amazing group of volunteers who dedicate their time, skills, and efforts to protect their communities. Similarly, the career fire and emergency medical services invest their efforts into making the state safe. The safety infrastructure they support is critical to a community where people want to work, leisure, visit, and worship. It is incumbent upon the General Assembly and local political officials to assure the safety of those who visit, live in, or work in their community. These recommendations are designed to enhance the current system.

The 25-member Commission assembled by Senate Resolution 60 has provided invaluable insight into the issues, problems and resolutions. Each member of the Commission expresses their personal thank you, not only for the opportunity to serve on this Commission, but to have the opportunity to develop a strategic blueprint for constructive change and enhancement of our fire and emergency medical system. On November 18, 2004, the Commissioners voted unanimously to complete this document and present it to the General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

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President, Ambulance Association of the State of Pennsylvania

President, Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council

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INTRODUCTION

Professional emergency services provided by both volunteer and career organizations that deliver fire and emergency medical services to the community, have a rich and vibrant history in America, particularly in Pennsylvania. In the early days of America, people helped each other in any way they could to build a better community and a better tomorrow. In fact, the volunteer fire service, through Benjamin Franklin's efforts in Philadelphia, played a prominent role in the socialization of America. As time went on, the provision of emergency medical services in the community played a similar and corresponding role.

In many communities, the firehouse is still the center of social and community activities. The volunteer fire company is but one of many "associations" formed out of American habit for a variety of reasons. Be it a church, fraternal, business or similar "association," none has the impact on the entire community that the emergency services do. The volunteer fire company is still the strong point of the social fabric in many American communities!¹

The citizens and visitors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania benefit daily from the services, knowledge and skills of emergency service providers (fire and emergency medical services), career and volunteer providers who routinely place the safety and well-being of others over their own.

Similarly, emergency medical services, although a more recently developed discipline, has progressed from merely a transport service for the injured or ill, to a sophisticated process of pre-hospital and hospital emergency health care to develop and coordinate a comprehensive system to prevent and reduce premature death and disability. Not until the 1970's did emergency medical services receive state level interest in public protection. However, since the current Emergency Medical Services Act was implemented in 1985, there has been minimal enhancement to the Act, while the discipline has advanced to higher performance capabilities and standards. In addition, EMS is considered as a non-critical service by many communities as there is no legislative reference to municipalities being responsible for the service.

Estimates in recent years have placed the value of this service (particularly through the use of volunteer fire companies and volunteer emergency medical services) to the Commonwealth in the billions of dollars, not to mention the saving of lives and preservation of property. While the specific value of these volunteer services can be debated, it is clear that they bring a monetary savings, while career staffing situations are necessary in metropolitan and other areas where volunteer services are not practical. The services play a critical role and incentives and investments in those services must be identified to sustain these services. In the case of career services, there must also be investments made to assure these individuals can respond to the types of challenges being posed.

¹ Excerpted from Transforming the Volunteer Fire Service, Jenaway, William F., VFIS, 2003, Pg 1.

The emergency responders (firefighters and emergency medical personnel) have assumed a new role since 9/11/01 and protect the infrastructure of the Commonwealth (the people and the property) when fire, hazardous material releases, emergency medical situations, rescue challenges, and similar emergencies are encountered. It is in these times of critical action that we cannot debate the need for skills, knowledge, equipment, quality performance, and staffing. They **MUST** be there to act, to sustain the quality of business and community lifestyle in Pennsylvania we have been accustomed to.

Unfortunately, over the last 30 years, the emergency services in this Commonwealth have been tasked with greater demands in the form of additional knowledge and skill sets required (hazardous materials, terrorism, technical rescue, comprehensive medical services, etc.) as well as increased calls. Emergency medical calls also continue to rise, while the number of emergency medical squads in the Commonwealth has decreased. Although the number of serious fires has decreased nationwide, the number of required responses and related demands on these service providers has increased. The aging population in the Commonwealth places a significant demand on emergency services, as well. In addition, in recent years, Pennsylvania has had the adverse experience of being at the top of the list in the number of emergency responders killed in the line of duty. The bottom line is that the emergency services of Pennsylvania are being tasked to provide greater levels of service with very limited resources. The need exists to develop a cost effective method to provide these services, throughout the Commonwealth.

Career departments in the Commonwealth have the unenviable task of protecting a large percentage of the state's population condensed into crowded urban areas, which creates challenging "fire loads", and increased emergency medical challenges, exponentially higher than in suburban and rural areas. Decreasing tax bases and increasing staffing costs in these communities hinders the ability to maintain viable fire and emergency medical services.

Over the last decade, there have been a myriad of reports prepared and testimony taken on the status, needs, dilemma, and frustration of providing these services within the Commonwealth. The results have been both helpful and created challenges. The mere fact that the Commonwealth has a diverse topography, a dichotomy of old versus new communities that are both thriving and destitute, coupled with the largest of cities to the smallest of villages, involving over 2,500 fire companies and 1,500 emergency medical squads, the opportunity to develop a single system of emergency service delivery is almost impossible. Nevertheless, we must try to find a flexible system that will work within this dynamic and challenging environment called Pennsylvania.²

This Commission (with the help of the service providers and those community leaders who are responsible for the services) has identified problems and **PROPOSED SOLUTIONS** for those problems to provide options for the funding, delivery, and support of volunteerism for fire and emergency medical services.

² Excerpted from Senate Resolution No. 60, Session of 2003. The General Assembly of Pennsylvania, July 8, 2003.

The greatness and diversity of the great State of Pennsylvania is also reflected in the fire and emergency medical services organizations across the state. The issues and concerns of these service providers vary by their location, funding, and community uniqueness. Because of this diversity, a single approach solution will not benefit all organizations. Therefore, this report reflects that diversity and uses a cafeteria style solution approach. This gives each organization the ability to pick and choose the solution best able to solve their particular issue or concern.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Commission wishes to thank the following individuals and groups who played critical roles in the facilitation and effecting the completion of this project:

The Staff of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Office of the State Fire Commissioner for their support in services and facilities during the Commission meetings.

The Staff of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, a bipartisan, bicameral committee of the Pennsylvania General Assembly for coordinating their efforts on House Resolution 148 with the Senate Resolution 60 Commission.

The Legislative Staff of the Senate and the Legislative Staff of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Even though the first recorded story of fire in America occurred along the James River in Virginia, it is Philadelphia, Pennsylvania that lays claim to the first volunteer fire company in America, in the year 1736. Troubled by the Fishbourne Wharf Fire of 1730, Benjamin Franklin and other Philadelphians realized they needed more and better firefighting equipment. In 1736, another disastrous fire forced more action which resulted in the forming of a fire brigade. Thirty civic-minded volunteers united to form the Union Fire Company. Thus organized fire protection, in the form of the volunteer fire company, was born in Pennsylvania, forty years before the United States was formed. The characteristics of this first fire company, where volunteers worked to build their own equipment, raise funds, and place equipment strategically so that it could be accessed quickly in the event of a neighborhood fire, is as prevalent in Pennsylvania today, as it was, over 250 years ago. Training, personnel safety, costs to deliver services, and “customer expectations” were not a major concern in these times.

Similarly, the role of emergency medical services in this country and Commonwealth has developed from the creation of the emergency health services unit in 1970 by the Secretary of Health, being reorganized as the Division of Emergency Health Services in 1973, and today is known as the Office of EMS, responsible for statewide development and coordination of a comprehensive system to prevent and reduce premature death and disability. During the 1970’s, ambulance services became increasingly independent of fire services, partly due to increased regulation and partly due to staffing. Today, the overwhelming majority of EMS in Pennsylvania is non-fire based; and although the EMS Act was amended in 1994 (Act 82) to make requirements for certified personnel (paramedics, EMTs, and first responders) to re-certify by a continuing education process, the legislative basis for the system has remained constant for almost 20 years.

History reminds us that wagons were pulled by horses and staffed by police officers and volunteers to carry the injured or ill to a hospital or doctor’s office. Then came the local practices of organizations, be they fire companies, service clubs, hospitals, or funeral directors to provide ambulance services. Similarly, neighbors helped neighbors in time of need.

Over those 250 years, the equipment has been improved, the number of fire stations and emergency medical squads has increased to over 2,000 volunteer companies and 3,500 total companies in Pennsylvania alone, and the role has been expanded to include rescue, hazard management, emergency medical service, hazardous materials response, terrorism preparedness, industrial and agricultural accidents, and more. However, one facet has not changed – it still requires people to do the job of emergency responder, and the majority of people doing it in Pennsylvania are volunteers, still in the mold created by Benjamin Franklin.

There have been some significant impacts on these volunteers over the last two and one-half centuries which have caused the original concept of the fire company and emergency medical service to change. For example:

- when equipment was pulled to a scene of a fire or medical situation by hand or by horse, over bumpy, non-paved highways, the concept of multiple fire stations or locations of ambulances in close proximity, made perfect sense; and
- as motorized fire and ambulance apparatus were introduced and communities grew, the original volunteer companies continued their traditional role, yet transportation and infrastructure technologies were expanding and forcing changes in the fire and emergency medical services; and
- until recent years volunteers were plentiful and citizens contributed graciously to their volunteer organizations; and
- as the population ages, volunteers dwindle, costs increase, and individual as well as community support shifts to other interests.

The necessity to identify efficient systems, legislative initiatives, and financial incentives becomes paramount to:

- sustain a volunteer system where pride and community service build community value and pride,
- provide necessary services for the protection and well being of the community, and
- reserve financial assets for other critical services that cannot be provided by volunteers.

The reality is that each community is left to determine:

“What do I need to protect the community?”

“How much will it cost?”

“What are my funding sources?”

“How do I deliver these services?”

These “services” are neither static in their delivery, nor consistent in their timing. While actual fires continue to decrease across the country, the fire and EMS services are mandated to respond to more automatic alarm system activations, vehicle accidents, weather related emergencies, hazardous materials events, whenever anyone perceives a problem they don’t know how to deal with, and now even terrorism related events. In Pennsylvania, these have been in both small towns and big cities, requiring this very diverse state to establish “regions” for the response and delivery of significant event resources. Unfortunately, every incident begins locally and every local fire and EMS agency must be prepared to know what they are dealing with and when to call for help.

The text *Fire Protection in the 21st Century* may state the situation most succinctly: “Powerful trends will shape the fire service over the next ten years, changing department structures and roles in the community, and altering the demands placed on fire service personnel.”

The text went on to detail these “trends” to involve science, technology, risk management, finances, expanded services, recruitment, retention, lifestyles, urbanization, environmentalism, legal and regulatory changes and organizational structure—every component of emergency services operations will change, forcing emergency service organizations, themselves, to change.

Most recently, the International Association of Fire Chief’s, Volunteer Combination Officers Section released the report “A Call for Action, The Blue Ribbon Report, Preserving and Improving the Future of the Volunteer Fire Service”.³ The IAFC report specifically outlined suggestions at three levels which parallel the issues facing Pennsylvania, including:

At the LOCAL level, we must...

- 1. Emphasize the importance of local support for this basic community service*
- 2. Provide appropriate levels of funding for necessary safety gear and training*
- 3. Engage in strategic planning that emphasizes volunteer (recruitment and) retention*
- 4. Use mutual aid to offset service and technical deficiencies*
- 5. Use uniform incident management systems*
- 6. Use performance measurements to measure and analyze response times, fire fighting effectiveness, training and retention rates of volunteer fire companies*

At the STATE level, we must...

- 1. Emphasize the importance of the state government in developing and promoting disaster planning*
- 2. Certify fire and emergency medical services (EMS) to comply with basic training standards*
- 3. Promote regional service delivery where local capabilities and technical expertise are weak*
- 4. Provide statewide volunteer benefit programs to protect both the firefighter and employer from the risks associated with volunteer service*

At the FEDERAL level, we must...

- 1. Work to produce a national climate encouraging individuals to volunteer within their local communities.*

³ “A Call for Action, The Blue Ribbon Report, Preserving and Improving the Future of the Volunteer Fire Service”, International Association of Fire Chiefs Volunteer Combination Officer Section, 2004.

While this refers to volunteer fire companies, in reality the same is true for emergency medical services.

Recognizing this situation, the Members of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have directed a group known as the “Senate Resolution 60 Commission” to “develop legislation to provide direct and indirect assistance for the purpose of improving the delivery of emergency services in this Commonwealth.”

Over the last thirty years, a number of reports and assessments have been completed within the Commonwealth, these reports served as primer reading for the Commission as they began their duties. The recommendations from these reports, identified in the Reports and Reference section of this report, were analyzed and served as the basis from which recommendations of this report are made. The Senate Resolution 60 Commission funding and recommendations focused on four areas:

- funding,
- recruitment and retention,
- legislation, and
- service delivery model.

The recommendations that were developed, focus on the provision of service, not the maintenance of private clubs or groups, or agencies. The decision may, in deed, be unpopular in many instances.

The Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute and the State Fire Commissioner’s Office, in February 2003, proposed “A Systemic Plan for Addressing the Fire and EMS Delivery System.” This included the proposal which established the structure of Senate Resolution 60.

Pennsylvania government currently provides over \$115 million into local emergency services. This is accomplished through the:

- Volunteer Loan Assistance Program
- Firefighter Assistance Grants
- Act 84 Foreign Fire Insurance Premium Tax
- Department of Community and Economic Development Grants
- Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund (EMSOF)
- Emergency Responders Resources and Training Program

In addition, any number of Department of Community and Economic Development grants find their way to local volunteer agencies. Even with this contribution to local services, many fire and EMS agencies of all types and sizes find themselves seeking more funding. This is due to both a basic need, as well as a lack of definition and agreement on services to be rendered and subsequent purchase of equipment, staffing, etc.

The concerns identified include the fact that Act 84 monies do not assure all responders receive protection as intended by the Act, the EMSOF funds are 77% for the regional council (management/oversight) versus providing delivery of services, and the VLAP

program (which functions very well) can be further enhanced via incentive related increases in funds permitted coupled with lower interest rates on that money. There are also changes in customer expectations, technology, and demands that may require changes in the use of Act 84 monies to return to the original intent of the Act.

Most importantly, these services, particularly in small communities, provide a social and community value that are incalculable. The members who make up the fire and EMS companies are the leaders of the community. They are the local businesspersons, the local political leaders, the individuals who sponsor parades, community days, and similar special events. The facilities housing the fire and EMS agencies are the same facilities where birthday parties, weddings, christenings, bah-mitzvahs, and funeral wakes are held. The people involved and the facilities and equipment they maintain ARE the community and make both Pennsylvania and the services strong. But we must find a way to balance true need for services, equipment and funding, with maintenance of the social fabric so important to keeping our public safe and strong.

The most critical component of the system is the use of volunteers to provide the service. While the state has taken an active role, through the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program and the \$25 million annual grant program, in assisting volunteer emergency service organizations with the purchase of necessary equipment and facilities, much more remains to be done in the area of helping to promote the recruitment and retention of volunteers. It is the consensus of the Commission that a public safety crisis looms as a result of a continuing decline in the ranks of our emergency service volunteers.

Just since 1985, according to the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute, the number of volunteer firefighters has shrunk by more than half -- from about 152,000 to about 70,000 or fewer today. And yet, Pennsylvania and its communities continue to rely in large measure on volunteers to perform this critical emergency response and public safety service. Of Pennsylvania's 2,462 fire companies, more than 90 percent are volunteer companies.

The case for Pennsylvania playing a larger role in helping to maintain the viability of our volunteer emergency service organizations can easily be made in terms of both public safety and dollars and cents. According to a 2001 Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute Study, the value of the service that our volunteers provide is estimated at \$6 billion.

If we lose our volunteer fire companies and volunteer firefighters, the added taxpayer cost for firefighter salaries and benefits alone is estimated at a conservative \$6 billion annually.

The drop in the ranks of our volunteer emergency services force can be directly attributed to the fact that (in addition to fighting fires and responding to every other imaginable emergency around the clock), our volunteer emergency service responders are often the same individuals who must raise the funds necessary for their own training and a significant portion of their equipment, provide emergency service organization support

and administrative services and maintain equipment and facilities. Taken together, the many tasks performed by a decreasing number of volunteers only exacerbates the problem and overwhelms those who remain active.

According to a survey of fire chiefs jointly undertaken by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute (2001), 77 percent of fire chiefs responding identified recruiting new members and retaining current members as the two most pressing issues their companies face. More than 70 percent of the fire chiefs responding also said that the state should play a more active role in helping companies recruit and retain members.

The Commission recommends that the General Assembly act as expeditiously as possible to enact a series of incentives to stem the decline in emergency service volunteerism, to help retain the dedicated volunteers we still have and to attract the next generation of recruits in the proud neighbor-helping-neighbor tradition of our volunteer emergency service organizations.

The Commission approached this effort as a systematic process to provide fire and emergency medical services within the Commonwealth, defining the delivery system to include volunteer and career, fire and emergency medical services.

The Commission developed several philosophical scenarios that served as the operating principles from which the Commission based its recommendations. This first involves an understanding of how the system currently operates, given multiple municipal structures, multiple types of delivery systems, and different size communities. What the Commission ultimately creates or suggests has to integrate within all of these systems (Figure 1).

Senate Resolution 60 Philosophy/Priorities

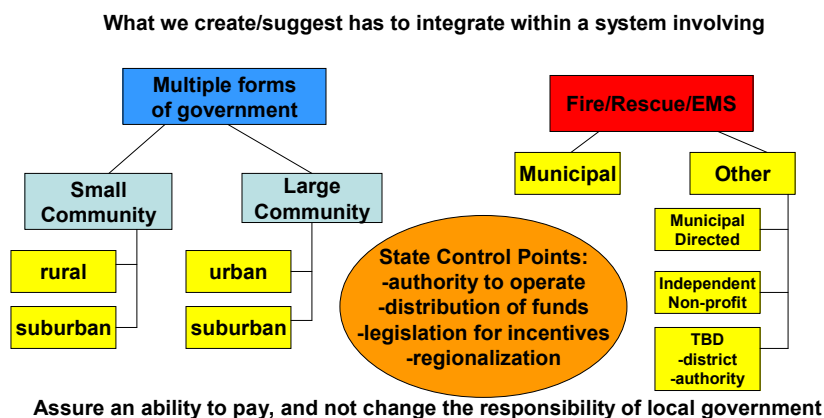


Figure 1 Senate Resolution 60 Areas of Integration

At the conclusion of reviewing the research there are several pertinent issues that clearly are fundamental contributions to today's challenges.

1. "The Pennsylvania Manual" (page B-5 of the current edition – 11/04) identifies "municipal functions" as follows: "The main area of local services includes police and fire protection, maintenance of local roads and streets, water supply, sewage collection and treatment, parking and traffic control, local planning and zoning, parks and recreation, garbage collection, health services, libraries, licensing of businesses and code enforcement." It is noted that emergency medical services are not included in this definition of municipal functions.
2. Each form of municipality has a different statutory requirement for the provision of fire and emergency medical service. This complicates the provision of service, particularly when various forms of municipality are adjacent to each other.
3. There are no consistent statutory statements of authority, responsibility and accountability for fire and emergency medical service within the forms of municipality in the commonwealth. (Appendix 1)

Therefore, while the various municipal codes relegate responsibility for the protection of the "general health and welfare" to locally elected officials and provide municipalities with various levels of optional "may" authority for the delivery of emergency services, the Commission believes legislative action should be taken to create amendatory language that would add and more clearly specify that it is the direct responsibility of local municipal governing bodies to assure the provision for fire and emergency medical service response within their jurisdictions by means and to the extent as determined by the locally elected representatives of the municipal governing body. It is not the intent to financially bankrupt any one municipality, to the contrary, it should be the municipality's task to assure the service is provided in a financial manner that will not be overbearing on the public.

It is the belief of the Commission that the current ambiguity regarding responsibility often fosters confusion and debate among locally elected officials and emergency responders regarding their individual duties, responsibilities and roles in the delivery of emergency services at the local level.

The Commission recommends that, in conjunction with this more thoroughly delineated responsibility, that locally elected municipal officials be afforded a full range of options at their discretion to meet this responsibility including providing the provision of emergency services via career, volunteer or contract with emergency service providers, paid or volunteer, from neighboring jurisdictions.

It is the consensus of the Commission, that municipalities should annually (consistent with Recommendations titled "Consistent Statutory Requirements" and "Service Delivery Model", Appendix 2), meet and discuss to certify the emergency response organizations that are authorized as first due responders in their respective jurisdictions.

The General Assembly should also consider providing specific statutory authority to county governments to provide assistance, under agreement with local municipal governing bodies, in meeting the provision of providing emergency service response at the local level.

This true lack of consistency creates a dilemma in the expectations of the citizenry, as well as service providers and the local elected officials, as the service delivery system can change from municipality to municipality. The true responsibility lies within the municipality, not the fire and EMS companies and while more consistency may be served by regional or county responsibility, there is no structure to provide an incentive to do this, or to require it.

Secondly, we find that there are as many decision factors which impact how the current delivery of services is provided (Figure 2). These are neither consistently applied, nor managed to resolution.

Senate Resolution 60

Municipal Fire/EMS Decision Factors

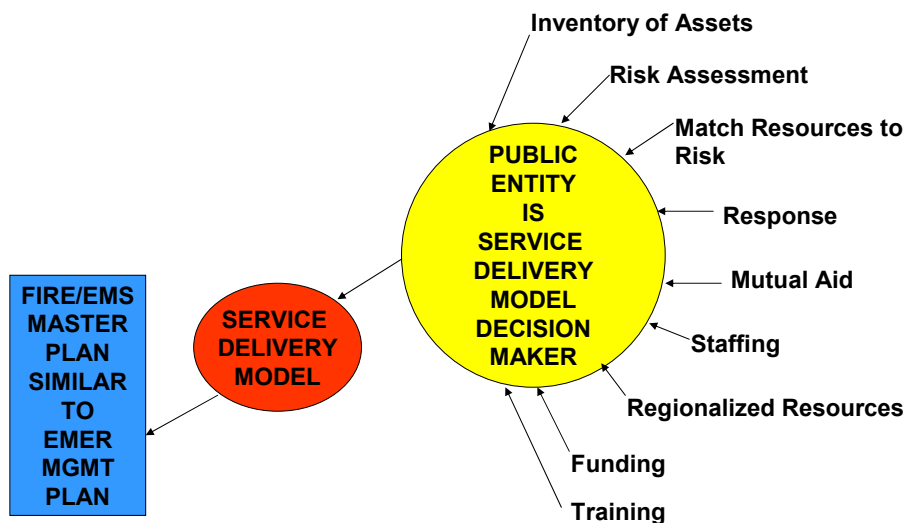


Figure 2- Decision factors in determining local emergency response capability

As a result of our investigations, the Commission is proposing a delivery system model which encompasses the identified policy, needs, and areas of resolution to manage fire and EMS on a local level (Figure 3).

PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY SERVICES DELIVERY SYSTEM

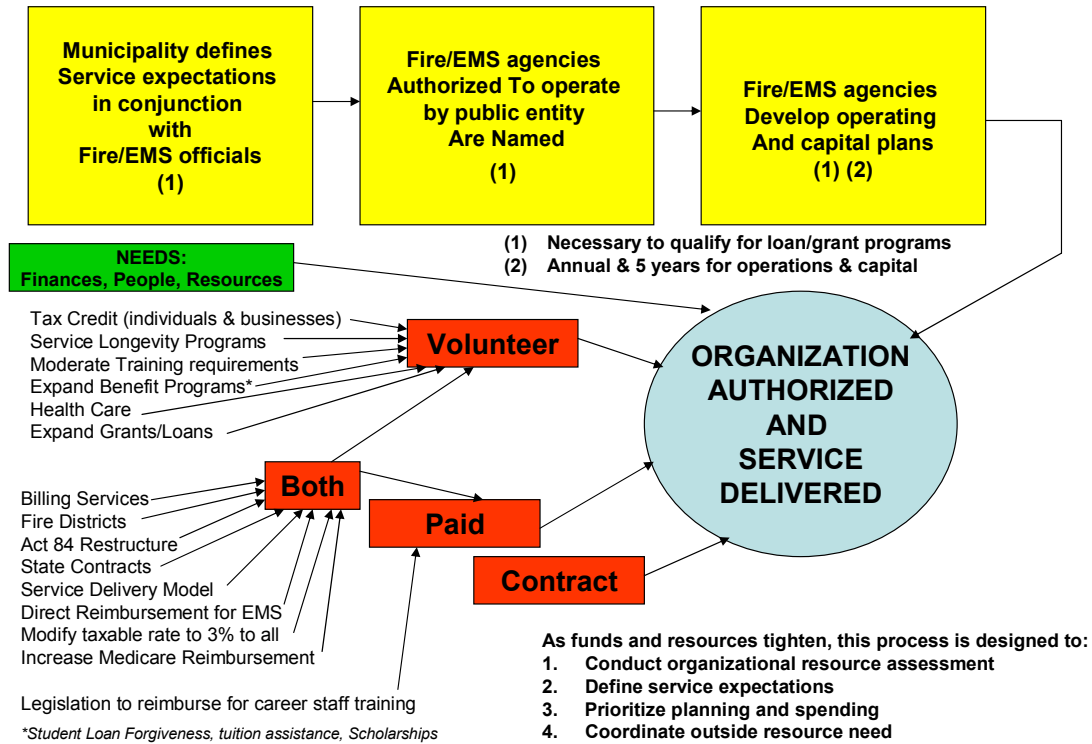


Figure 3- Proposed Pennsylvania Emergency Services Delivery System.

ASSUMPTIONS AND BARRIERS

As with any analytical process, there were a number of assumptions and perceived barriers that would exist in the further analysis, ultimate consideration, and implementation of any recommended changes by the Commission.

The ASSUMPTIONS included:

1. The delivery of fire and emergency medical services is a local decision and responsibility. The people of the community ultimately make the decision on what level of service they want and are willing to pay for. However, the term emergency medical service does not even appear in the Pennsylvania Municipal Code, therefore a code revision is proposed which will provide a general statement of municipal responsibility for police, fire and emergency medical service protection. Other states are well ahead of Pennsylvania in the definition of service delivery.
2. There is no defined statewide standard for the delivery of fire and emergency medical services in Pennsylvania. Admittedly there are different standards for different types of communities, but the difference in community type should not eliminate a structure to determine what can be generally expected by the community in the way of service in time of emergency. The Commission is proposing a simplistic approach to a standard which applies to all types of communities, allowing for communities to decide what level they want to provide. Again, many states are well ahead of Pennsylvania in defining the delivery of services.
3. The ultimate delivery of service is dependent upon the local ability to provide the service. Recognizing the variety of types of community, the mix of wildland, rural, small community, suburban and urban mix in the Commonwealth, and the great variance in community size and wealth, a flexible approach to providing the service must be developed which is driven **LOCALLY**, by the people and their ability to provide that service.
4. The implications in this document for funding enhancements apply to volunteer, combination and career services, alike.
5. For the purpose of this report, the use of the term Fire/EMS is intended to include fire police, dive teams, special rescue, water rescue, haz mat, canteen services, auxiliaries, sub specialties of EMS, and other related services.
6. Funding for Fire and EMS agencies will be constituted, as defined locally, from a combination of:
 - municipal funding
 - fees for service
 - service contracts

- contributions
- fundraising
- grants
- Act 84 Funds

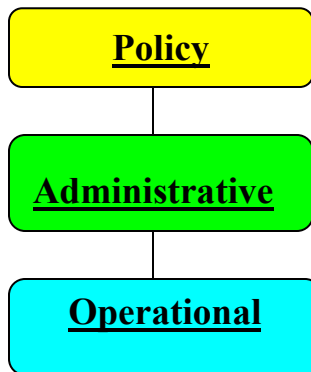
In addition, there are several perceived BARRIERS that were identified in discussions with various individuals and groups throughout Pennsylvania. The BARRIERS included:

1. A resistance to change. The emergency service is quick to change when it applies to new equipment, technology and apparatus. It is very slow to adapt to new management techniques and business philosophies. In fact, the emergency services are often a generation behind the business community in adapting to new management techniques to solve their problems.
2. The emergency services in this country have often been characterized as serving “200 years, unchanged by progress”. Many of the culture and emergency service practices still instituted today are driven by demands from the 1800’s when steam engines and horses provided the main type of service delivery. While Act 45 has forced a number of changes in Emergency Medical Services, they have not been considered enhancements in many cases, thus a desire to “return to the way things were” or keep things the same is prevalent in many emergency service organizations, not recognizing that change may bring a better environment.
3. Politics should not play a role in the safety of the general public. However, when this occurs, it can create a barrier. If it is allowed to play a role among governing bodies, fire services organizations, EMS agencies, and other groups, the public is not served.
4. Historically, the perceived loss of power or influence by officers of the fire or emergency medical service agency has been a barrier to organizational change and progress.
5. Many emergency service providers have the perspective that they are the service and it is “all about us”, versus keeping in mind that the customer is who we serve and what serves the customer best, is what the emergency service provider should do.

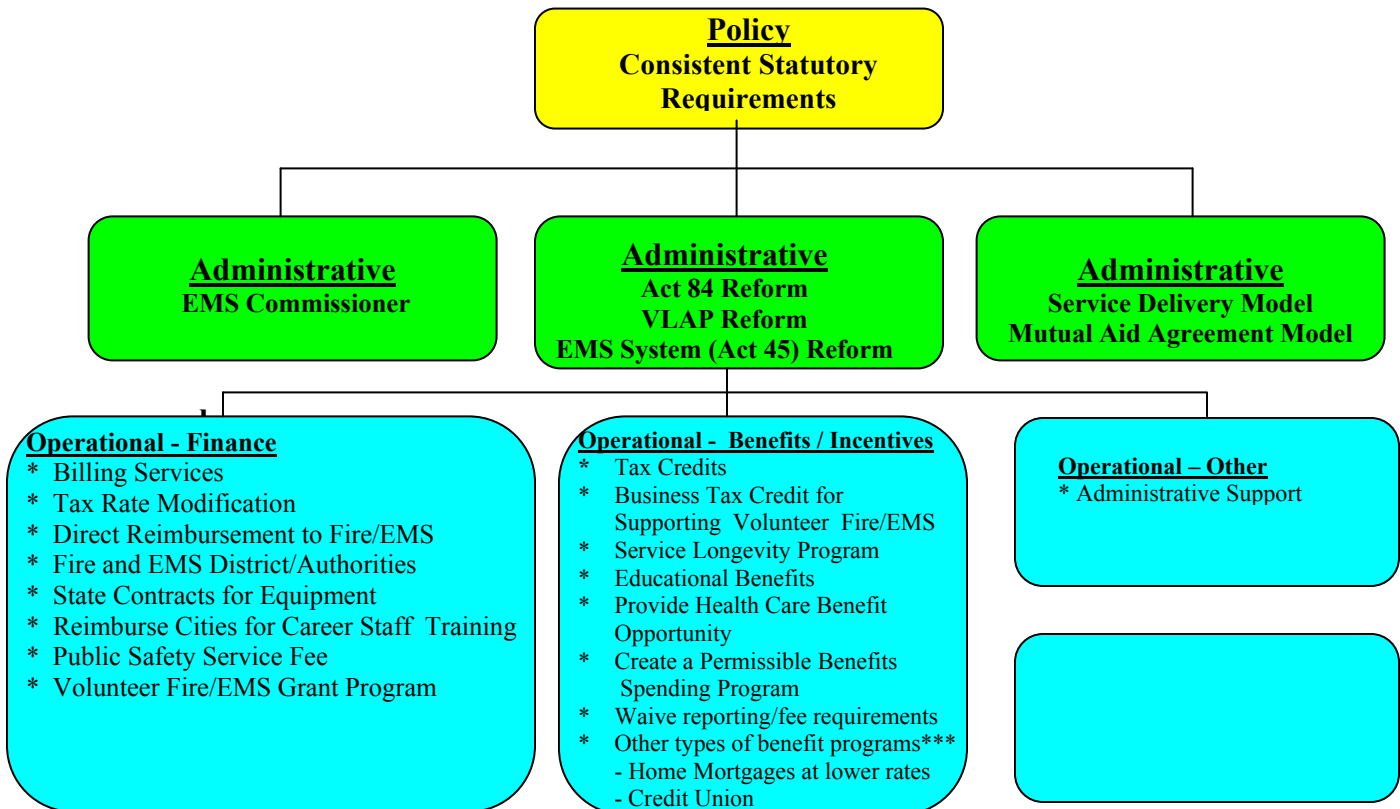
These assumptions and barriers also recognize that given the history, structure of the Commonwealth, and general nature of Pennsylvania’s wilderness/rural/suburban/urban mix, that one structure or system will NOT be appropriate. Therefore a menu of optional statutory, organizational, funding and delivery structures and systems must be made available. It is also the commission’s belief that this can be done within one over-riding state directive to provide the service and provide acceptable options to be defined locally in providing that service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission, upon review of all materials provided and accessed, agreed on the following strategic approach to assist in managing the fire, emergency medical and related emergency response services within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The recommendations are structured in three levels; reflecting policy level, administrative level, and operational level recommendations.



The Recommendations submitted can therefore be summarized as follows.



*** not defined in recommendations in this report

RECOMMENDATION 1.

CONSISTENT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Issue – There are no consistent municipal statutory statement of authority, responsibility and accountability for fire and emergency medical service within the forms of municipality in the Commonwealth.

Problem Statement – This true lack of consistency creates a dilemma in the expectation of the citizenry, as well as service providers and elected officials as the service delivery system can change from municipality to municipality. A simplistic overriding structure, while still allowing local flexibility and implementation is necessary in the 21 Century.

Resolution – Legislative changes are suggested at the “policy level in order to clarify the need and delivery system of fire and emergency medical services within the Commonwealth”. Within “The Pennsylvania Manual,” it is recommended that the phrase emergency medical services be added, so as to read...”The main areas of local services include police, fire and emergency medical services...” Secondly, it is recommended that the common language appear in each form of government statutes, action should be taken to create amendatory language that would add and more clearly specify that is is the direct responsibility of local municipal governing bodies to assure the provision for fire and emergency medical service response within their jurisdictions by means and to the extent as determined by the locally elected representatives of the municipal governing body.

There will be no costs anticipated with this recommendation, however legislation modification is necessary.

RECOMMENDATION 2.

SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

Issue – There is no common or defined approach regarding fire and EMS delivery within Pennsylvania.

Problem Statement – Currently most elected officials do not understand the varying levels of capabilities of their Emergency Service departments to respond to incidents. This lack of understanding leads to unaccountable emergency services as well as inadequate, variable or redundant service levels, which adversely affect cost effective performance and appropriate distribution of needed funding.

Resolution – It is recommended that the state adopt legislation that would incent municipal governments to certify an expected level of service before state funds are received. Any mediation necessary would be provided by the Regional EMS Council or the Center for Local Government Services in the Department of Community and Economic Development. Legislative changes are suggested at the “policy level in order to clarify the need and delivery system of fire and emergency medical services within the Commonwealth”.

As noted in Recommendation 1, it is recommended that the common language appear in each form of government statutes which could essentially read:

Each municipality shall be required to complete and submit a summary of emergency service provision, whereby the municipal officials will be required to meet jointly with the leadership of service providers, selecting said providers of various services as indicated in Appendix 1.

Compliance is required before any State Grant Funds or Federal Grant Funds administered by the state for emergency services, fire, and EMS or Homeland Security would be released to the community/agency

Costs associated with this are perceived to be at the mediation phase, if required, and would be within the budget of the Center for Local Government Services in the Department of Community and Economic Development. Refer to Appendix 2.

NOTE: A community (elected leaders coupled with fire and EMS leadership) should jointly identify the service level they wish to provide, and if appropriate, a service level to aspire to. This agreed level of service will define the expectations, as well as help establish goals, assist in financial planning, and most importantly open lines of communication for critical needs. A community can also have more than one level of service within the community. There are no right or wrong answers, just the ones made jointly in the best interest of the community.

RECOMMENDATION 3.

ACT 84 RESTRUCTURING

Issue – Restructure Act 84 to return to the original goals of the program and assure some minimum protection levels to all responders.

Problem Statement – This program worked as it was intended when it was first created, however there are inequities in the current distribution system, for example, all firefighters do not receive basic personal protection equipment, the allowable purchases have expanded too much to make it more attractive to buy equipment versus protecting employees, there is un-necessary auditing, EMS is perceived to be not involved, and relief associations do not have enough money to buy the basic protections for its members.

Resolution – Reform is necessary to determine how the funds should be used, how they should be distributed, and how the program is audited. Many recommendations have been submitted at prior hearings and workshops and several pieces of legislation regarding modification are advanced each legislative session. However, these tend to be established from a specific perspective rather than enhancement of the comprehensive system. A select committee should be established to hold appropriate hearings and develop appropriate legislation, equitable to the intent of the program. The Commission has discussed and agreed that the funding to assure minimum levels be provided to all associations (for minimum insurance benefits), funded by new increases in the tax received being equitably applied to those associations to assure minimum thresholds are met, and identify an inclusion methodology for volunteer EMS.

RECOMMENDATION 4.

TAX CREDIT TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMS STAFF

Issue - Our volunteer emergency service responders perform a critical public service. It is a service we cannot do without. As a result, a tax credit represents a responsible course as an incentive for recruitment and retention.

Problem Statement - New initiatives are needed to not only retain volunteers we already have but to attract a new generation of recruits.

Resolution - SB 916 (2003/04 session) would provide an annual \$250 state income tax credit for "active" volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. Unlike a pension benefit that may be more attractive to those volunteers who are thinking about retirement, a tax credit provides an immediate benefit to all and may be particularly rewarding to young volunteers in the early stages of their employment careers. Active status for tax credit eligibility would be determined by a service point system established by the state Fire Commissioner. The point system would take into account such factors as the number of emergency calls responded to by a volunteer in a given year, a volunteer's level of training and participation in drills, and time expended on administrative and other fire company support services such as fundraising and maintenance of facilities and equipment. The General Assembly should also develop legislation granting counties, municipalities and school districts the optional authority to provide for a similar credit against local taxes for active volunteer emergency service responders. Other states are also beginning to recognize the volunteer emergency service responder retention/recruitment benefit of tax credits. Since 1996, Maryland has provided its volunteer firefighters with an average \$250 annual state income tax break. The Maryland program also operates on a service point system, albeit on a county-by-county basis. In the first year of Maryland's program, 7,850 volunteers qualified. For the 2003 tax year, 12,590 volunteers qualified. Relative to the inevitable question of whether such a tax credit would be constitutional in Pennsylvania, there are strong indications that it would withstand a challenge based on previous court decisions. The state Constitution's Uniformity Clause should not be an issue because this is a "credit" not a tax. The imposition of the state's Personal Income Tax will continue to be uniform. What's more, there are already numerous tax credits that exist in Pennsylvania.

RECOMMENDATION 5.

EMS ACT 45 REFORM

Issue: The EMS Act (Act 45 of 1985, P.L. 164) was developed in the early 1980s and enacted in 1985. Although it was a model for its time, some aspects are outdated and need to be revised.

Problem Statement: The EMS Act needs to be revised to better reflect the current practice of out of hospital emergency medicine, as well as reflect the current delivery system of the volunteer and career EMS services. When the EMS Act was originally passed most EMS organizations were fire based, thus relying heavily on volunteer workforce. However, today less than 1/3 of the workforce is volunteer and 2/3 of the ambulance services are non-fire based in the Commonwealth. Time, technology, workforce composition, as well as system demands have all changed dramatically over the past 20 years. Additionally, several reports conducted over the past several years with the purpose of evaluating the EMS System, have concluded that the current system is not fulfilling its fundamental mission. Essentially, the Act does not match service delivery needs of today.

Resolution: The legislature should form a Commission to review the reports that have been conducted over the past several years, as well as conduct statewide hearings to hear testimony from active EMS providers on current challenges and recommendations for system improvement. Based on the review of the studies and reports as well as the testimony received, comprehensive revisions to the EMS Act should be drafted and should include:

- Providing for a State EMS Commissioner
- Enhanced funding mechanism that takes into consideration the delivery structure
- Partnering with other state public safety agencies to eliminate duplication of services and reducing overall administrative costs
- Clear regulatory authority for the Department of Health and the EMS Commissioner

Establish a clear delineation of duties between the Department of Health, the Regional EMS Councils and the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council

RECOMMENDATION 6.

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE/VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE

GRANT PROGRAM

Issue – Continued positive impact of the Volunteer Fire Service/Volunteer Ambulance Grant Program

Problem Statement – No funding has been appropriated to administer the VFSVASGP. The Fire Commissioner has had to take monies from his budget to subsidize the administration of this program, thus taking away from other programs the Commissioner is responsible for. The Grant Program, while adequate in 2004, will not have the same purchasing power as time passes.

Resolution – The legislature should provide for permanent funding so that the grant program can be administered in an efficient manner, without taking monies from other much needed emergency services programs. The Grant Program should become permanent with an increase every other year, starting in 2006. This increase should be tied to the Consumer Price Index.

RECOMMENDATION 7.

TAX RATE MODIFICATION FOR EMS - LOCAL

Issue – Permit modification of the local taxing rate to 3 mills for fire and EMS. (Higher than 3 mills would still require voter approval)

Problem Statement – One funding mechanism (basic tax rate in a community) is in place but is not used effectively.

Resolution – This would be a small advancement for most services. The ability for municipalities to levy separate taxes up to 3 mills for either fire or EMS is a substantial change, and could provide the necessary funding to eliminate shortfalls. There are no direct costs to current government spending, although modification to legislation is necessary.

RECOMMENDATION 8.
AUTHORIZE/ENABLE REGIONAL FIRE/EMS
BOARD/DISTRICTS/AUTHORITIES

Issue – Establish legislation to authorize fire and EMS Regional Boards/Districts/Authorities, which would provide an optional organizational structure and consistent revenue generating system.

Problem Statement – Fire and EMS agencies have been limited in their organizational development as a result of antiquated organizational designs, in many cases dating back to the 18th Century. To assure a community or region can effectively organize its delivery system, options to the traditional systems must be available. Currently in Pennsylvania the options available include:

1. A municipality can have its own service system
2. A municipality can contract from a neighboring community
3. A municipality can join forces with neighboring communities to develop a joint or regional system
4. A city can have its own service system

However, in a number of states including: New Jersey, New York, Florida, and Colorado a municipality maintains the authorization to create a regional delivery district, which is empowered to establish a tax or assessment rate to meet the defined delivery system for that particular area.

Resolution – To facilitate the opportunity for optional organizational designs, establish alternative funding systems with dedicated revenue, and ensure deployment programs in the best interest of the people, draft legislation that would permit Fire/EMS Regional Boards, Fire/EMS Authorities and Fire/EMS Districts to be established in Pennsylvania, if certain criteria are established, met and agreed to by the public. There are no anticipated costs associated with this process, however, municipalities may have to raise taxes, or these boards, authorities or districts may have to levy assessments to cover the cost.

RECOMMENDATION 9.

ESTABLISH/PERMIT A SERVICE LONGEVITY PROGRAM.

Issue – One of the most pressing problems we face in our communities is the decline in the ranks of our emergency volunteers. Benefits that directly affect volunteers are most visible and positively impacting on those volunteers. One such program would be to establish a state based retirement program and enable organizations to use Act 84 moneys for qualified LOSAP (Length of Service Award Programs).

Problem Statement – Legislation is needed to provide incentives to retain dedicated volunteers we already have and to attract the next generation of volunteers.

Resolution – This is one of several incentives designed to support volunteerism. Legislation needs to be drafted to achieve this issue. There is a cost associated with this, however, this program can be a self-funding or community funded program and can be supported as well by Act 84 monies.

RECOMMENDATION 10.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT MODEL

Issue – There is no clear model or guideline provided in Pennsylvania statutes to define mutual aid or mutual aid agreements, or when they are appropriate. .

Problem Statement – Mutual Aid is widely practiced in Pennsylvania without written agreements or in some cases appropriate immunities/definition of responsibility. The results are regular and open questions regarding liability, municipal disputes, undispached assistance, and workers compensation.

Resolution – Legislation is needed to provide a framework for emergency services mutual aid.

RECOMMENDATION 11.

EDUCATION TUITION CREDIT

Issue – One of the most pressing problems we face in our communities is the decline in the ranks of our emergency volunteers. Benefits that directly affect volunteers are most visible and positively impacting on those volunteers. One such program would be to establish a tuition credit for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel who are continuing their higher education at a facility of the State University System or the community college system.

Problem Statement – Volunteers receive no salary or benefits for their contribution to the state, saving a projected “billions” in tax dollars annually. Many such fire and EMS volunteers leave the state to attend colleges elsewhere, ultimately leaving the state. By providing even a partial credit on tuition, and establishing a structured educational process statewide for the fire and EMS profession, it would help recruitment, retention and ultimately save the state money.

Resolution – Through the Pennsylvania State University System and the Community College System, provide for reduced tuition/credit for volunteer fire and EMS personnel, to an established maximum credit. Legislation is necessary to achieve this recommendation. There would be costs associated with this, however, once an appropriate dollar amount is determined to pay for these students, that amount can be divided among the total number of out-of-state students in the Pennsylvania State University System/Community College System, and added as an out-of-state student increase. An appropriate level is considered the cost of one course per semester per student, and they must maintain active service for the year after they complete the course(s) with a passing grade of C or better. This would apply to undergraduate courses only.

RECOMMENDATION 12.
BUSINESS TAX CREDIT FOR SUPPORTING VOLUNTEER
FIRE/EMS STAFF

Issue – One of the most pressing problems we face in our communities is the decline in the ranks of our emergency volunteers. Benefits that directly affect volunteers are most visible and positively impacting on those volunteers. Providing a tax credit to businesses who permit volunteers on their staff to respond to calls or attend training during working hours would provide additional support to our volunteer system of emergency response. .

Problem Statement – Legislation is needed to provide incentives to retain dedicated volunteers we already have and to attract the next generation of volunteers.

Resolution – This is one of several incentives designed to support volunteerism, Legislation needs to be drafted. There is a cost associated with this, however, projections can only be made after the type and extent of tax credit is defined.

RECOMMENDATION 13.

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE FEE

Issue – Authorize the local levy of a municipal public safety service fee to offset the costs of providing services to resident and non-resident workers.

Problem Statement – Many Pennsylvania communities are regional centers that house employers, schools, hospitals, non-profit entities and government offices. A large number of the people that work in these communities live in another municipality and leave at the end of the day. While in the community in which they work however, they use services and have an expectation of the services being available. Public safety services include police, fire, emergency medical services, code enforcement and related safety equipment and infrastructure. The cost of providing these services continues to rise on an annual basis and the ability to pay for the services is becoming increasingly difficult.

Resolution – Amend Act 511 of 1965, the Local Tax Enabling Act, to allow for the local levy of a municipal public safety service fee of \$52 per year on resident and non-resident workers. This fee takes the burden of increased property taxes off the retired or low-income property owner and places it on the working population, who are more likely able to afford the fee. Any such fee proposal should require repeal the Occupational Privilege Tax in those municipalities that decide to levy the fee.

This can be one revenue stream to help fund recruitment and retention initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION 14.

PERMIT DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT TO EMS AND FIRE AGENCIES

Issue – Enable any agency with the authority to charge to receive direct reimbursement from insurers.

Problem Statement – Insurance Companies reimburse patients (their insured) directly for medical services rendered, to then pay service providers (fire/EMS agencies). The money is not always received by the emergency response agency, or is received late, placing financial challenges on the emergency provider. This can ultimately affect the delivery of service and ultimate payment an insurer makes.

Resolution – The same system used to compensate physicians and hospitals should be used to pay Fire and EMS agencies on a direct basis. Legislation would be required, and there may ultimately be gains in the cost structure as less follow-up activity on the part of insurers and Fire/EMS agencies would be necessary.

RECOMMENDATION 15.

ESTABLISH POSITION OF EMS COMMISSIONER

Issue: Unlike other states, Pennsylvania does not have a “fire-based” EMS system. In fact, public safety in Pennsylvania is a 3-system delivery model consisting of law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services. Although there is a Police Commissioner and a Fire Commissioner who report directly to the Governor’s office, there is no EMS Commissioner.

Problem Statement: EMS practitioners and providers need to have an advocate in state government. The EMS Office is buried within the bureaucratic structure of the Department of Health and as a result of that agency’s divergent issues; important issues affecting the EMS system are often overlooked.

Resolution: Short term, the Governor should issue an Executive Order creating the Office of the State EMS Commissioner using similar verbiage as was done for the Homeland Security Office. The long term solution is for the establishment of an Office of EMS Commissioner and related provisions for that office. This office could be housed within the Department of Health and report directly to the Secretary; however, like the Fire Commissioner’s Office, should have access to the Governor’s Office when needed.

RECOMMENDATION 16.

EXPAND STATE CONTRACT FOR FIRE/EMS EQUIPMENT

Issue – Expand the state contract purchasing capability for Fire and EMS equipment, apparatus and supplies by supporting the further development and maintenance of this program.

Problem Statement – There are several purchasing contracts available for fire and EMS agencies to procure products utilizing state contracts. However, it is not well known and not well accessed. While this system could be more efficient for volunteer agencies to order needed equipment, and ultimately cheaper; a better system needs to be in place to assist the Fire and EMS community. Also, a mechanism to add fire and EMS vehicles to this list is needed.

Resolution – The Department of General Services, Pennsylvania Council of Governments and the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute should be charged with the expansion of a Fire and EMS purchasing process, list, and expanded choices (including basic ambulances, pumpers, and aerials) for use by Pennsylvania Fire and EMS agencies. This should be web based and also offer the opportunity for municipalities to offer used equipment for sale.

RECOMMENDATION 17.

REIMBURSE CITIES FOR CAREER FIRE STAFF TRAINING

Issue – Provide reimbursement to cities for career staff Fire and EMS training.

Problem Statement – Law enforcement has successfully used a similar system to enhance the delivery of law enforcement services in the Commonwealth. Fire and EMS have not been granted this opportunity in these cities. The career staffing needs proper and adequate training in this post 9-1-1 environment.

Resolution – HB 767 already exists and as passed the House, however the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Services Committee has not moved it. This program will, like the similar law enforcement program, establish training standards of performance for the cities affected, while training their staff for domestic response capabilities. There is a \$2,000,000 cost associated with this proposal, which is allocated from the General Fund in current legislation.

RECOMMENDATION 18.

BILLING SERVICES

Issue – Expand the ability for fire and EMS agencies to bill for incidents other than medical and hazardous materials.

Problem Statement – Fire departments, rescue squads and EMS agencies respond to incidents on highways that are created by “transient vehicles” through the community. The taxpayers/supporters of local fire/EMS agencies fund the burden of providing the services and receive no benefit from these “transient vehicles”. If services are to be provided, then a service fee should be allowed to be collected. As with any other impact fee upon a community, fire and EMS agencies should be able to provide for these services (e.g. fire suppression, rescue, spill control, fire police services, law enforcement/coroner support). Given the current funding gaps of volunteer fire and EMS agencies, this provides an opportunity to create a new revenue stream that would not burden local taxpayers, but focus on those who create the problem paying for the resolution to the problem. In many cases, these expenses are covered by the insurance provider of the generator of the problem. In addition, these fees are no different than the cost of replacing telephone poles or repairing wires or highway conditions, which are borne by the person creating the emergency response by the utility or government agency. Insurers have commented that they will not pay these types of claims unless statutory processes are in place to enable billing for and require such payment.

Resolution – Develop and pass legislation that would enable fire and EMS agencies to bill for the services as noted above. Discussions, debate and testimony should determine if there are other similar services that can be “billed for”. Standardized rates for fire service delivery, statewide, should be a part of the legislation. Legislative changes are necessary and it is suggested to identify legislators who have departments most affected by this, (e.g., West Conshohocken, Montgomery County; Bellefonte, Centre County;) to serve as primary drafter/sponsor of the legislation. As long as proposed fees are reasonable, they will be within tolerable loss expectations of insurance carriers and not pose an undue burden on them.

RECOMMENDATION 19.

VOLUNTEER LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RESTRUCTURING

Issue – The Volunteer Loan Assistance Program should be restructured.

Problem Statement – Currently, the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program provides funding with minimal criteria. While it has been a well used and well received program, and functions very efficiently, however the criteria for funding, and limitation on incentives for regionalization of services is not consistent with needs of the 21st Century as some fire companies cannot meet the criteria or municipalities and fire/EMS agencies are not using this method to incent or support consolidations and mergers.

Resolution – Reform is necessary to determine how the funds should be used, how they should be distributed, and how the program is defined. Inherent with any structural modification or apparatus purchase should be the reference to a risk assessment that supports the need, while providing limitations and criteria for the purchase of heavy rescues, aerials, and hazardous materials vehicles. In addition, to encourage consolidation and regionalization of services, the system should be redefined to better incent for proactive and constructive (behavior) change; enabling more money be available for consolidating organizations at lower rates, and be based on needs, not wants.

RECOMMENDATION 20.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICE CONSULTANT

Issue – Establish at a regional (or county level if appropriate) level a position of Regional Fire/EMS Service Consultant to assist agencies in the multitude of management required tasks being placed on fire officials.

Problem Statement – Fire Department and EMS Managers are required to do too many management tasks and conduct extensive training in today's volunteer system. The technical capabilities and managerial tasks require consultation on many issues. In addition, apparatus is being purchased, buildings constructed, and service systems established without the benefit of risk assessment and in some cases municipal coordination. This makes overall funding more difficult as well as the creation of conflicts.

Resolution – Establish a Regional (or County) level position for a consultant to local Fire Commissioners, Presidents, Fire Chiefs, EMS Managers, etc. for items involving recordkeeping, fire suppression counseling, urban search and rescue, report filing, grant development, PENNFIRS reporting, training program coordination, recruitment and retention, legislative changes, etc. This may be fundable through the Federal SAFER Act and/or may be modeled after the New York Office of Fire Safety Services system.

RECOMMENDATION 21.

CREATE A PERMISSIBLE BENEFITS SPENDING PROGRAM

Issue – Create the opportunity for a “Permissible Benefits Spending Program” that brings value to the members of the organization.

Problem Statement – Benefits are only of value to an individual if they mean something to an individual. What benefits an 18-year old, will probably not be perceived the same as a 35 year old with two children, or a sixty year old-35 year veteran. Each organization must develop its own benefit system.

Resolution – Funding systems should incent organizations who inventory on a periodic basis what members seek in benefits and provide more funding to those who have a defined plan to recruit and retain members. This can be made part of Act 84 Reform to permit up to \$575 per person in a “qualified plan”. Other initiatives may be made part of this, such as participation in a credit union and the development of a reduced rate home mortgage.

RECOMMENDATION 22.

PROVIDE HEALTH CARE BENEFIT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

Issue – One of the most pressing problems we face in our communities is the decline in the ranks of our emergency volunteers. Benefits that directly affect volunteers are most visible and positively impacting on those volunteers. One such program would be to establish the opportunity for volunteer and non-profit firefighters and EMS personnel who are in need of health care insurance to participate in the State's health care program.

Problem Statement – Volunteers receive no salary or benefits for their contribution to the state, saving a projected "billions" in tax dollars annually. Many such fire and EMS volunteers leave who are young, or are self employed, and have no opportunity to group health care coverages. The state provides a health care program for its employees. Volunteer fire and EMS personnel, although technically providing services to the state and local communities cannot participate in the program, even if they pay for it themselves.

Resolution – Develop and pass the legislation to provide the opportunity for volunteer and non-profit fire and EMS personnel (including family benefits) who are in need of health care insurance to obtain it through the state's health care system. The individuals could fund this themselves, or Act 84 monies could be used to provide some of the benefit to the volunteer. (This would require modification to Act 84 as well.)

RECOMMENDATION 23.
STATE LEGISLATURE SHOULD ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTING REQUIRED OF FIRE AND EMS
ORGANIZATIONS.

Issue – Various State Agencies currently require Volunteer Fire and EMS and related organizations to comply with state regulations and reporting requirements that they place unilaterally on all non-profits. These requirements are set to insure the integrity of the system, but the problems attempting to be addressed do not appear to exist in the Volunteer Fire and EMS community. Agencies generally agree but explain that the law covers all non-profits. These requirements place a burden on the already overloaded providers and produce little or no known value to the system.

Problem Statement –Examples:

1. The Charitable Registration Law requires all Fire and EMS organizations to register and comply with solicitation requirements. If the providers received over \$125,000 in solicited funds, an audit is required. Since all non-profit auditors must participate in an expensive peer review process, audits cost between \$5000-\$7000. This cost only increases the cost of delivery of services to the community. Also, if a filing is late, a \$25.00/day late fee applies that cannot be eliminated by the department because of the language in the legislation.
2. An organization is now required to file through the court system to include a paragraph about dissolution of the organization in its articles of incorporation to renew its state tax exemption; despite the fact that it has been incorporated for almost 100 years, been tax exempt for years, and having said language in its by-laws.
3. Audits of Relief organizations are required every two years, even if the audit findings do not find any significant problems.
4. Currently, the Pennsylvania State Police charge volunteer fire and EMS agencies \$10 for each criminal history checks of new volunteers. There is limited actual time required to conduct these, and while the charge may be appropriate for non-emergency service agencies, the fee should not be charged for volunteer fire and EMS providers.

Resolution –A review of existing state legislative reporting requirements for Fire and EMS related organizations:

1. To insure that the reporting is necessary.
2. Determine methodologies to eliminate unnecessary and burdensome reporting requirements.

CONCLUSION

The remedies proposed in this report are multi-faceted but, when collectively viewed, we believe they are necessary to strengthen, maintain and in some instances salvage our fire and EMS organizations for the protection of our citizens. Our emergency service providers are in a state of emergency. They need the state's leadership now in partnership with our municipalities to meet the many challenges they confront today and which will only worsen if not addressed. It is the unanimous position of the members of this commission that these recommendations should be made a priority in the next session of the General Assembly. It is estimated that the minimum investment these recommendations would require would be about \$20 million, which is less than 1/10 of 1 percent of the estimated savings in labor costs alone, our volunteer fire and emergency medical service providers save the Commonwealth.

The commission commends the General Assembly in its wisdom to provide for the creation of this special task force, bringing together for the first time all emergency service provider organizations, representatives of all local governments and bipartisan representation from the jurisdictional committees of both the House and Senate. This Commission (with the help of the service providers and those community leaders who are responsible for the services) has identified problems and PROPOSED SOLUTIONS for those problems to provide options for the funding, delivery, and support of volunteerism for fire and emergency medical services.

The commission members stand together in support of the recommendations contained herein. However, as other studies have identified problems but have fallen short of implementing solutions, we would respectfully suggest that the commission itself be continued in existence for the purpose of helping to foster action on and implementation of these and possible future recommendations and to provide continual oversight and advice to the General Assembly on the improvement of the delivery of emergency services in Pennsylvania.

APPENDICES

- 1. Statutory Responsibilities by Form of Government**
- 2. Municipal Fire/EMS Service Delivery Chart**

Appendix 1

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY BY FORM OF GOVERNMENT

(as extracted from Pennsylvania Emergency Service Laws)

Third Class City	Borough	1 st Class Township	2nd Class Township
<p>Section 2101 & 2403</p> <p>Each city may organize a fire bureau, with or without pay, make appropriates for the maintenance of the same, prescribe rules and regulations of the government of the officers and companies belonging thereto, and purchase equipment and apparatus for the extinguishment, prevention, and investigation of fires and for the public safety.</p> <p>Ambulance and service maintenance – To acquire, by purchase, gift or bequest or to operate and maintain ambulances or ambulance service for the purposes of conveying sick and injured persons in the city and the vicinity to and from hospitals, or in lieu thereof, to fire a private ambulance service, and for such purposes, to appropriate and expend moneys of the cities, or to appropriate money annually toward a nonprofit community ambulance service. All appropriations of money heretofore made and contracts for hire or private ambulance service heretofore</p>	<p>Section 1202</p> <p>To purchase or contribute to the purchase of fire engines and fire apparatus, boats, rescue and life saving equipment and supplies for the use of the borough and to appropriate money to fire companies, rescue unit and for the construction, repair and maintenance of the fire company and rescue units houses, including the acquisition of land for such purposes and, as set forth in this clause, for fire training schools and centers. The council may annually appropriate funds to fire companies located within the borough for the training of its personnel, and to lawfully organized or incorporated county or regional firemen's associations or an entity created pursuant to the act of July 12, 1972 (P.L. 762, No. 180), referred to as the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, to establish equip and maintain and operate fire training schools or centers for the purpose of giving instruction and practical training in the prevention, control, and</p>	<p>Section 1502</p> <p>XV – Fire and Water Districts; Bond Issues and Taxes. To create, by ordinance, fire and water districts in any portion or portions of townships when, in their opinion, the same is necessary for the safety and convenience of the inhabitants of said township; to issue bonds restricted to the districts so created, for the purpose of procuring and maintain the necessary supply of water to said district; and to levy such special tax restricted to said district as may be necessary to redeem any bonds so issued. To pay the cost or part of the cost of such water supply or water lines, the township commissioners may charge for any such water supply or water lines by an assessment of a special water or fire tax on all surface properties or real estate located in the water or fire district, which tax shall be based on the assessment for county purposes as established for general taxation. Such tax may be levied for a single year or for a</p>	<p>Section 1802</p> <p>a). The Board of Supervisors may appropriate moneys for the use of the township or to fire companies located in the township for the operation and maintenance of fire companies, for the operation and maintenance of fire apparatus, for the construction, repair and maintenance of fire company houses, for training of fire company personnel and as set forth in this section for the training schools or centers in order to secure fire protection for the inhabitants of a township. The fire companies shall submitted the board of supervisors an annual report of use of appropriated moneys for each completed year of the township before any further payments may be made to the fire companies for the current year.</p> <p>b.) The board of supervisors may by ordinance make rules and regulations for the government of the fire companies which are located within the township and their officers.</p>

Third Class City	Borough	1 st Class Township	2nd Class Township
<p>entered into by any city are hereby validated and confirmed.</p>	<p>fighting of fire and related fire department emergencies to the members of fire departments and volunteer fire companies in any city, borough, or town within the Commonwealth.</p> <p>To appropriate money annually towards ambulance service and to enter into contracts relating thereto. All appropriations of money hereto fore make and contracts heretofore entered into by any borough for ambulance service are hereby validated and confirmed.</p>	<p>term of years as the township commissars may determine, but in the case of fire districts, shall not exceed two miles per annum, and shall be collected in the same manner as other taxes. In lieu of the foregoing provision, or in order to defray part of the cost of such water supply or water lines, in all cases where said township shall have established a water system and shall construct main water lines in said township, the board of township commissioners may charge the cost of construction in any municipal water lines or lateral lines, upon any streets or highways adjacent to main lines, or such portion of the cost of construction as the board may deem proper, upon the properties benefited or accommodated thereby. The ordinance, providing for such charge, shall be adopted by the board within six months from the date of the final completion of such system water lines. Such charges shall be assessed and collected in the manner provided in (The First Class Township Code) for the assessment and collection of charges for the construction of sewers.</p> <p>XVI – To make regulations within the township or within such</p>	<p>c.) The board of supervisors may contract with or make grants to near or adjacent municipal corporations or volunteer fire companies therein for fire protection in the township.</p> <p>d.) No volunteer fire company not in existence in the township before the effective date of this act may organize or operate unless the establishment or organization is approved by resolution of the board of supervisors.</p> <p>e.) The board of supervisors may annually appropriate funds to fire companies located within the township for the training of its personnel and to lawfully organized or incorporated county or regional firemen's associations or an entity created pursuant to the act of July 12, 1972 (P.L. 762 No. 180), referred to as the Intergovernmental Cooperation law, to establish, equip, maintain and operate fire training schools or centers for the purpose of giving instruction and practical training in the prevention, control and fighting of fire and related fire department emergencies to the members of the fire department and volunteer fire companies in any city, borough, town, or township</p>

Third Class City	Borough	1 st Class Township	2nd Class Township
		<p>limits, as may be deemed proper, relative to the cause and management of fires and the prevention thereof to purchase or contribute to the purchase of fire engines and fire apparatus for the use of the township and to appropriate money to fire companies for the operation and maintenance thereof and for the construction, repair and maintenance of fire company houses, to ordain rules and regulations for the government of such fire companies and their officers and to regulate the method to be followed in the extinguishment of fires.</p> <p>XVII – Fire houses – to provide and maintain suitable places for the housing of engines, hose carts and other apparatus for the extinguishment of fire. No such building shall be erected or maintained without obtaining the assent of the electors thereof, expressed at an a election to be held at the place, time, and under the same regulations as provided by law for the holding of municipal elections.</p> <p>XXXIV – To acquire and to operate and maintain motor vehicles for the purposes of conveying sick and injured persons of such township and the</p>	within the Commonwealth.

Third Class City	Borough	1 st Class Township	2nd Class Township
		vicinity to and from hospitals, and , for such purposes , to appropriate and expend moneys of the township or to appropriate money annually towards ambulance and rescue and life saving service, and to enter in to contracts relating thereto. All appropriates of money heretofore made and contracts theretofore entered into by any township for such service are hereby validated and confirmed.	

Appendix 2

MUNICIPAL FIRE/EMS SERVICE DELIVERY CHART

Based upon a meeting of the undersigned, this summary chart identifies the primary provider of services to the community.

Fire Suppression*	_____.
Hazardous Materials – Awareness Level	_____.
Hazardous Materials – Operations Level	_____.
Fire Police	_____.
Rescue (vehicle, elevator, light entrapment)	_____.
Confined Space Rescue	_____.
Trench Rescue	_____.
Technical (structural collapse) Rescue	_____.
Water Rescue	_____.
Wilderness Rescue	_____.
High Angle Rescue	_____.
Basic Life Support – EMS	_____.
Advanced Life Support – EMS	_____.
QRS	_____.
Mass Casualty Incident	_____.
Terrorism Response	_____.
_____.	_____.
Fire Official	EMS Official
_____.	Date _____.
Municipal Official	

Issues/Challenges/needs faced that require action:

_____.

_____.

* includes structure fires, brush fires, vehicle fires, etc. requiring basic suppression via water usage

Standard of Service Level (attach Standard of Service Level Matrix)

Fire _____.

EMS _____.

Budget

Year	Operating Budget	Capital Budget
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Objectives for Fire and Rescue Services

Year _____ 1. _____ Implement PENNFIRS _____.

2. _____.

3. _____.

4. _____.

Year _____ 1. _____.

2. _____.

3. _____.

4. _____.

Year _____ 1. _____.

2. _____.

3. _____.

4. _____.

Standard of Service Matrix

It is important for us to consider the vast differences in the communities of the Commonwealth. Therefore, we must be cautious in creating standards too stringent for small communities with limited personnel, but also hold to acceptable levels of service for the residents of such communities.

SERVICE LEVEL*	DESCRIPTION
Defensive Service Level F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Personnel required – 3 b. Equipment – 1 NFPA criteria engine (pumper) c. Exterior Defensive Firefighting capabilities only d. Expectations – Protect surrounding exposures, loss of involved property – NO TIME LIMITS
Offensive Service Level E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Personnel required – 5 b. Equipment – 1 NFPA criteria engine (pumper) c. Interior Firefighting capabilities only of room or contents and small buildings under 750 square feet, NFPA PPE/SCBA. d. Expectations – Ability to extinguish a fire and save life and property. Respond within 9 minutes, plus travel time.
Offensive Service Level D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Personnel required – 5 b. Equipment – 1 NFPA criteria engine (pumper) c. Interior Firefighting capabilities only of room or contents and small buildings under 750 square feet. Also, vehicle extrication capabilities with little or no power equipment. NFPA PPE/SCBA. d. Expectations – Ability to extinguish a fire and save life and property. The ability to extricate a person from a motor vehicle efficiently. Respond within 9 minutes, plus travel time.
Offensive Service Level C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Personnel required – 6 b. Equipment – 1 NFPA criteria engine (pumper) c. Interior Firefighting capabilities of room or contents and small buildings under 1000 square feet. Vehicle rescue capabilities with power or no power equipment and provide Operations level Hazardous Materials Response. NFPA PPE/SCBA. d. Expectations – Ability to extinguish a fire and save life and property. The ability to perform and extricate a person from a motor vehicle efficiently. The ability to identify and provide operations level hazardous materials response. Arrive on scene within 14 minutes, 80% of the time.
Offensive Service Level B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Personnel required – 10 b. Equipment – 2 NFPA criteria engine (pumper) c. Interior Firefighting capabilities of room or contents and small buildings under 5000 square feet. Vehicle rescue capabilities with power or no power equipment and provide Operations level Hazardous Materials Response. NFPA PPE/SCBA. d. Expectations – Ability to extinguish a fire and save life and property. The ability to perform and extricate a person from a motor vehicle efficiently. The ability to identify and provide operations level hazardous materials response. Arrive on scene within 10 minutes of dispatch , 80% of the time.
Offensive Service Level A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Personnel required – 15 b. Equipment – 2 NFPA criteria engine (pumper), and one truck company (aerial or support truck) c. Interior Firefighting capabilities of room or contents and small buildings under 10,000 square feet. Vehicle rescue capabilities with power or no power equipment and provide Operations level Hazardous Materials Response. NFPA PPE/SCBA for each person. d. Expectations – Ability to extinguish a fire and save life and property. The ability to perform and extricate a person from a motor vehicle efficiently. The ability to identify and provide operations level hazardous materials response. Arrive on scene within 9 minutes of dispatch, 90 % of the time.

* An ultimate (most basic) goal is to have a turnout time (time from dispatch to time first vehicle leaves the door) is 9 minutes 90% of the time, plus travel time to the incident. (Levels E and F)

* Communities may have more than one service level

NOTE: SPECIAL RISKS REQUIRE ADDED SERVICES AS DETERMINED LOCALLY

SERVICE LEVEL	TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**
Defensive Service Level F	Firefighter – Basic firefighting course Pump Operator – Basic Pump course
Offensive Service Level E	Firefighter – Basic firefighting course, Haz Mat R&I, NIMS Pump Operator – Basic Pump course, Basic firefighting course
Offensive Service Level D	Firefighter – Basic firefighting course, Basic vehicle rescue course, Haz Mat R&I, NIMS Pump Operator – Basic Pump course, Basic firefighting course, Basic vehicle rescue course, Haz Mat R&I, NIMS
Offensive Service Level C	Firefighter – Basic firefighting course, Basic vehicle rescue course, Haz Mat Operations Course, NIMS Pump Operator – Basic Pump course, Basic firefighting course, Basic vehicle rescue course, Haz-mat Operations Course, NIMS
Offensive Service Level B	Firefighter – Basic firefighting course, Advanced vehicle rescue course, Haz Mat Operations Course, RIT Course, Truck Company Operations Course, NIMS Pump Operator – Basic Pump course, Basic firefighting course, Advanced vehicle rescue course, Haz-mat Operations Course, Truck Company Operations Course, NIMS
Offensive Service Level A	Firefighter – Firefighter I Certification, Advanced vehicle rescue course, Haz Mat Operations Course, RIT Course, Truck Company Operations Course, NIMS. Pump Operator – Basic Pump course, Firefighter I Certification, Advanced vehicle rescue course, Haz-mat Operations Course, Truck Company Operations Course, NIMS

** Applies to 50% of active responders not including fire police.

EMS Service Level D	First Aid Response by 2 First Responders
EMS Service Level C	Quick Response Unit with 1 EMT and 1 First Responder
EMS Service Level B	Basic Life Support – 1 EMT and 1 First Responder
EMS Service Level A	Advanced Life Support – 1 EMT and 1 Paramedic

Suggested Minimum Training for Administrative Officers:

President - Rules of Order, By-laws, Conducting of Meetings, Grant Writing
Treasurer - IRS Reporting, Grant Writing, Charitable Registrations.

BIOGRAPHIES OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN

Dr. William F. Jenaway, CFO, CFPS, Legislative Appointee

King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company

William F. Jenaway, Ph.D., CFPS, CFO, was selected as Chairman of the Senate Resolution Commission by its membership. Bill has been a member of the Pennsylvania emergency services community since 1969 serving as Fire Chief and Fire Marshal in East Bethlehem Township, Washington County; and as Fire Chief and President of the King of Prussia, Montgomery County, Volunteer Fire Company. He also has served over 10 years as the Chairman of the Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Fire and Rescue Services Board. In 2001, he was named "Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year" by Fire Chief magazine at the International Fire Chiefs Association annual conference; and has received awards and proclamations of service from both the House of Representatives and the Senate of Pennsylvania, the King of Prussia Rotary Club and the King of Prussia Chamber of Commerce. As Chief of the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company, the organization became the first all-volunteer fire company in the United States to achieve "Accredited Fire Service Agency" status, and at the writing of this document, remains the only fire service agency in the state to achieve this status. Bill served from 1999 through 2004 on the "Gilmore Commission" charged by the President and Congress as the "Advisory Panel to Assess Domestic Response Capabilities for Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction". Dr. Jenaway has authored seven texts, four children's books and over 200 articles and 200 presentations on fire and life safety. He holds A.S., B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. Among his many affiliations and committee involvements are Chairman of the National Fire Protection Association Committee "Recommended Practices in Emergency Service Organization Risk Management"; Chairman of the National Fire Protection Association Committee "Standard for Providing Emergency Services to the Public"; Commissioner on the "Commission on Fire Accreditation International", and a member of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Fire Department Historical Corporation. Bill's professional career is in insurance where he has worked for over 25 years, serving as Vice President of Risk Control for two of the largest insurance companies in the United States. He is currently employed as Executive Vice President of VFIS, the country's largest insurer of emergency service organizations.

VICE-CHAIR

Honorable Timothy Solobay,

General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

In 1998, 2000, and again in 2002, the people of Washington County's 48th Legislative District elected Tim Solobay to represent them in Harrisburg. Tim is a lifelong resident of Canonsburg, Washington County. He has a B.S. degree as well as being a graduate of the Washington Hospital School of Radiologic Technology. Tim is a member of the Canonsburg Volunteer Fire Company and serves as Assistant Chief. He has also been active in EMS as an Emergency Medical Technician and instructor, CPR and AED instructor. He is also a board member of the Washington County American Red Cross and served as a State Constable. He is also a member of Canonsburg's United

Presbyterian Church, where he has been a deacon and elder, the Knights of Pythias, and F.&A.M. Chartiers Lodge #297, the Syria Temple of Pittsburgh and the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. He also received his 32nd degree mason. He serves on the Washington County Food Bank Board of Directors and Canonsburg Renaissance Group Advisory Board, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education, Advisory Board of Washington County Health Partners, Inc., Tobacco Control Advisory Board, Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame Advisory Board, Advisory Board of Childcare Information Services of Washington County, Southern Pennsylvania Human Services Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Board, Washington County Firemen Association, Western Pennsylvania Firemen Association, Pennsylvania State Firemen's Association and Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute Advisory Board. Solobay is also a member of the Canonsburg/Houston Rotary and Elks. He was recently appointed to serve as the 2003-2004 Legislative Fellow to Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Tim decided to run for state office because of his desire to help people. As a legislator, he prides himself on working to provide a better quality of life for his constituents. He has been instrumental in helping the people he serves to receive valuable benefits from state government. He has focused much of his attention on the effects of the mining industry, working hard to ensure property owners' rights, while preserving the industry's role in the local economy. He also has devoted his energy to ensuring that workers receive the health care that they require. Representative Solobay is one of the strongest advocates in the Commonwealth for a dedicated funding source as well as recruitment and retention benefits for emergency service providers.

Honorable Richard A. Kasunic
Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Richard A. Kasunic was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in November 1994, highlighting a public service career that began in 1982. In January 1995, he began a four-year term as Senator and was re-elected in 1998 and 2002. He lives in Dunbar Township (Monarch). A graduate of Dunbar Township High School, Senator Kasunic earned an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Robert Morris Junior College, Pittsburgh, in 1967, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Youngstown State University in 1970. He served with the Pennsylvania National Guard from 1970 to 1976. Senator Kasunic was elected in 1982 to represent the 52nd Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He served in the House for six terms before choosing to run for the Senate in 1994. His top legislative priorities are economic development, job training, education, business development, water and sewer improvements and highway construction. Senator Kasunic is a member of the Senate Democratic Leadership, serving as chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee. In this position, he is responsible for shaping policy for the Senate Democratic Caucus. He is the Democratic chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness committee. In this position, he plays a key role in issue development for veterans, emergency and first responder, and homeland security. Senator Kasunic is a member of the Senate Committees on Rules & Executive Nominations, Labor and Industry, Transportation, and Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure. He also serves on the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation

Committee, State Transportation Advisory Committee, the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council; serves as co-chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus; and is a member of the Coal Caucus, Fire Caucus, and Keystone State Games Legislative Caucus. Senator Kasunic serves on the Pennsylvania American Legion Legislative Committee, Honorary Chair for PA Small Business Development Centers, the Pennsylvania State University/Fayette Campus Advisory Board, the California University of Pennsylvania/Somerset Advisory Committee, Fayette County Community Action Agency Board of Directors, Fay-Penn Economic Development Council, Fayette County Local Emergency Planning Committee, Advisory Council of the Youghiogheny River Conservation Plan, Continental 1 (formerly Route 219 Association), the Public Affairs Council of Central Fayette Chamber of Business and Industry, the Highlands Hospital Board of Trustees, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Board of Trustees. He belongs to the Saint Vincent DePaul Roman Catholic Church and many local organizations including the Monarch Volunteer Fire Department, Fayette County Firemen's Association, Independent Slovak Citizens Club, Polish Independent Club, Perryopolis Sons of Italy and Catholic War Veterans. He is a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, Dunbar Sportsmen's Club, South Connellsville Sportsmen's Club, and the Hutchinson Sportsmen's Club.

Honorable Sean Logan,

Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Representing parts of both Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties, Senator Sean Logan is the Chairman of the Senate Law and Justice Committee, serves as Democratic Chairman of the Senate Fire and Emergency Services Caucus, and is a member of the following committees: Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Finance, Labor and Government, Local Government and State Government. He is on the Transportation Committee of the Eastern Regional Council of the Conference of the Council of State Governments, PHEAA Board of Directors, and the Legislative Data Processing Committee. In 1997 he became the youngest elected Mayor in the history of the Municipality of Monroeville, and the youngest Mayor in the Commonwealth. Prior to this he was an assistant to State Sen. Frank Pecora and United States Representative Michael F. Doyle. Senator Logan also served as Director of Consumer Protection for the District Attorney for Allegheny County.

Honorable Michael Waugh

Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Michael L. "Mike" Waugh got his start in public service at the community level, both in an elective capacity and as a community volunteer. In November 1998 he was elected to serve as Senator for the citizens of York County in the 28th Senatorial District. Before being elected to the State Senate, he served six years in the state House of Representatives beginning in November 1992. Prior to being elected to the General Assembly, Mike was a managing partner of the family business, Waugh Construction Company, for fifteen years. He has served his community locally as an active volunteer fire, rescue and emergency service worker and was assistant fire chief with the

Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Company for 12 years from 1981-1993. During his service in the House of Representatives he served on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation and as a Commissioner on the tri-state Chesapeake Bay Commission. Before being elected to state office, Mike Waugh served as an elected township supervisor in Shrewsbury Township from 1989-1992. He was elected vice-president of the York County Association of Townships of the Second Class in 1992 and was a committee member of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. Waugh is also past co-chairman and a member of the York County Transportation Coalition. He has served as a Deacon and Elder of his church, St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Shrewsbury, and is a member of Shrewsbury Lodge No. 423 F. & A.M. Currently he serves on the Board of Directors of the York County Cooperative Extension Association, the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation and the Advisory Board to the Agricultural Institute at the Landis Valley Museum. He is a member of the York County Farm Bureau and Hopewell Fish and Game Association. Mike was recently named to the Preservation of Agricultural Land Sub-Committee of the South Central Assembly for Effective Governance and serves as the Governor's appointee to the Farm Show Commission and Senate appointee to the Chesapeake Bay Commission. During the 2003-2004 legislative sessions, Mike will serve as Chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, as well as the Vice Chairman of the Urban Affairs and Housing Committee. He will also serve as a majority member of the Appropriations, Local Government, and Public Health and Welfare Committees. He has also been nominated to serve on the National Agriculture Policy Task Force of the Council of State Governments, the Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, the Senate Majority Policy Committee, and is the Majority Chairman of the Senate Firefighters and Emergency Services Caucus.

Honorable Donald White

Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

First elected to the Senate in 200, Senator Donald White is the Chair of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Vice Chair of the Community and Economic Development Committee, and a member of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs, Banking and Insurance, Environmental Resources and Energy and Transportation Committees. A past President of the Jaycees and past board member of the Association for the Blind, he served in the U.S. Army from 1972-75.

Honorable Lawrence Sather

General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Elected as State Representative in November, 1992; re-elected 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002, Representative Sather currently serves on the House Insurance Committee, Policy Committee, Aging and Older Adults Services Committee (Sub-Committee Chairman of Programs and Benefits), State Government Committee, Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. Member of the Firefighters and Emergency Services Legislative Caucus (Serves as Vice-Chairman), Corrections Caucus and serves as a Deputy Whip for the Republican Caucus. He is a former County

Commissioner/Chairman of the Board, 1980 through 1992, and prior to that was a Sales Representative for Met Life Insurance. A graduate of Huntingdon Area High School Graduate and the Dale Carnegie Course in Public Speaking, Rep. Sather has completed a Penn State University Small Business Program and a 2-year course of Life Underwriting Training and Securities Council. He is Past President of County Commissioners Association of PA and past Chairman of the Executive Committee of CCAP and a Member of the Transportation Steering Committee of the National Assoc. of County Commissioners and Vice-Chairman of the Highway Sub-Committee. He is a member of the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission, 1986-1990, served on the LEV (Low Emission Vehicle) Commission, 1993-94, and as President of Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission Executive Committee, 1984-85. He was Director of Huntingdon County Business and Industry, Inc., 1982-1990; Co-Chairman of the Transportation Committee and a former Walker Township Supervisor/Vice-Chairman of the Board 1976-1980. Rep. Sather is a Life Member of local McConnellstown Fire Company; Past President, Financial Secretary, and Fire Chief. for five years He also is a member of many local organizations.

Honorable Stanley Saylor

General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Elected to the State House of Representatives on November 3, 1992, Rep. Stanley E. Saylor is currently serving his sixth term. His District includes the Townships of Chanceford, East Hopewell, Fawn, Hopewell, Lower Chanceford, Lower Windsor, North Hopewell, Peach Bottom, Windsor, York (partial) and the Boroughs of Delta, Cross Roads, East Prospect, Fawn Grove, Felton, Red Lion, Stewartstown, Windsor, Winterstown and Yorkana. Rep. Saylor graduated from Dallastown Area High School. and attended the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Prior to his election to the State House, Rep. Saylor was Vice-President of Jesse S. Saylor Plastering, Inc., in Dallastown. Rep. Saylor serves on the Committees on Appropriations, Finance, Professional Licensure, Transportation, and Rules. He is also a member of the Majority Policy Committee and has been appointed Deputy Whip for the Republican Caucus. He has served as the Vice Chairman of the House Finance Committee since the 1999-2000 Session. Rep. Saylor serves as the Co-chair of the Legislative Firefighters and Emergency Services Caucus. He is also a member of the Rural Caucus, Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, Child Care Caucus, and Susquehanna River Basin Caucus. Rep. Saylor has been appointed to serve on the American Legislative Exchange Council's Tax and Policy Task Force and the Council of State Governments' Transportation Committee. He received the Elected Official Award from the York County Chamber of Commerce and the Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Business. Rep. Saylor was named as an outstanding champion by Parents Anonymous of Pennsylvania for his continued work with community-based agencies in York County to sponsor professional seminars on child abuse prevention. Rep. Saylor is a member of numerous clubs, associations and organizations in his district as well as in York County. He is a member of the York County Builder's Association, the York County Task Force on Domestic Violence, the Child Abuse Prevention Council of York Inc., the Healthy York County Coalition, the York County Education Task Force, the York County Farm

and Natural Lands Trust, and the Pennsylvania Farm Show Ambassadors Club. He served as President of the Pennsylvania Jaycees from 1990-1991 and is a past member of the Red Lion Area Jaycees. Other memberships of Rep. Saylor's include the Red Lion Library, Stewartstown Library, Red Lion and Mason-Dixon Business Associations, Red Lion Lions Club, Red Lion Elks, York County Farmer's Association, Pennsylvania Farmer's Association, Red Lion Grange, Red Lion Historical Society, White Rose Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, and an Honorary Life Member of the Southern York County Forest Fire Crew. He is also a member of the National Association of Sportsmen Legislators. Rep. Saylor is active in the York County Republican Club and the Young Republicans of York County. He is also a past member of the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania. In the past, he served as Chief Assessor for York County from 1979-1987. Rep. Saylor is a member of Winterstown United Methodist Church. He resides in Windsor Township, York County.

Honorable Thomas Tighe

General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1980, Thomas Tighe is currently serving his 12th term. He serves as the Democratic Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and is a member of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. He represents the 118th Legislative District which include Parts of Luzerne and Monroe Counties. He has served as a School Director on the Board of the Pittston Area School District and served on Wilkes-Barre Area Vo-Tech Board. Awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree from King's College, he was a 2003 Legislative Fellow at East Stroudsburg University. A U.S. Marine Corps Officer (Commissioned 1968) he retired as a Colonel from the Marine Corps Reserve. Representative Tighe is a Vietnam Veteran and was awarded the Silver Star, Navy Commendation, Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He is a member of several Fraternal/Community organizations including the VFW, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce, Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Barry Albertson, Jr. EMT-P

Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania

Barry Albertson is the Executive Director of Suburban Emergency Medical Services and serves as President of the Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania. He is the current & past President of the Eastern PA Emergency Medical Services Council, is a member of the Advisory Board for Emergency Services at Northampton County Community College and is currently enrolled at Drexel University in the Leadership program.

Vincent DiFillipo, Legislative Appointee

Radnor Fire Company

Vince began his fire service career in 1981 when he joined the Radnor Fire Company of Wayne Pennsylvania, serving as a member of the Board of Directors and over time, he progressed to Vice President and Chief. Vince serves with the Congressional Fire

Services Institute during their annual Conference and Dinner program. He currently serves as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute's Youth Leadership Challenge, and serves on their various committees'. Vince served on the Delaware County Fireman's Association committee "Cause for Alarm" bringing together local government officials and their local fire officials to discuss the concerns facing the fire service in the 21st century. Vince is a nationally certified HVAC technician and a certified Carbon Monoxide analyst. Vince has instructed local fire departments on how residential Heating & Air-conditioning systems affect building fires and was a speaker at the Fire Department Instructors conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis. In 2004 Vince was selected to the Pennsylvania Senate Resolution 60 Bipartisan Legislative Commission to develop legislation to provide direct and indirect assistance for the purpose of improving the delivery of emergency services in the Commonwealth. Chief Difilippo is President and Owner of DIFILIPPOS SERVICE COMPANY INC a nationally and locally award winning HVAC service company. He speaks at Seminars and Conventions across the country to other contractors on how to deliver outstanding quality service.

David Eckman

Pennsylvania Professional Firefighters Association.

David Eckman was elected as President of the Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association in May of 2004. He began his full time professional career in the fire service in 1987. His experience as an elected official allowed his colleagues to quickly choose him to lead their local union in discussing issues of importance to professional fire fighters with their employer. He served in this capacity for 15 years, when he was appointed as the legislative director for the State organization, a position he held until his election as President. Mr. Eckman lives in York and has attended the Harrisburg Area Community College, York College and the University of Cincinnati.

Mark Hamilton,

County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

Mark Hamilton is not a stranger in the fire and emergency world. Mark began his public service in 1975, when he became a member of the Big Elm Volunteer Fire Company in Daggett, Pennsylvania at the age of 16. While there, Mark moved through the ranks to serve as secretary, vice president and assistant chief until moving to Mansfield, Pennsylvania, where keeping with tradition, he immediately joined Mansfield Hose Company and Mansfield Ambulance Association. During his tenure in Mansfield, he has served as captain and Chaplin of the Hose Company and president and assistant chief of the Ambulance Association. Mark is also an active EMS instructor with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. For the past ten years he has co taught and coordinated multiple EMT, First Responders, and CPR classes in North central Pennsylvania. Mark's professional career of 18 years as a multi media producer has also afforded him peripheral experience in the EMS field as he has produced commercials and promotional and training videos for several health care systems in Pennsylvania, including projects for Emergency Air Transport Services. Mark's career took quite a turn in 2001 when he was appointed Mayor of Mansfield, Pennsylvania, just shortly before the September 11, 2001,

attack. Since then he has gone on to be elected as Tioga County Commissioner, where he sits as Chairman of the Board. Understanding that Mark has 29 years of experience in the Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania has chosen him to represent the counties commissioners of our state on the SR 60 Bipartisan Commission. Being a newly elected commissioner Mark sees this as both an honor and a privilege to be able to use his past experience to serve on this commission.

James Hertzler

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners

A 20-year veteran of local government service, Jim Hertzler is currently serving in his fourth full term as a township commissioner from East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County, and is a past President of the Central Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners. A member of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC), Hertzler was appointed as the designee of the President of the PSATC to serve on the SR 60 Commission. In East Pennsboro Township, Hertzler is the Vice-President of the Township's Board of Commissioners, serves as the township's Police Commissioner & Alternative Fire Commissioner. He is also a past President of Cumberland County's West Shore Council of Governments (WSCOG) where he currently chairs the WSCOG Public Safety Committee. He also serves as the WSCOG's delegate to the newly established Cumberland County Emergency Services Action Panel and is a staunch advocate of efforts to encourage the recruitment and retention of emergency service volunteers. Previously an elected member of the East Pennsboro School Board (1984-1989), Hertzler was first appointed to fill a township commissioner vacancy in October, 1989, and was subsequently elected and re-elected as a township commissioner in 1991, 1995, 1999 and 2003. Married and the father of three daughters, Hertzler is employed as an executive assistant to Senate Minority Whip Michael A. O'Pake (D-Berks).

Kathleen Hogan, Executive Director

Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council

Kathleen currently serves as the Acting Executive Director of the PA Emergency Health Services Council, the legislatively mandated advisory body to the PA Department of Health on all matters pertaining to emergency medical services. Kathleen holds a Bachelors degree from the University of Buffalo, and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Penn State University. Kathleen is a PA certified EMT and a member of Hampden Township Volunteer Fire Company in Mechanicsburg, PA.

Helen Jackson

Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs

Helen Jackson has served to New Beaver Borough Council for 27 years, and as Council President for 25 years. She has also worked diligently on behalf of the Lawrence County Boroughs Association and State Boroughs Association, where she was State President during 2003. Professionally employed as a draftsman for many years, she also served

on the Lawrence County Planning Commission, Lawrence County Government Study Commission and numerous other committees. Helen also served as a member of the Lawrence County Emergency Command Center Board of Directors which is the 911 Communications Board. She received a citation for dedication to Civic Leadership and Spirit from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, a citation for service and leadership to the Community, County and State, by the Pennsylvania Senate and was named the 2000 Outstanding Republican for Lawrence County.

**Alan Jenkins, Past President
Western Pennsylvania Fireman's Association**

Mr. Jenkins has 37 years of service with the Jefferson Volunteer Fire Company in Greene County. He served 14 years as President, 4 years as Chief, Fire Police Captain, and several other positions within the company. He was the President of the Western Pennsylvania Fireman's Association in 2002.

**Donald Konkle, Legislative Appointee
Fire Chief/EMA Coordinator, City of Harrisburg**

Chief Konkle is a thirty year veteran of the Fire Service. He was appointed to the Harrisburg Bureau of Fire in 1974, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1980 and Fire Chief in 1984. Chief Konkle is the President of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute, Chairman of Community Life Team, President of the Dauphin County Fire Chief's Association and a board member of the Pennsylvania National Fire Museum. He is a member of the Dauphin County Local Emergency Management Planning Committee. Don is an Adjunct Faculty Member at Harrisburg Area Community College and the Agency Head for Pennsylvania Task Force One. He is a 1973 graduate of Penn State; a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and has Professional Certification as a Local Emergency Management Coordinator.

**Deborah Kulick
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors**

Debbie Kulick represents the Pennsylvania Township Supervisors Association which represents townships of the second class. Serving as supervisor since 1996, she is the chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors in Middle Smithfield Township and serves as Township Administrator. In addition to her duties as supervisor, Debbie has served as an active EMS volunteer and educator for 30 years in her community. Debbie is a graduate of East Stroudsburg University with a degree in education and holds many certifications in pre-hospital education and training.

**Edward Mann, State Fire Commissioner
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

Ed Mann was reappointed as the State Fire Commissioner by Governor Edward G. Rendell in November 2002. Commissioner Mann was appointed as the fourth State Fire Commissioner of the Commonwealth by Governor Tom Ridge in July 2000. Ed has

extensive background in emergency services having started with the Logan and Undine Fire Companies in Bellefonte, Centre County some 27 years ago. He officially became a member of the Logan Fire Company in 1977 and performed duties as a firefighter and ambulance attendant. Ed has served in the United States Air Force as a Fire Protection Specialist. After his retirement from the service he worked for Senators J. Doyle Corman and Jake Corman as an Executive Assistant in the 34th Senatorial District. Ed has worked as a Local Level and Adjunct Instructor since 1987 and is currently certified as an Airport Firefighter, Fire Inspector 2, Fire Instructor 3, Fire Investigator 2, and Fire Officer 3 through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. He is currently the Assistant Chief and Financial Secretary for the East Derry Fire Company in Mifflin County. He is a member of the National Fire Protection Association Fire Service Section and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. His message to all emergency services personnel is to “Be safe for your families sake”.

Fred McCutcheon, President

Fireman’s Legislative Federation of the State of Pennsylvania

Fred McCutcheon joined the fire service in Moon Township, Allegheny County in 1940, at the age of 16. In 1968 he became a member of the Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Company and became a State Fire Instructor in 1975, having amassed over 2,000 hours of fire service certificated training and 14 college credits. Fred is currently certified to teach National Fire Academy, Emergency Management Institute, and State Fire Academy Courses. Mr. McCutcheon is Treasurer of the Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Company, Treasurer of the Relief Association, Western Director and Charter Member of the Keystone Chapter of Fire Service Instructors, and is in his second term as President of the Fireman’s Legislative Federation of the State of Pennsylvania.

Roland R. Mertz

Councilman, City of Greensburg

President, Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities

Roland R. “Bud” Mertz was elected to Greensburg City Council in 1988. Prior to that, Bud was elected to the Greensburg Government Study Commission where he was instrumental in developing the Home Rule Charter that the city currently uses. Bud has been active in the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities and is currently serving as their President. Bud has also been appointed to the National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee and their Homeland Security Advisory Committee. Currently Bud is employed as the Assistant Director of the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security, being appointed by Governor Ed Rendell in March of 2003. Prior to that, Bud was employed as a Police Communications Operator and Instructor for the Pennsylvania State Police. His interest in public safety dates back to his childhood, as a second generation firefighter, Bud had grown in the fire service from being a junior fireman to an active firefighter. Bud is a member of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department, Truck Company #2, serving in his 28th active year.

**William H. Rehr, Legislative Appointment
City of Reading Fire Department**

Chief Rehr is a forty-five year veteran of the Fire Service. He joined the Reading Fire Department in 1959, serving for thirteen years as a volunteer firefighter and line officer. In 1972 Mr. Rehr was appointed to the career position of 2nd Deputy Chief, through a civil service testing procedure. He was promoted to First Deputy Chief in 1983, and finally appointed Fire Chief in 1996 in conjunction with the City of Reading's adoption of a new home rule charter. He continues to serve as chief, under the charter's third elected mayor. The Reading Fire Department provides Fire, EMS, and Rescue services for 82,000 residents living within the city's ten square miles. The Department is staffed with 153 career employees and 40 certified volunteers, who operate seven engine companies, three ladder companies, and a heavy rescue squad, out of eight stations. The EMS Division is a full service operation consisting of three paramedic ALS units, a BLS unit, and three wheelchair non-emergency transport vans, operating from a center city station. In 2003, the Department responded to 15,315 emergency fire and EMS calls. Mr. Rehr also attended the University of Maryland Fire Service Extension, and while there served as a volunteer member of the College Park Fire Department, of the Prince George's County Fire Service. Chief Rehr also served as the Berks County 9-1-1 Coordinator, on a part-time consulting basis from 1988 until 2003. In that capacity he was responsible for the design and implementation of the county's enhanced 9-1-1 system and the relocation and configuration of the Berks County regional Communications Center when it was moved to the County complex in downtown Reading.

**Ernie Rohjan, Immediate Past President
Fireman's Association of the State of Pennsylvania**

Immediate Past President and currently Chairman of the Board of the Firemen's Association of the State of PA., Managing Editor of the PA FIREMAN News Magazine, Treasurer of the Lancaster County Firemen's Association, Inc., member of the Board of the PA Firemen's Legislation Federation and currently a member of the Rohrerstown Vol. Fire Dept., and owner of Computer Print. Ernie is a retired Deputy Chief of Administration and Fire Marshal for the City of Lancaster (PA) Bureau of Fire, serving for 27 years and was previously employed as an ISO rating inspector. He served with the U.S. Air Force Fire Rescue for four years. Ernie is a Past Chairman of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Service Institute Advisory Board. He joined the Laurel Volunteer Fire Company of York, PA in 1953 and holds life membership; in addition to serving as Assistant Chief and holds a life membership in the Friendship Volunteer Fire Dept., Elizabethtown, PA. Ernie attended the Elizabethtown College Business Administration Program and holds Associate Degree in Fire Science from the Harrisburg Area Community College.

**Thomas Savage, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute**

Thomas L. Savage, III currently serves as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute. Previous to this he was the first PFESI Statewide Advisory Board Chairman and served as a member of the Executive Board, and Treasurer. He is a Past President and Life member of Glenolden Fire Company, Past President and Life member, and currently Treasurer, of the Delaware County Firemen's Association, and serves as a Director for the Pennsylvania Firemen's Legislative Federation. Tom was one of the founders and participants in the statewide Fire Service leadership retreats, later named the George T. Lewis Leadership Retreat. He also was one of the originators of a countywide public education program that involved the entire community and received statewide recognition. He is the recipient of the Congressional Fire Service Award given by Congressman Weldon in Delaware County, the DCFA Fireman of the Year award and the PFESI President's Teamwork award.

ALTERNATES

David Gemmill alternate to Rep. Stanley Saylor

David Gemmill is a retired Fire Chief of New Bridgeville Memorial Fire Company in York County Pennsylvania. He entered into the fire service as a Junior Firefighter in 1980. Dave became very active in the fire service holding numerous offices within his department, including various line officer and administration positions, which continue today. He retired as Fire Chief in 2003 after being elected as a Township Supervisor in Chanceford Township York County Pennsylvania. Currently he is the Vice Chairman on the Chanceford Township Board of Supervisors. Dave also serves on the Board of Governors for the York County Fire School. Outside of the fire service Dave serves as President of D. E. Gemmill, Inc. a company which he created in 1986. He is proud and honored to be able to use his business and management skills, along with his experience as a community leader and volunteer to serve on this commission.

Elam M. Herr, Assistant Executive Director, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

Ron Oettel, alternate to Senator Donald White

Ron is a lifelong resident of Lancaster County, PA living most of his life in Lititz, PA. When he turned 18, a friend's father, who was an active member of the Lititz Fire Company, encouraged Ron to join the Fire Company. Ron became very active in this organization holding numerous positions including secretary, assistant treasurer, president and most currently fire chief. Ron is in his 25th year as a member and in his 10th year as chief of the department. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Lancaster County Firemen's Association and currently serves as the president of the Lancaster County Fire Chief's Association. Ron holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Millersville University and attended Harrisburg Area Community College in the Fire Protection Technology degree program. In his

professional life, Ron is a Regional Director for Provident, an emergency services insurance provider.

Chief John Senft, alternate to Senator Michael Waugh

Chief John S. Senft is Chief of the Department of Fire/Rescue Services of the City of York, Pennsylvania. Chief Senft became a volunteer firefighter in 19070 and entered career service in 1973. He progressed through the ranks to his current position, being named Chief in 2000. Chief Senft is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program, He is a member of many professional organizations and is an active emergency services instructor. He is an adjunct faculty member of the National Fire Academy where he has served as an instructor and subject matter expert for several programs.

Walter Wise alternate to Ernie Rohjan of the Fireman's Association of the State of Pennsylvania

Walter Wise is employed by the Centre Region Council of Governments as the Fire Administrator for the Alpha Fire Company of State College Pennsylvania. Walt became a volunteer firefighter in 1960. He was the commanding officer of a US Army fire fighting detachment 1967-1968. He entered career service in 1971 and progressed to Chief of the Bethesda, MD fire Department. He was appointed Deputy Chief for operations in 1988 when the Montgomery County MD Fire Service was consolidated. He retired from The Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Services in 1992 and accepted his current position. Walt Wise has a B.S. degree from Drexel University, an A.A. degree in fire science and he is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program. He is an adjunct faculty member of the National Fire Academy where he has served as an instructor and subject matter expert for several programs.

Robert Timko alternate to Fred McCutcheon of the Fireman's Legislative Federation of the State of Pennsylvania.

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PRESS RELEASES

For the past five months, first responders and community leaders from across the state have been meeting in Harrisburg to identify options to address the myriad of challenges facing the fire and emergency medical services in the Commonwealth.

Senate Resolution 60 was passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 2003, creating a bi-partisan commission charged with developing “legislation to provide direct and indirect assistance for the purpose of improving the delivery of emergency services in this Commonwealth.” The 25- member Commission includes fire and emergency medical service leaders, local government representatives, key state agency staff and members of the General Assembly.

State Fire Commissioner Ed Mann said that Senate Resolution 60 and the Commission represented the first time “all involved partners, namely first responders, local government officials and members of the legislature, were at the table, working together toward an acceptable resolution to the problems facing our community public safety programs.

“For the past 25-years, study after study identified the problems and challenges we all faced,” Mann said. “In most cases, they were obvious, such as volunteer recruiting and retention. Now, for the first time, we are focusing our collective energies on finding solutions to these problems.”

Under the chairmanship of Dr. William F. Jenaway, of the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company, the Commission created working committees looking at key aspects of the community public safety program. This includes the mission, funding/finances, service delivery, legislation and the first responders themselves.

“Each area directly impacts the overall effectiveness of our community public safety programs,” Chairman Jenaway said.

“Pennsylvania has a proud tradition providing community fire protection through volunteer and career departments. More than 250 years ago, in 1752, Ben Franklin organized the nation’s first volunteer fire company in Philadelphia. But times have changed, as have community demographics. Daytime coverage by volunteers is increasingly challenging when they work miles from the community and their volunteer fire department.”

Jenaway said that the Commission’s goal is to study the issues and to make recommendations to the Pennsylvania General Assembly should legislation be required to correct a problem or authorize an initiative.

Topics being considered include firefighter training, encouraging volunteerism in high schools, financial incentives to attract and reward volunteers, municipal and state government support, tax credits for employers, and numerous other programs intended to

support the first response community. In addition, the Commission is studying how existing state-based fire and EMS funding is being used.

Chairman Jenaway said that where local problems exist, in many cases they can be traced to a break down in communications and relationships between the fire service and municipal officials.

“Volunteer fire and EMS members are providing a municipal government service, often with limited or no financial help from the elected officials,” Jenaway said. “However, it is also incumbent upon the fire and EMS company to be accountable within their community. It is essential that a partnership exist between municipal officials and the fire/EMS leaders that is based on mutual understood expectations.”

Commissioner Ed Mann recognized the on-going hard work by the Commission members and support staffs. He said that the past five meetings have been well attended by many who have traveled across the state.

“Now is the time to make a change,” Mann said. “All the involved parties are at the table, focused on the future of the fire and EMS service in our communities. The brain power and experience on this Commission is humbling.

“We are at a critical turning point and the only direction we know we cannot go is back. Pennsylvania’s future fire and EMS programs depend on what we accomplish today.” Mann said.

The Commission has been meeting monthly in Harrisburg. State Representative Tim Solobay was named vice-chairman of the Commission.

Senate Resolution 60 called for a Commission report to be submitted to the General Assembly by June 30, 2004. Senate Resolution 236 extended the deadline for the report and related legislative recommendation until November 30, 2004.

GLOSSARY

Definitions

Advanced Life Support - ALS – emergency medical treatment beyond basic life support level as defined by the medical authority having jurisdiction.

Basic Life Support – BLS – emergency medical treatment at a level as defined by the medical authority having jurisdiction.

Member – A person involved in performing the duties and responsibility of a fire department under the auspices of the organization.

Rescue – Those activities directed at locating endangered persons at an emergency incident, removing those persons from danger, treating the injured and providing for transport to an appropriate health care facility.