



# **NLCERA EMS Contract**

## **Second Quarter EMS Rural Fire Chiefs Meeting - Minutes**

### **April 18, 2020**

PFA Administering the NLCERA EMS Contract – 2020 Second Quarter Meeting

Greetings NLCERA EMS Rural Fire Chiefs and Designees,

Please see the minutes from the second-quarter April 18, 2020 meeting.

#### Discussion Items/Agenda:

1. Introductions and welcome
  - a. See [Roster](#) below
2. Approve February 15, 2020 third-quarter meeting minutes
  - a. **Minutes from February 15 sent out prior to this meeting.**
  - b. **Please send any questions or corrections to: [bsalmon@poudre-fire.org](mailto:bsalmon@poudre-fire.org)**
3. Administrative:
  - a. NLCERA EMS Rural Departments April 18, 2020 meeting format due to Federal, State and Local declarations of emergency: Conditions, Actions and Needs (CAN) format within the five Pillars.
    - i. **Initial discussion about the purpose of the CAN reports meeting format change due to COVID-19.**
  - b. NLCERA Rural Fire Departments/Districts – COVID-19 Specific EMS CAN Reports for each pillar:
    - i. **Condition –**
      1. What is your current situation of readiness regarding COVID-19 EMS response?
      2. Are you experiencing COVID-19 or other response concerns?
      3. Is your department tied into Larimer County and State OEM for COVID-19 updates and resources?
      4. Are there any changes in staffing or EMT's?
      5. Any Peer Support needs?
    - ii. **Actions –**

1. What actions is your department taking to ensure responders preparedness regarding COVID-19 specific response in addition to normal call volume?
  2. Is your AHJ developing plans for COVID-19 EMS response?
- iii. Needs –
1. What EMS needs does your department have at this time, either COVID-19 response specific or other?
  2. After reviewing the protocol, equipment, PPE, and decontamination updates are there any questions specific to your organization?
- iv. CAN Reports for each pillar:
1. RCVFD, WFPD, LFPD, PCFPD, GVFPD, RFLFPD, CLFPD
    - a. Protocols
    - b. Equipment
    - c. Training
    - d. Response
    - e. Q/A
  2. WFPD – Chief Green described how WFPD is tied in with Larimer County and PFA, and is well informed and positioned for EMS response. Much positive happening to educate and inform civic and governmental local leadership. Practicing social distancing in town and at fire stations. Fire stations are designated limited access by the public, with only operations personnel allowed. Limiting access to patients by fire crews to conserve PPE and limit exposure to possible COVID patients. Suspected COVID patients are handed off to UCH health ambulance personnel upon their arrival. No needs at this time.
  3. LFPD – Joel Funk expressed gratitude to Jim Herrington, Mary Makris and Donn Maynard for their leadership and help to coordinate readiness for COVID-19 response at LFPD. Joel described difficulties with establishing new procedures (LFPD - COVID-19 response guidelines) without being able to practice as a department. LFPD is staying informed with lots of emails. LFPD has adequate PPE supplies, yet is concerned if they have enough due to the possibility of a second wave of COVID-19 Patients. Support from Larimer County EOC has been good. No needs at this time.
  4. PCFPD – Hugh Collins thanked LFPD for sending out their COVID-19 related department procedures, as they were very helpful. PCFPD has PPE for two COVID-19 responses, and then will restock from GVFPD cache. PCFPD has staged for UCH to arrive on suspected COVID-19 calls. No needs at this time.
  5. GVFPD – Warren Jones described GVFPD is in good shape for EMS response. The cache of COVID-19 related PPE is

established at GVFPD Station 1, and Warren will ensure any department needing resupply from the cache will have it as soon as possible. Warren thanked Joel and Donn for Livermore's work on the response procedures. Warren described how the NLCERA mountain chiefs are meeting weekly (Wednesday evenings) via phone or zoom to coordinate and inform. Warren expressed his concern about EMS skills training and how to attract new members in our current social distancing culture. He addressed the EMT Hybrid course options currently being researched with AIMS. Front Range Community College is not a current option for the EMT Hybrid course. Apparently there may be an option with Thompson Valley EMS in the future for EMT training. GVFPD has suspended their Squad response due to low number of EMTs. The Evacuation Drill scheduled for June is cancelled, as Larimer County and North 40 Alliance are not in a position to provide support due to COVID-19 duties. No needs at this time.

6. RFLFPD – Bobby Hill advised RFLFPD is well equipped with PPE. The challenges are many within the constantly changing COVID-19 information and recommendations. RFLFPD is treating all calls as COVID-19 and putting masks on all patients. No needs at this time.
7. CLFPD – Mark Rode advised they have three EMTs and that much of their response is tied to RFLFPD - same update. CLFPD has adequate PPE at this time. Mark expressed concern and interest in having data available to indicate if COVID-19 is coming to the mountain communities. Training is also an issue due to social distancing, and how do we solve the training need problem? Mark would like to see weekly data sent regarding COVID-19 known locations. No other needs.

c. **NLCERA EMS Contract Extension Update**

- i. Kevin gave an overview of the EMS Contract extension status. Due to the complexity and time it was taking to incorporate amendments into the current contract, and with COVID-19 happening and taking 100% of staff energy, the current contract will be extended without any changes. The only changes will be with dispatch due to being based on call volume. The PFA Board approved this updated extension plan at the January 2020 Board meeting. When PFA is no longer under emergency declaration, the EMS Contract amendments previously being considered will be reassessed for possible inclusion. The NLCERA EMS Contract extension is for 12 months from June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021.

d. **EMS Contract compliance measures during emergency declaration**

- i. Qualifies for Unusual Factors exemption requests due to COVID-19 specific variables.

1. Bill described that under declarations of emergency our EMS Compliance focus is on COVID-19 response data. All responses can be considered for qualifying for exemption due to extended decontamination and other considerations.
- ii. EMS response compliance measures are the same as normal, in addition to daily COVID-19 specific data measures.
  1. Aaron and Bill are meeting weekly and assessing the data in the same ways, including COVID-19. Monthly EMS Compliance meetings are suspended during the emergency declaration. All contract required reporting is happening on time.
- iii. COVID-19 Specific PPE - Cache at GVFPD Station 1 for NLCERA Rural Departments
  1. A cache of 36 sets of COVID-19 specific PPE is in place at GVFPD Station 1. Contact Chief Jones to coordinate needs.
  2. Each NLCERA BLS ambulance was issued a viral filter which should be replaced by the UCH ambulance on the call.
- e. NLCERA EMS First Responder Exposures update
  - i. PFA sent out a First Responder Exposures update to the NLCERA departments. This update was to assist the Infectious Disease Officers of each AHJ as they administer potential exposures to infectious diseases by their responders.
  - ii. No questions or discussion was requested at this meeting.
- f. NLCERA EMS BLS transports reimbursements update
  - i. Aaron provided an overview of what is happening at UCH to improve the BLS ambulance transport reimbursements. In the near future a new form will be placed at the NLCERA.org website for use. If there are any issues, please use the NLCERA.org Operational Form.
- g. NLCERA EMS Rural Peer Support: First Responder Peer Support resources available during COVID-19 (Fear and anxiety can be a challenge at this time within first response).
  - i. [www.911TeleHelp.org](http://www.911TeleHelp.org)
  - ii. [www.911Lightenup.org](http://www.911Lightenup.org)
  - iii. [www.911Overwatch.org](http://www.911Overwatch.org)
  - iv. Discussion about how difficult responding can be due to fear and anxiety for all our people. Ed and Joanne Rupert have made these links to services available to assist as needed. All were encouraged to refer anyone needing help to go to these links for resources.
  - v. Warren described he is working on a big-picture effort to enhance peer support in the future as a sustainable resource.
- h. NLCERA EMS Rural Departments: Any changes in leadership, roles or governance relating to EMS?
  - i. LFPD will have Donn Maynard back within two weeks from his winter travels to assume his Chief role.
- i. ReadyOp - An email and text test to be sent on April 16, at 12:00.

- i. Infectious Disease Group created in ReadyOp.
      - ii. All advised they received the ReadyOp test on Thursday.
    - iii. ReadyOP contact updates?
      - 1. Bill asked for any updates sent to bsalmon@poudre-fire.org
  - j. Communications issues/needs? (800, VHF or StacD) - None
  - k. LZ issues or needs?
    - i. Warren advised they will be updating their locations in the future.
    - ii. Bill – The current LZ map is located for download at the NLCERA.org website.
    - iii. Any changes will be made by Laura Robinson at PFA GIS.
    - iv. Eddie described how the power lines near many of the LZs have painted balls to weight the lines and be visible. The paint has faded and wondered who would be responsible for assessing and repainting these balls?
      - 1. Bill to follow-up and provide an update.
4. PFA Updates:
- a. Five Pillars of EMS Compliance (Protocols, Response, QA, Equipment, and Training):
    - i. Protocols
      - 1. COVID-19 specific Interim Protocols posted on NLCERA.org > Protocols > COVID-19 Tab
      - 2. Medical Director updates and supporting videos also posted
      - 3. Brief discussion to ensure no questions or access problems.
    - ii. Response
      - 1. NLCERA EMS COVID-19 specific response data
        - a. Aaron provided an overview of the COVID-19 specific data. Note: this data is not directly tied to verified testing but medic final impressions.
        - b. Discussion about not representing this data as “verified” Covid-19 patients.
        - c. Aaron, Kevin and Bill are all working in the EMS response data, as well as county and state data to provide information that can inform operations and response.
        - d. Assessment: As of this meeting, no response data in the NLCERA showing issues for EMS response volume related to COVID-19
      - 2. First Quarter NLCERA EMS Response data
        - a. Aaron provided an overview for each department for the first-quarter 2020 responses.
      - 3. Discussion – 900 dispatching and COVID-19 updates
        - a. Brief discussion that any suspected COVID is coming in text from 911 when dispatched.
      - 4. Discussion – staging vs. responding in for suspected COVID-19 responses

- a. Discussed under CAN Reports above.
  - 5. Other?
- iii. QA
  - 1. Focus on COVID-19 ESO related data
- iv. Equipment
  - 1. COVID specific PPE updates
  - 2. Viral filters update
    - a. Kevin is trying to obtain a significant amount of viral filters. He will provide an update when they arrive.
  - 3. Other?
- v. Training
  - 1. Monthly Training
    - a. All NLCERA EMS on-site training cancelled during declaration and stay-at-home orders.
    - b. No UCH May training for the NLCERA
  - 2. EMT Hybrid class planning update
    - a. Warren is coordinating this effort for the NLCERA rural departments.
- b. UCHealth updates
  - i. UCH EMS Organizational Chart changes
    - 1. No updates at this time.
  - i. January – March, 2019 Data Compliance – Zones 3-5
    - 1. Aaron provided an overview of NLCERA Rural response compliance data. UCH compliant in all zones in first quarter 2020.
    - 2. Aaron has established a consistent format for the quarterly data.
      - a. Please provide comments or suggestions regarding the data presentations.
- 5. Other issues or needs?
  - a. Warren addressed first responder testing for COVID-19 as an issue. He would like to know when and how first responders can obtain testing if needed.
    - i. Kevin to follow-up regarding testing.
    - ii. Suggestion to also make sure all NLCERA AHJ's are tied in with Larimer County EOC for resources and informational updates.

Please contact Bill Salmon ([bsalmon@poudre-fire.org](mailto:bsalmon@poudre-fire.org)) or Kevin Waters ([kwaters@poudre-fire.org](mailto:kwaters@poudre-fire.org)) with any questions.

## Roster

2nd Q-2020	NLCERA EMS Rural Fire Chiefs Meeting -April 18, 2020		Roster	
In Attendance	First and Last Name	Organization	Email	Phone #
	Dan Alarcon	RFLFPD	<a href="mailto:D-Alarcon@live.com">D-Alarcon@live.com</a>	970-8813882
1	Hugh Collins	PCFPD	<a href="mailto:h.collins@poudre-canyon-fire-district.org">h.collins@poudre-canyon-fire-district.org</a>	970-881-2472
	Carol Dollard	RCVFD	<a href="mailto:chief@rcvfd.org">chief@rcvfd.org</a>	
	Tom Forbes	RFLVFD	<a href="mailto:tfbike@hotmail.com">tfbike@hotmail.com</a>	281-838-5587
2	Warren Jones	GVVFD	<a href="mailto:gvfdchief1@gmail.com">gvfdchief1@gmail.com</a>	
3	Joel Funk	LFPD	<a href="mailto:joelfunk@hotmail.com">joelfunk@hotmail.com</a>	970-988-9202
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	Ryan Hammack	GVVFD	<a href="mailto:ryan.hammack@southmetro.org">ryan.hammack@southmetro.org</a>	(H)970-484-3567 (-C) 303-587-9825
	Jim Herrington	LFPD	<a href="mailto:elbowcreek@gmail.com">elbowcreek@gmail.com</a>	
5	Brendin (Bobby) Hill	RFLFPD	<a href="mailto:Bhillredfeatherfire@gmail.com">Bhillredfeatherfire@gmail.com</a>	720-427-3893
6	Aaron Leonard	UCHealth	<a href="mailto:aaron.leonard@uchealth.org">aaron.leonard@uchealth.org</a>	
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	Justin Whitesell	LCSO	<a href="mailto:whitesjl@co.larimer.co.us">whitesjl@co.larimer.co.us</a>	
	New Members fill out below			
12	Tim Seidel	UCHealth	<a href="mailto:Timothy.Seidel@uchealth.org">Timothy.Seidel@uchealth.org</a>	