

N.C. Association of Rescue & Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

Directors Meeting - Minutes

May 04, 2025

NCEMS EXPO Greensboro NC / WebEx / Teleconference

Call to Order

Welcome - Josh Shumate

Invocation - Joel Faircloth

Adoption of order of business: Motion to adopt, Scott McCaskill, second Robert Poe, motion approved.

Recognition of guests -Tom Mitchell - OEMS, Allen Johnson -OEMS, JR Griffin Jr - NCEMS, Lisamarie Atkinson - NC Treasurer Fire Rescue Pension, Fred Bone-Bone & Associates

Roll call of Directors; Joel Faircloth. 22 Area Directors, Vice Commander, Commander, Executive Director were present.

Minutes of Directors Meeting January 18, 2025: Motion to approve, Scott McCaskill , second by Chris Mauney motion approved.

Old Business

Agency Reports

OSFM: No Report

OEMS: Tom Mitchell

· Welcome to EMS Expo.

· We are excited to share some news about EMS Expo '26, as we have been doing a considerable amount of planning for it. We are working to finalize plans before Expo this year. But, we are planning to move Expo from the Koury Convention Center after being in that location for 36 straight years. More information to come.

· Medical Director's Workshop will be held on May 6th w/Dr. Winslow. It will be a two-part meeting with the 1st session being open to anyone that would like to attend. This year, the 2nd session will only be open to Medical Directors & Asst. Medical Directors to allow them to have open discussions with Dr. Winslow regarding medical direction and suggest items for future discussion.

· The next available Program Directors Workshop will be held at the Summer EMS Administrators Symposium in Asheville on August 5th & 6th.

· Scheduled Instructor Workshops

o April 14th- Virtual

o June 11th- In person-Cullowhee

o July 14th- Virtual

o Will add another in Sept/Oct

o Oct 7th- In person- Salisbury

o December 10th- Virtual

§ NCCCS Grant Money for AEMT Accreditation

For application fees, site visit fees, and annual fees. Programs can also utilize the money for conferences, NCOEMS program director mandatory workshop, and equipment/supplies that directly support the AEMT programs

- Ambulance Remount Standards become effective July 1, 2025. We have discussed these for quite some time. The remount standards will be applicable to any vehicle where the contract was signed by the agency after July 1st. If it is signed before July 1st, the remount standard is not applicable.
- We have worked to update the existing Vehicle Checkoff Sheets used to permit ambulances in the state. We have received some positive feedback, and hope that you will find them much easier to utilize. Feel free to provide any additional feedback to the Regional Staff.
- Deadline for protocol submissions was April 15th. Dr. Winslow is reviewing the ones submitted, and if you haven't submitted, please work with Randy to ensure that he is aware of the status and timeline.
- We are currently undergoing a periodic review process for our rules to ensure they are in compliance with state requirements. We are different than a lot of sections, because we do regularly update NC Administrative Code. Part of this process was seeking public input on any rules that are detrimental to the public for 90-days. That deadline for comments was Tuesday April 15th. We received no public comment on our rules, which we were hoping for, which shows that our rules are updated and effective for providers.
- We conducted a trauma site visit for a new Level III center at UNC Blue Ridge, which is in Morganton, NC (West) on Tuesday of this week. It will be a while before the report comes back to determine whether they will receive that designation or not, before it is presented to the EMS Advisory Council.
- We have hired a new Trauma Regional Specialist position. Samuel Kornegay came to work for us on 3/10/25. Samuel's background is in EMS, EM and Fire in Eastern NC. He has been in Administration with Lenoir County EMS. He will be working with trauma centers, non-trauma centers and EMS agencies to ensure that trauma patients are treated appropriately across the spectrum. He will be getting familiar with each of your agencies issues that you may have with trauma patients. With the group's permission, we can have him come to the next meeting so you can meet Samuel and become familiar with him.
- Post Overdose Response Team Training is being scheduled across the state between OEMS and DPH. All information can be found in TERMS
 - o June 8th – Edgecombe County
 - o June 25th – Carteret County
 - o July 18th – Buncombe County
 - o July 23rd – Wake County
- HB975 – EMS Personnel/Carrying Pepper Spray
 This bill would allow EMS personnel while on duty, to carry pepper spray openly or concealed, with no stipulations. (House Committee)
 Requested language to; (1) prohibit discharge of pepper spray in patient compartment while ambulance is in transport to the hospital. (2) require approval of EMS System/Agency administration and policy on its use, prior to being allowed to carry. (3) require training on use equivalent to law enforcement standards.

NCEM: J. R. Griffin II

Operations Section Updates
 ES positions posted.

Budget Closeout prep.

Monitoring various bills.
 Upcoming Trainings
 USAR HERS Training

- May 19-22
 Upcoming Meetings
 Hazmat Sub-Committee • July 16 @ 1300
 USAR TAG
- July 17 @ 0830
 NCRRT TAC
- July 17 @ 1030

- SRC
- July 17 @ 1300
SERC
July 18 @ 0900

Treasurer's Office: Lisamarie Atkinson, Specialty Plans Supervisor -

Contribution for each calendar year must be received by March 31 following year. They had over 1500 call in March increase of 3-400 from previous year as well as 102 retirements to be submitted. There have been quite a few death reports but with all this they have been able to meet goal of turnaround times.

We are trying to get more departments to utilize the online option for turn around document completion.

Currently have about 1/3 participating. We would be glad to be at events to reach out.

Payments, as a reminder, should be sent in via check or money order, not cash or cards. Received 862 checks so far this year. Be sure when sending in checks to send the form 350 so the new enrollments will get processed timely.

When calling if you have a long wait be sure to leave a voicemail and your call will be returned.

Boards & Commission Representative Reports

Fire & Rescue Commission: Robert Poe.

Fire and Rescue Commission

4-15-25

CFI Board Reappointments

Barry Overman

Taylor Marsh

Cert Board Reappointments

Mac Smith

William Gardner

Cert Board Elections

Terry Foxx Chair

Derrick Clouston Vice Chair

Derrick Clouston gave the Cert Board report

Robert Poe questioned why the TR General was delayed to the last minute. It had something to do with ISFAC. Robert then questioned as to Wilderness and Machinery classes being put on hold till at least November 2025 when IFSAC could do a site visit. After much discussion and explanations from Kevin Gordon and Derrick Clouston from the Cert Board it was determined that these two classes as well as Structure Collapse and Confined Space could be administered without a written test but only a skills test. When asked if this would lessen the quality of instruction both Cert Board members stated that it would not and they would continue to update the programs as have been done but they just will not have a IFSAC seal. Motion was made and unanimously approved for these 4 programs as well as Officer 4 to be delivered as skills-based testing. Machinery and Wilderness is going back online as soon as Community College representative Micheal Caviness could bring back the FIP numbers.

Robert also proposed that there be a separate disciplinary committee to handle the investigations that come to the Cert Board due to them being overloaded and their main duty is to provide training programs and qualify instructors. Chair Cook advised that the issue was coming up a later date

We had a lengthy discussion about the different books that are require for the different firefighter classes

Workers Comp Report

54 million in Assets

19 million in reserve

5 million in claims

Working thru legislature as we speak but it is on track for there not to be premiums paid for 2025 – 2026 year. Due to there being no premium the departments across the state have saved 26 to 30 million dollars.

Discussion was entered into regarding high school students that have gone thru the TR program but were not 18 years old and have not graduated from High school yet. The rules state that in order to get a certification a candidate must be 18 years old and have a high school diploma or equivalent. With the old TR having ended on December 31 2024 , These students were caught in a situation of having the entire classes but qualified. After much discussion a motion was made to give these individuals their certification of the old TR when they graduate and turn 18 years old.

Members were also informed of a firefighter that had falsified certificates a few years back and had been permanently suspended and now had gone to Tennessee and applied with false credentials and then came back to North Carolina and presented documents from Tennessee that were false trying to get on a department.

Update was given on NFIRS / NEIRS. There are problems with the reporting and the federal system.

Legislature is busy.

Bills on Firefighter cancer, Disaster response going from Emergency Management to the NC Guard.

Legislature is proposing that 1 representative from the Fire be on the NC OEMS Advisory Council.

NC Forestry Division 20463 acres were burnt I wildfires in Western NC 10 homes were destroyed. In Mitchell County 42% of the forest trees have been blown down 17% in Buncombe County

Training center is scheduled to be complete in September

Fire & Rescue Commission Certification Brd: Terry Foxx

The Certification Board met on March 13, 2025, at Kernersville Fire Department. The agenda and minutes were approved for the December 03, 2024, meeting. Brian Wade gave the OSFM report. The Emergency Services Training Center is moving along. Online cameras have been installed to monitor the progress. The IFSAC reaccreditation site visit has been tentatively set for November. The Rules are in draft form and will be reviewed by the Rules Committee

Standing committee reports were heard for Online Testing, Firefighter, Driver Operator, Marine Shipboard, Airport Firefighter and Fire & Life Safety Educator.

Online Testing (Derrick Clouston) met on March 7th via TEAMS. The committee is looking to find the best software solutions for online testing. The committee will present a more defined pathway at the June meeting.

The TR Committee (Kevin Gordon) has the approved programs up and running as of January 01, 2025. The committee is recommending developing new Watercraft and Flood. It would be best to develop this as a combined program and to create a committee for this. The TR Watercraft and Flood Development Committee was appointed as below:

Ken Hogue – Chair

Anthony Killough

Jeremy Edmonds

Gary Rogers

Ryan Harrell

Mervin “Tuggie” Taylor

Scott Hoffman

Requalification’s began in July and to our knowledge have gone well.

A motion was also made to drop IFSAC accreditation for Structural Collapse, Confined Space, Wilderness and Machinery with the primary reason being books and the inability to develop these courses fully due to them being either OSHA or FEMA driven. The Wilderness and Machinery programs lack text that support those fully.

Firefighter Rewrite Committee – Jason Edwards

The committee has met twice. They have reviewed the IFSTA and J and B books and selected the IFSTA book. Once approved by the F/R Commission, they will continue to work with the selected book to complete rewriting the course.

Driver Operator Rewrite Committee – Ken Hogue

The committee has reviewed the IFSTA and J and B books. They will use both books. IFTSA will be used for the current programs. J and B will be used for the new ARFF and Tiller programs

Fire and Life Safety Educator – Jim Hanline

The committee has reviewed IFSTA and J and B books and selected the IFSTA book. The committee also recommends developing Youth Fire Setter programs.

In old business, the reciprocity process was discussed, and a motion was made to remove reciprocity credit and only give equivalent credit. A hybrid request was heard for Brunswick Community College which was approved.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on June 12, 2025, at Kernersville Fire Department.

VSWCF Board: Joel Faircloth

Information given in Fire & Rescue Commission Report. Also reminder that though premiums may not be required to be paid departments should budget for them in case they return.

Fire & Rescue Pension Advisory Brd: Debbie Poe / Gary Whitman

No Report. Next Meeting June 2025

Stroke Advisory Council: No Report

911 Board: Greg Foster

2026 Grant cycle is open and will close the end of May.

There are several bills being watched. Bill that would take 20% from the 911 fund and put it towards viper the board is opposed but there is mixed ideas on this.

There is another bill / part of the budget bill that a surcharge would be added per radio for the VIPER network which would be \$25 per user after the first 100 for each county.

911 has had many directors and telecommunications to leave since Helene. It will take time for those positions to be filled.

The training committee sent forth new classes that will be offered which were funded through the 911 fund, tactical dispatch.

Ezzynet was used during Helene that allowed for 911 calls to be routed to other areas to be answered from communities that were heavily hit by the storm.

Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee: Terry Foxx

No meetings have been held since our last meeting

Standing Committee Reports

Advisory: Bob Twomey

No Report

BLS Competition: William Mauney

Allen Johnson inquired if the consensus was to stay with same format from last year. No known issues were noted.

Constitution : Billy Sparks Jr.

No Report

Credentials: Jerry Bradshaw

Odd year Director Appointments Voting was tallied for those in person and those present online were given Areas 1-14 were approved by acclamation for re appointment, motion by Billy Sparks, second Robert Poe. Area 15 Dale Whitlock moved away due to a job change and no applicant had applied as of the meeting.

Finance: Debbie Poe

Motion by Committee accept financial statements for 03-31-2025 Association, Brotherhood, Memorial Fund, Relief Fund, motion passed.

Motion by Committee to accept audit for FY 23-24, motion passed.

Motion by Committee approved FY 25-26 budget which include pay increase for all employees, motion passed.

Personnel: Jeff Hinshaw

No Report.

Rescue Competition: Mac Smith

They were working on preparations for competition 2025, and the Junior Rescue Competition will be sent out to team in advance, so that will help teams better prepare.

Standards & Training: William Mauney

The committee will be looking to meet in the coming months to review the equipment standards for any updates that are required.

Membership Report

Date: 2025-05-01

Count of members on a single roster	26367
Count of members on more than a single roster	4938
Total distinct members on rosters	31305
Total roster entries	37938
Average number of rosters/individual	1.212
Number of not-closed squads with rosters on file	683
Average number of individuals/squad roster	54.04
Median number of individuals/squad roster	39
Percentage of roster entries that are Paid ¹	59.27
Count of BH departments (Bnnnn)	152
Count of BH roster members	4547
Count of BH Individual members	658
Count of Association departments (Xnnnn)	527
Count of Other departments (not Xnnnn or Bnnnn)	4

2025-02-1	Close	2007-11-2	STALEY FIRE DEPARTMENT	STALEY
2025-02-1	Close	2023-02-0	LAUREL SPRINGS VOLUNTEER FIRE	LAUREL

Relief Fund Board of Trustees: Josh Shumate/Joel Faircloth
Scholarships are to be announced May 15, 2025.

Convention Committee: Josh Shumate

Directors approved to go to Fayetteville, NC at the Doubletree Hotel and Fayetteville Technical Community College Fire & Rescue Regional Training Center. September 4-6, 2025. We will be working to get that information out for registration and teams in the next few weeks.

Legislative Update: Fred Bone

NCAREMS Legislative & Policy Update – Summary
North Carolina General Assembly | 2025–2026 Session
As of May 4, 2025

◆ General Overview

The General Assembly convened in January 2025.
Approximately 3,000 bills have been filed to date — a lower volume than in recent sessions.
NCAREMS is tracking 62 bills directly impacting EMS operations, funding, public safety, and workforce development.
The Crossover Deadline is May 8, 2025. Most bills must pass at least one chamber by this date to remain eligible (with some exceptions).

◆ Legislative Focus Areas

Credentialing reform, including EMS Compact licensure reciprocity
Goal: Address EMS workforce shortages and improve response capacity
Disaster funding inclusion for EMS providers
Authorization for EMS personnel to carry pepper spray
Reimburse of the 50-50 EMS grant funding reallocated for capital improvement and equipment

◆ Key Legislative Engagements

Rep. Mark Pless: Two meetings focused on credentialing and EMS workforce needs
Rep. Paul Scott: Meeting on HB 975, targeting safety of rescue personnel in carrying pepper spray
Joel Faircloth: Multiple hearings and stakeholder meetings in Raleigh

◆ Notable Legislation



House Bill 675 – EMT Personnel Credentialing Modifications

Sponsor: Rep. Mark Pless (R)

Summary: Requires all EMS credential applicants after Jan. 1, 2026, to pass the NREMT exam corresponding to their level. Those previously credentialed by other means must comply by Jan. 1, 2030. Also mandates criminal background checks and directs the Medical Care Commission to adopt temporary rules.



House Bill 219 – Counties/Franchise Ambulance Service

Sponsor: Rep. Mark Pless (R)

Summary: Repeals G.S. 153A-250, ending county authority to franchise ambulance services. Clarifies that county managers/EMS admins are not required to approve changes in EMS care levels unless operated by the county or a municipality.



House Bill 47 – Disaster Relief (Final Version)

Initially included EMS providers but was amended to exclude them in the final version. Funds were directed solely to fire departments.



House Bill 975 – pepper spray of ambulances

passed the House and is most likely not going anywhere

◆ Budget Update

The Senate budget has passed with no direct EMS funding included.
Most state agencies face 1–2% cuts; new program funding is extremely limited.
The House budget is in progress and expected before Memorial Day.
Legislators are pursuing one-time hurricane relief — EMS outcome remains unclear.

◆ Immediate Priorities

Ensure EMS is included in ongoing budget discussions.
Protect and restore critical grant funding, especially for rural and volunteer squads.
Maintain high visibility during Crossover Week through coordinated outreach and legislative engagement

New Business

Josh Shumate

The High Angle Rescue School has now ran two classes. There will be new patches for the school and the name will be known as the Rope Rescue School. Unit 2 will run in September, 2025.

Announced he will be running for Commander for a second term and appreciates the support that he has had.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Joel Faircloth

Executive Director

(Not Official until approved by the Board of Directors)