



ST. MARY'S COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES
BOARD

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

St. Mary's County Emergency Services Board Annual Report for 2022

Introduction

The St. Mary's County Emergency Services Committee was established under Resolution 94-22 by incorporating an agreement signed on Oct 11, 1994. The St. Mary's County Emergency Services Board (ESB) was adopted as a Board on July 10, 2018 effective July 24, 2018.

The Board shall advise the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) on matters pertaining to Emergency Services in St. Mary's County. The purpose of the Board is to serve as an advisory board and communication hub between the entities providing St. Mary's County Emergency Services and the St. Mary's County Government. The Board is formed not to take the place of the St. Mary's County Fire Board Association (FBA) or the St. Mary's County Ambulance and Rescue Association (RSA), but rather to affect a partnership, coordinate, and enhance the efforts of these services. The daily provision of emergency services are coordinated through and by the member companies of the FBA and RSA in cooperation with the Department of Emergency Services to ensure that citizens of and visitors to St. Mary's County can rely on emergency responses as the need arises.

Members

The membership of the ESB shall be (1) County Fire Chief; (2) County EMS Chief; (3) St. Mary's County Fire Board Association President; (4) St. Mary's County Ambulance and Rescue Association Chair; (5) one member of a volunteer fire department elected by the St. Mary's County Fire Board Association; (6) one member of a volunteer rescue squad elected by the St. Mary's County Ambulance and Rescue Squad Association; and (7) Director of Emergency Services; (8) Jurisdictional Medical Director (ex officio, nonvoting member).

2022 Members:

- Gary Bell, Chair. Appointment period Nov. 15, 2018 – December 21, 2023
- Hattie Norris, Vice Chair. Appointment period December 3, 2020 - December 31, 2023
- Shawn Davidson, Secretary. Appointment period July 31, 2018 - December 31, 2023
- Ken Hicks, RSA Chair. Appointment period December 3, 2020 – December 31, 2023
- JA Nelson, FBA President. Appointment period July 31, 2018 – December 31, 2023
- CP Miedzinski, FBA Chief. Appointment period November 19, 2020 – December 31, 2023
- Director Stephen Walker
- The Jurisdictional Medical Director position remained vacant in 2022.

Meetings

The Emergency Services Board (ESB) holds regular meetings on the second Wednesday in even numbered months.

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Attendance

The St. Mary's County ESB held six (6) regular meetings in 2022 with (6) absences for the year.

- February 9, Hattie Norris
- April 13, JA Nelson
- June 8, Shawn Davidson
- August 10, CP Miedzinski, Steve Walker
- October 12, Shawn Davidson

Education & Training

The St. Mary's County ESB awarded educational scholarships to seventeen (17) of the eighteen (18) applicants from the fire and EMS community, based their services rendered to the citizens of St. Mary's County. One applicant did not meet the qualifications for the award based on LOSAP points earned.

The ESB has been working to strengthen our partnership with the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute and the St. Mary's Board of Education in order to support the high school cadet program.

Routine training and continuing education is ongoing at all of the volunteer stations, and has integrated the Department of Emergency Services staff.

Budget and Finance

The ESB distributed budget submission packets, budget rules and Amoss Funds report packets to the fire and emergency medical services departments on behalf of the Department of Finance. All of these were returned on time and routine audits are in their final stages.

In our December meeting, the ESB voted to approve and forward the loan application request from the Seventh District Volunteer Fire Department to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

American Rescue Act grant monies have been used to support all fire and EMS departments based on needs identified in the departments. This support included, but is not limited to, turn out gear and supporting equipment, computer equipment, ambulance cot replacements, LifeNet upgrades, heart monitor upgrades, and LUCAS CPR devices for all EMS transport and responding chase units.

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Support Services and Coordination

The Department of Emergency Services continues to provide EMS staffing and billing support. The ESB is regularly briefed on system status and frequent, detailed communication is maintained between DES staff and volunteer leadership. Continued collaboration on essential elements such as supply acquisition, controlled substance management, and quality assurance and improvement has been maintained and strengthened.

The Department of Emergency Services EMS Division was headed in 2022 by Chief George Edelen.

Emergency Services System Activities

During 2022 our system has continued to integrate Career EMS personnel, strengthen the EMS quality assurance and improvement program, and coordinate training and public outreach. Under the leadership of the Department of Emergency Services we have conducted a search for a new EMS Jurisdictional Medical Director, hiring Dr. Jason Finkelstein to provide medical oversight to our EMS clinicians. The new computer aided dispatching system (CAD) was awarded to Tyler Technologies and is in the design-build phase of the process. We are excited by this step and look forward to the improvement in service to the citizens of St. Mary's County that this new system represents. The CAD will allow seamless integration of field personnel with dispatch personnel, improve information sharing between agencies, and streamline dispatch processes.

Conclusion

The ESB and the first responder community we represent remain committed to serving the citizens of our community. The ESB does this by advising the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on fire and emergency medical services system matters. The "triple-demic" that is still affecting thousands of people in our nation continues to impact the way we must do business in emergency services. While there have certainly been trials for our community and our services during the last several years – and while the challenges we face will continue for some time – the goal of providing the best possible emergency service in the best possible way to the citizens and visitors in St. Mary's County is always the priority for the ESB, volunteers in the first responder community, the Department of Emergency Services and career EMS personnel, and the government of St. Mary's County as a whole. We remain dedicated to the people we serve.

Questions or Comments about this report are welcome, and, may be sent to the Emergency Services Board via the Secretary at: chief200@smcvems.org.