Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact
September 17, 2026, Compact Office, Triangle Park Dr., Concord
President Jim Morse, Presiding
Call to Order 1900 - Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call Attendance - Towns: 20 Members: 27 Guests: 2

PRIMEX presentation by Derek Martel on Workers' Compensation rate changes and the five-year-out plan. Discussion on "Roster Management" to control costs and an understanding of the Workers' Compensation codes. A reminder that active Joint Loss Committees help in reducing loss

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Dept. Chief Newbery

- Motion and second to dispense with the reading of the June minutes and accept the minutes as posted and distributed. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report – Chief Yale

- Motion and second to dispense with the reading of the treasurer's report and accept the report as posted and distributed. Motion passed

Fire Marshal's Report- Fire Marshal Toomey

- Fire Marshal reviewed the highlights of the report that was distributed. Fire deaths year to date -19 and 2 Carbon monoxide deaths. The office is following several pending LSRs, one involving fire chief qualifications. Adopted Fire Codes are for 2024. Reminder that School Inspection Reports are due by December 15th.

HazMat Report: Deputy Costello

The team had one consult (LI batteries) and two responses during the NASCAR event.

NHFST & EMS – No Report

NHIAC Report – No Report

WEBSITE – Gary Sleeper

- Quiet summer. A reminder that he manages the website, but it is the Compact site, and he would request that members submit information.

Dispatch Report – Dispatch Supervisor Jen Beets

Reviewed the lightning strike event at the dispatch center that occurred on July 2, 2026. It resulted in the loss of the primary and secondary dispatch site. Our radio shop RCM responded and made repairs so that the dispatch center was partially functioning by 12:00 the following day. The COOP was utilized, and a dispatcher was sent to the Lakes Region dispatch center.
On July 18th, there was a human error at the center resulting in a delay in dispatch. An employee was disciplined, and working with IT for a permanent resolution.

On September 10th, the center experienced a Fidium outage. Phone service was lost completely. 9-1-1 lines were still functioning. The outage lasted about one hour. For the NASCAR event, over 100 incidents were dispatched.
Jen asked towns to consider greater use of the Crew Force App. She explained the value of the app. And how it takes some of the load off dispatch.

Chief Gilbert expressed his concerns that the actions taken after the July 18th human error incident are not adequate. Displeasure that there is no current immediate interim solution.

Old Business- Chief Gilbert

Plausawa radio site- The building has been partially insulated, and a heat pump was installed to address the heat and cooling issues. No further problems.
A follow-up to the July 2nd lightning strike. The damage appeared to be on the network equipment. A claim was made to PRIMEX for $26,000. We have a $1,000 deductible. We experienced another lightning strike to the equipment at Fort Mountain. Due to Tower constraints for access, a temporary repair was made, and about two weeks later, when access was obtained, the equipment on the tower was repaired. PRIMEX claim approx. $13,650.
Chief Chisholm reported that the city is doing a full After-Action Report on the lightning strike incident at dispatch. They will try to secure funds to bolster lightning protection.
A problem on the tower at our Gould Hill site was identified. The site is shared with other agencies, including Binnie Media. Due to the high RF output of their equipment, access had to be closely coordinated. The cable was replaced, and the site is fully operational.
There have been some reported incidents of radio transmissions not being received in dispatch. Keith requested that we document these events, and he is working with RCM to resolve any issues.
Merrimack County cyber attack – the Compact allows County to use our microwave link for radio communications. The link from Kearsarge to Belknap was shut down by the State to eliminate any chance of spillover from the attack. This did not impact our radio system because the link rerouted back the other direction. From the experience, it was learned that the system is completely air-gapped, so there was no need for the shutdown that lasted about two weeks. The impact to Merrimack County West PD was the greatest impact with reduced radio ability.
Rural Health Care Grant - Chief Gilbert– no new information.

New Business –

Budget presentation for the 2027 budget. Chief Gilbert explained the budget process and how the city incurred these costs last year, and we are paying the bill now. Jen Beets reviewed the expenses from last year. Chief Gilbert reviewed the Compact side of the budget. Some of the highlighted increases were for a new part-time GIS person to assist with GIS work on the new CAD. Adding two new sites, one in Pittsfield and one in Washington, and changes at the Hooksett site. A new line for radio maintenance so that we can be proactive on maintenance. And a budget line for professional fees to address our IT needs, especially security for our systems. Overall budget up approximately 6.9%.
We reviewed the town expense formula and the cost to the towns sheet.
A **Motion** was made by Chief Yeaton and seconded by Chief Pszonowsky to accept the budget as presented. A **Roll Call Vote** was taken, with 20 towns voting yes for the budget.
SOG #2002-2 Ambulance in Service. Reviewed proposed revisions. **Motion** with a second to accept the SOG as presented. Motion Passed

Incident Review – Beanie's Rt. 129 in Loudon – 3rd Alarm incident
Next meeting – October 15. At Epsom. Motion to adjourn with a second. Passed