13. Discussion and possible action on recommendation from David Covington, Fire Chief, Schertz Fire Rescue on acceptance of the Federal Highway Administration's Strategic Highway Research Program for continuing education credit.

From: DCovington
Date: December 14, 2012, 11:23:20 AM CST
To: jreidy
Subject: Upcoming Agenda

Jim,

I would like to ask to be placed on the agenda for the next Fire Advisory Board meeting and the Fire Commission meeting if possible. This would be to give a briefing on the Federal Highway Administration's Strategic Highway Research Program regarding traffic incident management and responder safety. Soon they will be conducting train the trainer courses in Texas with the goal of reaching every first responder in the state who responds to incidents on the highways, both urban and rural. This includes Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMS, Tow Operators, and TxDot along with dispatchers and others. This multijurisdictional approach has worked in other states that have already started the training and it does a lot to bring law enforcement and fire onto the same page when it comes to highway incidents.

This program is consistent with Initiative 11 of the Courage to be Safe program that seeks to establish national standards of response. The FHWA program was developed over several years looking at best practice in Europe and the United States and seeks to teach a common message for traffic incident management across the nation. In the coming weeks I will provide a more structured briefing that you may include in the agenda if you so choose.

Ultimately I would ask the Commission to endorse, if that is possible, the program and allow it to count as CE for firefighters. The course is a four hour module.
Thanks for your time.

dave

Stay Safe,

David A. Covington, Fire Chief
Schertz Fire Rescue