



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
May 12, 2021 at 8:30 AM  
Conference Call In**

**ATTENDANCE**

Daren Bellach	Kenwood	Matt Epstein	DCRFD
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Mark Courson	OES
Bill Bullard	Graton	Ron Lunardi	Occidental
Jeff Schach	Petaluma	Spencer Andreas	Sonoma Valley Fire
Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa	Steve Mosiurchak	Sonoma County
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Todd Derum	PGE
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa	KT McNulty	REDCOM
Mike Nicholls		Shauna Jones	CALFIRE
Trevor Collins	Santa Rosa	Bill Braga	Sebastopol
James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS	Mike Bates	RPPS
Steve Suter	Santa Rosa	Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale
Steve Herzberg	Bodega Bay	Mike Mickelson	
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE	Kevin Foster	NY Life Insurance
Sam Wallis	So.Co. Emergency Mgmt.	Jake Popoff	NY Life Insurance

**Call to Order:** Chief Heine began the meeting at 0830 and led the pledge.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chief Heine

**Host Chief Introduction:** Chief Heine welcomed everyone on the Conference Call

**Presidents Report:** Chief Heine reported that he has gotten a couple of letters out in support on behalf of the Association for agencies seeking grants for vegetation management. (Healdsburg)

**Changes to the Agenda:** Chief Heine moved the presentation up next in line.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion: Matt Epstein, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Scott Westrope, All AYE.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chief Bellach reported:

Chief's General Fund	\$2,823.12
Survivor's Fund	\$103,396.31
Receivable from Fire Agencies	(\$850.00)
Training Officer's Fund	\$1,819.92
Training Officer's – Command Grant	(\$12,244.50)
FPO General Fund	\$3,752.59
FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$11,581.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$875.64

FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$1,801.26
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$1,041.53
Safety Pals General Fund	\$23,965.62
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$140,463.39</b>

**Correspondence:** None

**Presentation:** Jake Popoff and Kevin Foster from NY Life Insurance spoke in regards to benefits to our members. For more information please contact: Kevin Edward Foster  
 Agent CA lic.# 4019166 415-827-7937 [kefoster01@newyorklife.com](mailto:kefoster01@newyorklife.com) 149 Stony Circle Suite 200  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Firefighting Foam Ban in California – This was presented by Hans. No discussion to the group. Chief Bellach will be in touch with Hans to get further info on this topic.

Letter of support and endorsement of SCFD for bid on ambulance EOA RFP – Chief Heine reported. The Sonoma County Fire Districts Board intends on bidding on the EOA-RFP contract for the County. Currently a draft RFP has been approved by the BOS to send to the State EMS Agency. They will look at the document and provide any comments, then back to the County for their consideration. James Salvante reported this process may take 4-6 weeks to be completed. The fire district intends on submitting a bid. The Sonoma County Fire Districts supports this. Chief Heine is also looking for the support from the County Chiefs as well. Chief Akre stated the Fire Districts had a good discussion and had a united vote to support Sonoma County Fire District to put in the bid.

Motion: Grinnell, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Epstein, All AYE in favor of supporting Sonoma County Fire District in the RFP Bid.

Drought Emergency – Chief Heine reported that everyone look at the state drought index and look at Sonoma County, most of the County is in Extreme Drought. The BOS may be issuing mandatory water restrictions. We will have to look at everything from training and how we use water.

SMART role in emergency services – Chief Heine reported what role can smart play in large community evacuations? Being able to move people from the County into a Marin County safe zone. Doug Williams reported that during the Kinkade Fire an offer was made to do evacuations, but due to lack of planning it was not used. They can move a lot of people quickly. This is a tool we should keep and move ahead to plan for the future. Chief Heine would like to form a sub-committee to work on this.

Fire season readiness – Chief Heine reported that there are a number of vegetation management grants available to those agencies that are interested. If interested contact Chief Heine to point you in the right direction. The City of Santa Rosa has issued a declaration of fire season. Chief Westrope stated their ordinance language is tied to CALFIRE declaring a fire season. This year it was done behind the scenes, so legally they had to find a way to declare fire season. May 17<sup>th</sup> is the declared day for this year. Talking with the Op Area Coordinators, we are hoping that Sonoma County Fire Chiefs can get on board and everyone use the same date. The BOS has on next

month's agenda to adopt additional funding for County Up Staffing. We chose not to up staff during this last Red Flag event due to fuel data supported no major fire spreads.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Heine reported that there is a big focus on the proposed new sales tax measure. The BOS will meet on July 13<sup>th</sup> to vote if it will go on the ballot for the June 2022 ballot. An IAP has been developed on how to successfully manage the sales tax measure. Currently defining on what the process will be for the distribution plan and reaching out to every agency asking for the Fire Chief and one elected official to join in for updates.

**SMART:** Doug Williams reported SMART continues to talk about their Welcome Back Program anticipating restoring some weekend service. SMART continues to work on the transition to freight service and will be talking about that in more depth at the Board Meeting next week. Some new pathway projects are being put into place, some of this discussion has been hampered due to lawsuits and people that claim the railroad right away is not legitimate. Doug urged any agencies that have pathways in their jurisdiction, as they plan and build to make sure they are fire department accessible. The General Manager has announced his retirement effective in August.

**PG & E:** Todd Derum reported has been pushing the ball to get Sonoma County Fire Station 6 power. On May 28<sup>th</sup> will be Todd's last day with PGE. There is a job announcement out if anyone is interested. Mike Wilson and Davis Hodgkin's will be filling in for Todd. Their contact info is: Mike Wilson, PSS-Napa County Ph. 916-809-5674 [Mike.Wilson@pge.com](mailto:Mike.Wilson@pge.com)  
David Hotchkiss, PSS North Relief/Admin. Ph. 628-249-9813 [David.Hotchkiss@pge.com](mailto:David.Hotchkiss@pge.com)  
Reach out to Todd if you are conducting any training burns to help with PGE asset protection.

**Sonoma County Emergency Management:** Sam Wallis reported. DEM continues to prep for PSPS and large scale evacuations planning. The formal Alert and Warning plan was presented to the BOS and adopted. Preparation work is taking place for alert and warnings for this fire season. The Sonoma County Sheriff is done with the evacuation map planning. This will then be put into SoCo Alerts if evacuations are called out. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the City of Santa Rosa has offered to conduct SoCo Alert testing in the Fountaingrove and Montecito areas. There will be an Alert and Warnings table top exercise in the same place with free lunch as well on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. If anyone would like to be on the Cam smoke detection via AI feed, please reach out to Sam and he will get you on it.

### **Regional Zone Reports:**

**CALFIRE:** Chief Nicholls reported they are rolling towards the May 24<sup>th</sup> level 3 staffing, 1 engine per station. Sonoma Air Attack Base will be open for reload. Aircraft will be available at Redding and Mcallen and possibly at Sonoma as well. The New Copter 104 should be here in June as well. This time last year we were just over 600 fires and just short of 1000 acres. This year we are just short of 800 fires and 2600 acres. Were 200 fires more than last year and a couple thousand acres larger. Current ERC's are at record highs. The 1000 hour fuels are not to record lows as of yet. Currently trying to push through the County Grant Funding for

Vegetation Management before peak fire season. CALFIRE Prevention Grants are closing next Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Still working on the Annual Operating Plan for the large fires and extended resource commitments.

**Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported Sonoma Valley Fire District did a table top exercise for an earthquake scenario and it went very well. The City is going to bring forward the fire impact fee for adoption. Chief Bellach reported that his Board approved to move forward with a Benefit Assessment Increase Measure for November.

**Zone 4:** No report

**Zone 5:** Chief Lunardi reported Camp Meeker/Occidental will be having an evacuation drill on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Zone 6:** Chief Jenkins reported they are completing their fire academy with 12 firefighters. There will be a prescribed burn this coming week in the city limits of Healdsburg. They have started implementing water conservation efforts amongst the stations. Chief Boaz reported they will be conducting an earthquake drill in the area of Fitch Mountain on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The prescribed burn that Chief Jenkins mentioned may be postponed due to the fuels have not yet cured. Healdsburg has started interviews for the vacant firefighter position and thanked those agencies that sent representatives to sit on the oral board panels.

**Zone 7:** Chief Westrope reported the new station 5 has been funded through a grant. The proposed property is still in escrow at Fountaingrove Parkway and Stage Coach. In regards to the PGE settlement, they were able to get \$8Mil. to the fire dept. for vegetation management. \$2.75Mil. will go towards the plan to enhance the wildland response without adding people to the stations. This includes two type 3's, two type 6's, tactical water tender and PPE for the crews. Two type 3's have been found in production from Peirce. One type 3 will arrive by the end of this season and one by next year. Chief Heine reported that the recruit academy is in its final weeks. Six new FF medics will come out of it. Looking at new ways to recruit. Hiring veteran paramedics and sponsor them through FF-1. LAFCO has approved the final steps in annexation of Forestville. July 1<sup>st</sup> go live date with them. Integration processes have been going on for some time with cross staffing and cross training. Still in deep conversations with County Supervisors, particularly with the Fire Adhoc members on the consolidation efforts with Bodega Bay. Looking positive on receiving funding to move Bodega Bay back into the LAFCO process.

**Zone 8:** Chief Braga reported the ban on fireworks for the city has been approved. They will be allowing through a lottery system an annual show. Chief Hertzberg reported they appreciated all the support that they have been receiving especially with the BOS as they continue to move forward with the consolidation efforts with Sonoma County Fire.

**Zone 9:** No report

**OES:** Chief Courson reported he was released on Sunday from the Oakland vaccination site. OES is working on different reimbursement methods, some of this will be discussed on the Region 2 call tomorrow, more to follow. The preposition program is up and running, with this last wind event they were able to accommodate Contra Costa and Napa Counties with prepositioning.

**Training OP's:** Chief Andreas reported they met yesterday and has no report.

**FPO's:** Devon Gambonini reported that Santa Rosa declared fire season opening up on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday's next FPO meeting there will be a discussion on to see where all the agencies are at because this ties into weed abatement and vegetation management. Next month will be the first in-person meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Petaluma Community Center. The FPO group sent out a letter of support to Rohnert Park for the proposed fireworks ban.

**Fire Districts:** Chief Akre reported they are continuing monthly meetings via Zoom and hope to get back to in person meeting soon. The last meeting in April they voted in support of the Sonoma County Fire District EOA bid. They are also actively involved in the vegetation management and PGE settlement. The group also voted in support and wrote a letter to the County Administrator supporting the extension of the current County Essential Services Funding for the agencies that are receiving that. Next meeting will be May 27<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

**Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Mickelson reported the Volunteer Companies are still working with the County as far as the extension on the agreement for another 2 years. They have purchased 2 Type 3 engines that should be arriving in August to Two Rock and Lakeville.

**Vegetation Management:** Steve Mosiurchak reported that the vegetation management is off and running. Letters have been sent out about 3 weeks ago. There will be a community meeting via Zoom on Thursday night starting at 6:00PM, the link is on the County website. Training for the departments that will be conducting the inspections via the Collector App will be the last week of May. All the forms are getting sorted for distribution out to the agencies. Inspections on the forms can be started this week. A lot of abatement with 5 to 6 parcels currently underway. If you have properties that need abatement, please reach out to Steve. The funds that are available every year for the abatement program are going to be continued to be available. Funding is also available for special projects with-in those Districts. The PGE grant money that is available for community programs through the Ag office will be closing soon. Applications are being viewed.

**Coastal Valley EMS:** James Salvante reported in regards to current discussions around behavioral health. What is happening with Pt's in ER's that can't get placement, causing problems and having enough resources in the system. They will kicking off discussions tomorrow on these topics. If there are any Chiefs that would like to participate in these discussions, please feel free to email James. The Sonoma County Survival Reunion will be virtual this year. This will not be via a Zoom, but rather a production that can be watched on your own time. This should be available for viewing on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Department of Health Services has announced Tina Revera who is the current Assistant DHS Director will be moving into interim Director. The treatment guidelines revision is still open for public comment with just a few days left. The documents are available on the website and will be closing out on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:** None

**Fire/EMS:** Chief Akre reported they have been meeting weekly. The big topic now is Rancho Adobe's interest in becoming an ALS provider. They have been working with Coastal Valley EMS.

**County Alerting System:** See Sonoma County Emergency Management section

**Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief Heine reported there is a Region 2 pre fire season meeting tomorrow. Will be meeting soon with the REDCOM Duty Chiefs for a pre fire season check in.

**REDCOM:** KT McNulty reported Control 3 is still down with no ETA. July 1<sup>st</sup> date for the new repeater to be completed. Tango Tango is still in the early implementation phase. Last week they started receiving smoke detection alerts from AI Technology. Also started the fire season REDCOM up staffing with one extra dispatcher from 9AM-9PM. Still working on implementing the First Responder Pro, enrollment has been put on hold while they figure out some liability concerns.

**Closed Session:** None

**Good of the Order:**

**Adjournment:** @ 0945

**Next Meeting:** June 9th @ Sonoma Valley Fire District Station 1

Respectfully Submitted,  
Daren Bellach  
SCFCA Secretary