



# SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

## MEETING MINUTES

Hosted by Coast Guard Fire

August 8, 2012  
9:30 AM

### Attendance:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Steve Adams	Healdsburg	Dick Luttrell	REDCOM
Lori Anello	Two Rock	John Marty	Rohnert Park
Mark Aston	County Fire	Mark McCormack	Santa Rosa
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Nick Neisius	Valley Ford
Randy Collins	SRJC	Paul Pigoni	Geyserville
Darren DeCarli	Gold Ridge	Al Ramos	USCG
Gary Duignan	ARC	Bill Shubin	Santa Rosa
Loren Davis	Mountain	Roger Strehn	Marin Chiefs
Cary Fergus	Petaluma	Frank Treanor	Rancho Adobe
Tony Gossner	Santa Rosa	Peter Van Fleet	Glen Ellen
Eric Hoffman	Cal Fire	Doug Williams	Central Fire
Vern Losh	CSFA	John Zanzi	SMART

### Call to Order:

President Eric Hoffman called the meeting to order at 0937.

### Host Chief Introduction:

Chief Al Ramos welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the base. We are welcome to tour the center and use the United States Coast Guard facilities for training.

### Approval of Minutes:

*See President's Report.*

**President's Report:** Approval of the previous meeting's minutes and Treasurer's report will be deferred until the next meeting due to the absence of the secretary/treasurer. No objections were voiced.

### Treasurer's Report:

*See President's Report.*

**Correspondence:** None.

**Presentations:** Vern Losh-CSFA, Napa STRIVE Grant.

The California State Firefighters' Association (CSFA) is still doing well, although struggling financially like all of us. CSFA is still very active and working for the firefighters. Gene Gant is now the interim executive director. They are continuing the SAFER grant program. The next Recruitment and Retention Workshop is up in Merced. This training is covered by grant funds; travel, lodging, meals and the class itself are paid for by the grant upon completion of the class.

Napa has received the State Tuition Reimbursement as Incentive for Volunteer Emergency (STRIVE) Responders grant and is making it available to other counties in the area. The STRIVE grant provides scholarships for volunteer firefighters to pay for their tuition up to \$5,000/year with a 2.5 year commitment to be a volunteer firefighter. The grant is also transferrable to immediate family members and good for any class taught at a state-funded college. See the flyer or website (<http://volunteerfirefighter.org/napa/strive.php>) for more details. There are 60 scholarships available per year and the process is competitive. The next deadline is Sept. 1, 2012. If you have a current student loan from attending a state-funded college, you may use the grant to pay the loan down. To receive the grant you must to complete the class and turn in all the paperwork. The check goes to institution not to you.

## **Committee Reports**

### ***Operations & Training Section:***

The next meeting is on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Operations and Training is still working on CICCIS issues and will have more to report at the next meeting.

### ***Prevention Section:***

Their next meeting will be on Wednesday August 15<sup>th</sup> and will be meeting with NorCal on September 28. Safety Pals doing presentation for the NorCal group. Prevention is looking at coordinating a Safety Pals presentation to all Petaluma 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes. Safety Pals is taking some training classes.

Grow houses are an issue as they are not considered safe; however, putting together an ordinance against them also requires consideration of the Compassionate Use Act. Prevention would like to have a defined position on this issue from the group. If grow houses are going to be legal, then why not have them be commercial or open structures. Problems arise from the commercial demands on power by enclosed grow houses.

Fire Safe Sonoma is starting roadside vegetation management.

The 1A class is in August and the 1B in September.

### ***District Chiefs:***

The District Chiefs had a meeting at the Sonoma station on July 26. The speaker was David Sundstrom. The next meeting is being hosted by Russian River in September.

### ***Volunteer FF Association:***

#### ***CAD Group:***

The CAD group is working on the symbols to be used on roads in rural areas and came up with a distinction between all-year roads, unpaved roads, driveways or multiple parcel driveways. There would be the following markings for the classifications for rural roads:

- decent = solid line
- class 1 = one dash
- class 2 = two dashes
- class 3 = three dashes

The markings would not be absolute as conditions are changeable, but would give the best guess for accessibility. No objections were given to moving forward with these symbols.

There is now a provision in the works to allow users of the run map system to make changes to the map system, with the exception of addresses. If the convention mentioned above is adopted then users can identify desirable roads as they see them.

**Cal EMA Operational Area:**

Were on the list for a request for a strike team to go to the Robbers fire. We went down the roster and picked out strike team. We had strike team ready, waiting for order, but then order was reduced to fewer strike teams.

We've not exercised the system a lot as it has been very quiet. If you weren't statused then you weren't picked. The reason for the statusing is to reduce the number of contacts the needed to pull a team together, so keep your status up to date.

Take your Red Card with you when you go to an incident, especially a federal one. If you're in ROSS then you're probably good to go.

**County Fire:**

Chief Aston mentioned that the Standards of Cover (SOC) is in its final draft stage. It is currently out for review with the Volunteer Fire Company Chiefs and Boards. The SOC will be presented at the 9/18 Board of Supervisors meeting.

At the 9/11 Board of Supervisors meeting we'll be having a quick ceremony. We are planning on having a small honor guard come in and do the pledge of allegiance. Santa Rosa will be providing the honor guard. We would like to get together a countywide joint honor guard for future events such as this.

**EMCC:**

*Report deferred.*

**Legislation:**

AB1551 is a neat component to protect your insurance rates if you get in accident when driving to a fire.

There is currently a resolution in House Senate to designate June 4-10 as fire safety and disaster preparedness week.

AB1701 is being revised to from saying "local agency" to saying "the CUPA." It also clarifies who administers the CUPA legislations.

SRA – The first bills are coming out to the A counties. The press has been heavily involved and writing many articles. Many large counties are talking about the difficulties with the fee. As soon as the bills come out the lawsuits will start, if they are determined to have a legal standing. Any calls to fire stations should be transferred to the California Dept. of Forestry. The State is intending to do a lot of public education on the SRA fee. Auditor-Controllers are concerned as to where the State got the property information, as was not from them, so they are worried that the billing is based on inaccurate information. It is also unclear how the State has identified a property as within a fire district.

A press conference is scheduled on Sept. 29 to continue educating the public on this fee. There has already been a letter authored by Sonoma County Chiefs, which is being updated for this press conference.

Every bill will have an enclosure that has information on the fee and where to call. We're interested in putting together a FAQ sheet for firefighters/fire depts. to use in educating the public as well. It will help the fire agencies have a cohesive presentation on this issue.

FirePreventionFee.org has information on this issue: background, FAQ and tools for SRA inhabitants.

The group concurred that they would like to send the letter and participate in the press conference.

**Grants:**

Chief Aston talked about how the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) will be distributed. The GIS mapping project has funding from this grant. Sustainable funding for the GIS project is a problem that will need to be addressed as this is likely the last year of HSGP money.

Please consult the handout for more details.

***SRJC Advisory:***

The Fire Academy began last weekend. Kim Thompson will be the coordinator for the Fire Academy. The academy just received \$60K to get a car fire butane/propane simulator that will be available for all to train on. Instructors need the 1C class, as it now a requirement for instructors. Encourage your staff to become training officers.

***CHP Liaison:***

*Report deferred*

***Red Cross:***

Jennifer Jones talked about their new emergency contact system. They are currently looking at how that system can communicate with the local fire agency.

***Marin Chiefs Liaison:***

The Marin chiefs are with the Sonoma chiefs on creating standardization and sharing resources.

The Marin representative has seen FEMA AFG use an iPad that coordinates GIS, car location and call update. Marin is testing that system now and he says it is just incredible the stuff that you can do with the iPad for minimal investment.

Marin is working with the region to have prevention and training be regionalized in order to capitalize on sharing resources. They have a lot of line resources out there for strike teams. The requirements to be on a team are that you need to have experience out of county and an engine boss level of qualifications because those deployed to out of county fires are called upon to make good decisions.

The recency of experience requirements are causing problems. Marin is sending two strike team leaders out on calls in order to keep their experience recent.

The Marin Chiefs next meeting is next Thursday and is a great BBQ at Bolinas. It should be a fun meeting and you are all welcome. Ron Barney is retiring next Wed. This meeting will be a kind of retirement party for him.

***Fire Safe Sonoma:***

First, the roadside program is coming to an end. They did a great amount of work and reduced quite a bit of fire loading. The chipper program will be reduced this year. The website is: <http://www.unce.unr.edu/>.

UN Reno is giving us their training document for fire prevention, which we are changing to be more applicable to our area. They need local photos of good defensible space.

***Cal Fire:***

Personnel are moving around. They've just hired a deputy chief of operations and one of administration. The chiefs will likely be attending some of the Cal Fire training.

Kirk Van Wormer is taking over Battalion Chief for St. Helena Emergency Command Center.

Mike Wink is going over to the 17. Scott Upton just became Napa County's new fire chief. Chris Avila took new position as Chief of Camps. Chris Juristek will now be over the air base. They are looking to hire their current prevention chief permanently and for new limited term Battalion 12, currently Karen Shubin's position.

Putting on new WUI training from the Battalion Chiefs. It's mostly terminology changes, no big changes. The class takes about an hour and a half, but can take up to 3 hours.

### **SMART rep in room**

SMART is upgrading the rails from Santa Rosa to Petaluma. Crossings will be closed as they rebuild them. They are putting together an emergency response plan team to see how to respond to a rail emergencies, especially as some of the railroad is in remote or difficult to reach places.

The draft environmental projects document came out and is available on the website for review.

### **Old Business:**

- The grant project for Safety Pals was submitted and we are now waiting for response
- The iPad grant was submitted and we are now waiting for response.

### **New Business:**

No new business.

### **Improving Efficiencies:**

We received an email from Mark McCormack. To see about sharing resources and having the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion do joint training and fire prevention. If you'd like to weigh in on a 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion go to Windsor and Rincon Valley boards, in August. If they feel like a 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion is a good idea, the proposal will go to other boards. They are starting at top to get people to play, to send a strong message encouraging cooperation.

### **Customer Service/Good of the Order:**

Andy Taylor has an iPad which has an app which has all of the maps in the map book on it. The cost was \$568/unit. The iPad app is very helpful/cool. New Hope Baptist Church, Sept. 9 10:30 AM is a service that they do for firefighters. There is a huge presentation. Show up in your uniform!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual FF Appreciation Trip to Giants Game will result in a likely donation of \$600 to SafetyPals. Thanks for your support.

Nick Neisius has been asked to for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time to go back to the fallen firefighters ceremony in Washington, DC to escort the family. As an escort the financial responsibility on him, so he is seeking donations to defray the cost.

### **REDCOM**

They are in the midst of doing some leadership and supervisory training which is going very well.

The use of REDCOM for Sonoma Raceway dispatchers has really raised the game out there. The level of coordination and communication is great.

### **Closed Session:**

No closed session

### **Next Meeting:**

Sept. 12 at CHP in Rohnert Park.

**Adjourned:** at 11:27 AM