



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
April 13, 2022 at 8:30 AM  
Zoom**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach  
Tony Gossner  
Mark Heine  
Steve Akre  
Ken Reese  
Jason Boaz  
KT McNulty  
Ray Mulas  
Steve Suter  
Steve Herzberg  
Bill Braga  
Matt Epstein  
Doug Williams  
Ben Nicholls  
Hans Henneberque

Kenwood Fire  
Rancho Adobe Fire  
Sonoma County Fire  
Sonoma Valley Fire  
REDCOM  
Healdsburg Fire  
REDCOM  
Schell Vista  
Santa Rosa  
Bodega Bay Fire  
Sebastopol Fire  
Dry Creek  
SMART  
CALFIRE

Chris Godley  
Charles Funkhouser  
Devon Gambonini  
Bill Bullard  
Spencer Andreas  
Ron Lunardi  
Bonnie Plakos  
James Salvante  
Jason Jenkins  
Ron Busch  
Mark Courson  
Jeff Schach  
Scott Westrope  
Mike Marcucci

So. Co. DES  
Coast Guard  
Santa Rosa Fire  
Graton Fire  
Sonoma Valley Fire  
Occidental Fire  
NSCFPD  
Coastal Valley EMS  
Cloverdale Fire  
Sonoma County Fire  
OES  
Petaluma Fire  
Santa Rosa Fire  
CALFIRE

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chief Heine

**Host Chief Introduction:** Chief Heine

**Presidents Report:** Chief Heine reported we are starting to focus on fire season prep.

**Approval of Minutes:** No Minutes from last month

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

Chief's General Fund	\$4,755.30
Survivor's Fund	\$96,396.31
Training Officer's Fund	\$3,252.92
Training Officer's Command Tablets	(\$259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$4,218.85
FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$12,856.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$888.71
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$2,276.26
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$1,041.53
Safety Pals General Fund	\$24,765.62
<u>Safety Pals Trailer Fund</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$152,692.84</b>

**Correspondence:** None

**Presentation:** None

**Old Business:** May 11<sup>th</sup> Installation Meeting – A meeting of the E Board will be put together to plan this event next week.

**New Business:** Fire Season Preparations – Chief Nicholls briefed the group. They have hired 117 FF's on Monday morning. All are going through the returning academy. After the 1 week long academy we will be up to one engine per Battalion with an additional engine above that for a total of 11 engines in the unit. The Blue Ridge Crew will be staffed, but they will not be here until the Sierra Youth Center is ready to be occupied. The copter will also come on this Monday. Here locally in the County Santa Rosa (41), Hilton (43), Petaluma (47) and Cloverdale (49) are the four stations that are open. This takes us to level 2 staffing with 1 engine per Battalion. We are scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> level 3 staffing which takes us to 1 engine per station. May 23<sup>rd</sup> Sonoma Air Attack Base opens up with aircraft on base available. Peak fire staffing to level 4 by May 30<sup>th</sup>. A Type 1 exclusive use helicopter (Sky Crane) scheduled to arrive at Sonoma Air Attack Base on July 1<sup>st</sup>. A Chinook copter at Napa Co. Airport arriving June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Marcucci added, throughout the summer we will see the inmate crew population's decrease to a point where we might not have a Type 1 crew in the Sonoma Lake Napa Unit probably by next month. He believes we will be tooling up engine co. more than we ever have. The Blue Ridge Crew is going to large, but cannot promise it will be in Sonoma County due to it may be the only crew in the County.

Chief Heine added that the Local Op Area Coordinators will be having their meeting tomorrow. There will be a follow-up meeting with the RDO's to make sure we are all operating on the same page.

EOA1 RFP update – The RFP process was stopped by the County. We are waiting for a new RFP to come out soon. A stake holders meeting was just announced for Friday morning. We were only given three days' notice for this meeting. AMR's contract extension will carry them out until 2024. This is to buy everyone the time necessary to conduct a good RFP process and to ensure whoever the future provider is the appropriate time to standup the necessary resources to provide the service to us. There is a plan to move to a tiered response. This will have impacts on dispatch time responses and call processing times, levels of service and a change in how we deliver our EMS services. We are taking a position that will require careful stakeholder input. The agency that stands to be impacted the most on this operation is the City of Santa Rosa.

Chief Westrope added he is deeply disappointed in this entire process when coming out of some of these meetings where it was pushed that cooperation and collaboration was going to be the name of the game. This is clearly not the case. There has zero stakeholder input. We don't even know what this tiered response system looks like and it is going to the BOS on Tuesday. There are some serious issues that we have to work through and I hope the Fire Chiefs get behind it.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Heine reported we have had a couple of meetings with Terri Wright trying to determine what options are available with tax measures, items that the County has historically funded that will be coming to a close soon. For example,

the County pays for the REDCOM dispatch fees. The contract between REDCOM and the County expires at the end of fiscal year 2023-24. As of today the County does not have plans to pay those fees. If you're not aware of what your agencies assessment is, reach out to KT for your planning purposes. The County has also historically paid the Lexipol Policy Manual fees. There is currently an outstanding bill the County has not paid because their MOU with Lexipol has expired. We will be working with the County to talk about this and figure out if they will be looking for the individual agencies to pay this bill.

**SMART:** Doug Williams reported that the board is studying public input on a variety of things. They are looking into the ridership issues, pathways, extensions and freight. With the public input, they will start to develop specific plans for the future. They are figuring ways to fund different things and develop different sections of the pathways. They are still figuring out what role SMART could play in a disaster. Working on the EVL questions and waiting to hear more on the bi-annual exercise which is still scheduled to be in Sonoma County this year. Working on putting together a tour for the Redwood Empire Code Officials on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**PG & E:** None

### **Regional Zone Reports:**

**CALFIRE:** Chief Marcucci reported they are having Wildfire Prevention/Preparedness Week. The kick off will be in Sonoma County this year on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Chief Heine was asked to possibly speak at the press conference. The location will be Annadel State Park. More information to follow.

Chief Nicholls added that Monday was the requirement for CALFIRE burn permits. Historically May 1<sup>st</sup> was the start date, it has been bummed up and anyone in the SRA needs to have a permit from CALFIRE to burn. If smaller than 4 X 4 the permit can be obtained online, if larger, an in person inspection will need to be done.

**Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported that Sonoma Valley Fire is continuing their recruitment and hiring with-in. We just hired 2 of our Firefighter EMT's and will be putting them through Medic school. To date we have had 7 complete this process. We took delivery of 2 new Rosenbauer Type 1 engines. One is service at the Agua Caliente Station and the other should be in service soon. Thank you Chris at DEM for the support and funding with our second Community LED sign installed last week at the Glen Ellen Station.

Chief Bellach reported Kenwood will be accepting applications for Part-Time FF, Engineer and Captain starting this month.

**Zone 4:** No report

**Zone 5:** No report

**Zone 6:** No report

**Zone 7:** Chief Westrope reported they have 5 new employees starting this Monday. The new Type 3 is in Sacramento for a tune up before we take delivery. We are having issues finding someone to build a Type 6 due to Dodge and Ford not building industrial chassis. Chief Heine reported we have 6 FF Medic candidates going through backgrounds. Medic 577 is the ambulance we have in Windsor that we will continue to staff. Two Type 1 engines to be delivered soon. In the early stages of specking out a new ladder truck. For

2022-23 we will be focusing on facility replacement. Will be replacing Station 4 on Todd Rd. and Station 9 in Guerneville. With-in the next 60 days we should be taking delivery of the new copter. We are in conversation with Rancho Adobe of pre consolidation opportunities. Last week at LAFCO we received final certification of our consolidation with Bodega Bay and will go live July 1<sup>st</sup>. Bodega bay will become Station 10 and Station 11 will be the hanger for the copter.

**Zone 8:** Chief Bullard reported they are doing internal interviews now for the summer 3.0 staffing.

**Zone 9:** Chief Gossner reported they are expecting delivery of a new Type 1 in a few months and are building a Type 6. We are looking forward to ALS. They have a letter to EMS CAL Chiefs to keep them up to date on what they are doing. We have flown a Fire Chief recruitment that closes July 1<sup>st</sup> as well as talking with Sonoma County Fire in regards to consolidation. Chief Gossner asked the group about the article in the Press in regards to the PG&E settlement for the Kincade Fire. It stated that the County was getting funds and some Districts and Volunteer Co. were going to see some of that money. Chief Heine stated that he did not know anything other then what he read. He has a meeting with the County Administrator this afternoon and will discuss this.

**OES:** Chief Courson reported they are gearing up and prepping for the summer. OES has 3 Type 1 engines, 2 type 3 engines and 6 Type 6 units available as well a support Unit. Anyone with questions or would like more info, please contact Chief Courson. The spring regional meeting will be on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Training OP's:** Chief Andreas reminded everyone about the annual overhead refresher class on May 10<sup>th</sup>. A flyer has been sent out. Please sign up.

**FPO's:** Devon Gambonini reported they met on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and will meet again next Wednesday. One of the topics discussed was FITF. They are planning on having the Youth Fire Academy this fall. They have had 2 call outs this year for FITF, one in Petaluma and one in Gold Ridge. Please remember this is a resource available to you if you need it. Fire Safe Sonoma reported they have a new administrative employee that will provide some relief for Roberta and the rest of the staff. There will be an emergency preparedness fair in Cloverdale at the Citrus Fairgrounds on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The code development committee will be meeting with all the Fire Marshalls from different agencies soon.

**Fire Districts:** Chief Akre reported they had a very successful FDAC Conference last week in Napa. There were a lot of excellent presentations including some from our own Chief Heine and other members from his department regarding consolidation, requirement and retention. Locally, we are tentatively scheduled for our meeting this month to back to an in person dinner on April 28<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow. We will be going back to quarterly in person meetings for April, July, October and January. We are looking for host agencies for each of these meetings. A Zoom format meeting will take place on the months in between the in person meetings.

Chief Heine added the Cal Chiefs Conference will be September 13-15 in Sacramento. Chief Bellach added the LACFO Special Districts Representative vote is due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Chief Akre added the FASIS Board Representatives are out for a vote as well. Any member agency of FASIS please take the time to vote.

**Volunteer Fire Companies:** None

**Vegetation Management:** None

**Coastal Valley EMS:** James Salvante reported that he did not want to get into a discussion on the RPF issue and tiered response until he gets more information as he has been gone for a while. He is working on the oversight for agencies that want to get into the ALS response and the approval process. On April 25<sup>th</sup> there is a MAC an EMCC, this will be a great place to rehash on what happens on Fridays meeting.

**Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:** No report

**Fire/EMS:** Chief Akre reported the EOA RFP, Tiered response was discussed during New Business. There are a couple of other issues. One is the ambulance off load times. This has been an ongoing concern as our agencies and communities have been suffering. We are working through the areas of compliance with the some of the EOA rules.

**DEM:** Chris Godley reported the emergency planning work is almost done. The County Emergency Operations Plan was approved last month. We have annexes for alert and warning evacuations, this goes to the board next week. We have activated Zone Heaven, we not be switching over to that as our primary public information tool as we do not know how much they will be charging next year. All our evacuation status will be integrated with CALFIRE. The drought task force will start next month. If there are drought implications for fire, he would like to hear about it so it can be addressed. The evacuation zone access policy will be addressed, he would like to work with fire to address any issues.

**Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** None

**REDCOM:** KT reported recruitment efforts are underway for the Executive Director. There is also an open seat on the Stabilize Sonoma Board if anyone is interested.

**Closed Session:** None

**Good of the Order:** None

**Adjournment:** @ 9:15AM

**Next Meeting:** May 11th, in person only at the Petaluma Community Center – Installation Lunch. Meeting @ 10:00 hrs. Installation Lunch @ 11:30 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach  
SCFCA Secretary