



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
August 10th, 2022 at 8:30 AM
USGS Petaluma**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Ray Mulas	Schell Vista Fire
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Evonne Stevens	REDCOM
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire	Tony Gossner	Rancho Adobe
Matt Epstein	Dry Creek Fire	Chris Godley	DEM
Charles Funkhouser	Coast Guard	Jeff Duvall	DEM
Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire	Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE
Bill Braga	Sebastopol Fire	Trevor Collins	Santa Rosa Fire
Jeff Schach	Petaluma Fire	Ron Lunardi	Occidental Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Aaron Johnson	RPPS
Mike Marcucci	CALFIRE	Tim Mattos	RPPS
Steve Suter	Santa Rosa Fire	Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa Fire
Kelly Bradley	North Bay Fire	Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire
Bill Bullard	Graton Fire	Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa Fire	Karen Hancock	Sonoma County Fire
Steve Herzberg	Sonoma County Fire	Mike McCallum	Santa Rosa Fire
Spencer Andreis	Sonoma Valley Fire	James Salvante	CVEMS
Cyndi Foreman	Sonoma County Fire	Marshall Tuberville	North Sonoma County Fire
Tom Jorden	Petaluma Fire	Trevor Collins	Santa Rosa Fire
Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale Fire		

Call to Order: Chief Heine began the meeting at 8:30am and led the pledge.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Heine

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Funkhouser welcomed everyone.

Presidents Report: Chief Heine introduced their new Community Outreach Specialist/PIO Karen Hancock. She comes to us from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department. We have been working very closely with Chief Akre, Fire Districts and 1401 on the ambulance RFP process.

Chief Schach introduced Tom Jorden from Marin County. He is Petaluma's City first ever fulltime emergency manager.

Approval of Minutes: None

Treasurer's Report: No report

Correspondence: We received a letter from Greg Sarris with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria looking for formal support from the Chiefs Association on Prop 26 and an opposed on Prop 27. They have also approached Special Districts, FDAC and Cal Chiefs.

Chief Marcucci added that he is aware of 4 agencies that have taken a stance on the propositions due to having Indian Casinos in their Districts.

Chief Akre thought that this was an important topic to discuss due to having a couple of casinos in our County. He was interested in what the stance or thought was with Dry Creek. Chief Epstein added that these bills are about 3 years in the making. When he was with CSFA, they had shown support at the time. Neither of these bills have a negative impact on what we do in the fire service. Chief Heine asked if we as the Association took a support position, could we end up putting ourselves between tribes. Chief Epstein felt that it would not. After discussion, it was determined to report back that the SCFCA does not take formal positions on these ballot measures.

Presentation: Role of Emergency Management – Jeff Duvall, Deputy Director of the Sonoma County Emergency Management. Jeff spoke on the change in emergency management since 9/11. He explained what emergency management is. Mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Jeff’s contact info: 707-565-6160 office, 707483-8289 Cell, jeff.duvall@sonoma-county.org.

Chief Nicholls added in conversation with Sam Wallace over time, the evacuation zones that were created are all pre identified in the alert and warnings system. If we use those pre identified zones, the reaction time is drastically reduced. They are all pre built and all that has to be done it hit “go” to launch. If we don’t use them, and use east of, west of, it takes time to put that together. For a rapid building incident, the zones are a great tool to use. Jeff Duvall added that when the evacuation is called, it has to be done in Spanish as well. The translations all already built into the preset evacuation zones. When using east of and south of, a translator needs to be called in to prepare the translation and this takes time to do.

Role of California National Guard in Wildland Firefighting – Chief Epstein, Chief Epstein spoke about how the California State Guard “Team Blaze” is used in the role of firefighting. They are a state agency, not Federal. Formed under Title 32 in 1941. They preform state defense. There are over 50 active units and cover all components of air, land and sea. Type II Hand Crew and Type 6 Engine Strike Team capabilities. Requests for the team has to be done through OES.

Old Business: None

New Business: REDCOM BOD Seat Vote – Chief Heine reported that there is an open seat on the REDCOM BOD. Chief Akre is the only nominee for that seat right now. This does require a vote of the membership. If you have not responded to KT’s email, please do ASAP.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Chief Heine reported they are scheduled to meet tomorrow morning. One focus is on supporting the additional consolidation efforts that are underway. SVFD and KFPD, Rancho Adobe and Sonoma County Fire and Gold Ridge with CSA-40 agencies. Another focus is they are starting to explore the path with consultants about the ability for the fire service to put its own sales tax measure on through a petition drive. This would require a smaller number of votes to pass.

SMART: Doug Williams reported they are continuing to see ridership increases. They are providing special trains for some of the Giants games to meet the ferry when it

returns from San Francisco. They are actively looking for grants for additional funding. If they get the Federal Grant or Regional Measure this should cover the Windsor extension, if both grants are obtained then this should cover all the way to Healdsburg. Still working on the pathway extensions. The freight system continues to be reviewed. On September 4th and 5th they are planning to run steam trains out of Schellville. They had the debrief on the Redwood Incident and had a good representation from the fire service and SMART management. They were able to get a better understanding of each other's needs. This session was recorded and is available if anyone wants to review it. Thank you to Ken Reese and Spencer Andreis for getting the AVL on Tablet Command. Trying to move forward with the special notifications with SMART.

PG & E: None

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Marcucci reported we are in peak fire season. Chief Tom Kinect has promoted to Staff Chief in Sacramento. They will announce the new Division Chief soon. CALFIRE has been engaged on the Northern California fires with the Forest Service. Chief Nicholls reported that Copter 7HS is the training copter if you hear it on the radio. This is in place of Copter 104. The Hood Mountain Fire Center should be up and running soon.

Zone 3: Chief Akre reported September 20th thru the 22nd there will be a Wildfire Leadership Symposium in Sonoma Valley. The new Type 3 is delayed a year and the second one should be delivered in a few weeks.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: No report

Zone 6: Chief Jenkins reported that he wanted to thank everyone who helped out with the River Park Fires in the north. This area was very labor intensive with a lot of old logging slash.

Zone 7: Chief Westrope reported that the city council has approved to put a new public safety tax measure on the ballot this November as Measure O. It will be a \$10 Mil. Tax. Last year's budget they worked on a reorganization of their Administration Bureau. Chief Mike McCallum will be promoted to Deputy Chief of Administration. There are a bunch of orders in for apparatus 4-6 type 1's this year. Fire station 5 is funded and they are dealing with the property off of Fountaingrove. Fire station 8 will be moved from the Burbank area to Dutton Ave, they purchased 6 acres.

Chief Heine reported their 6 new FF/Medics are on shift now. The Copter Sonoma County 1 has been delivered to REACH and is getting ready to go live sometime in September. Missions will be scene response, critical care transport, aerial recon and aerial firefighting. Still having good dialogue with Ranch Adobe about consolidation. Looking for about \$2Mil. a year from the BOS. Working on the EOA 1 Ambulance Service Contract with the partnership with Medic Ambulance. Chief Chris Tubbs from Southern Marin will be sworn in as the new Cal Chief President at the conference on September

14th, 15th and 16th in Sacramento. Chief Heine will be serving as Vice President and then will assume the role as president in 2023.

Zone 8: Chief Braga reported they just got out of demob yesterday with some severe mechanical issues and repairs on their Type 3 Engine. They are out of service for that engine until further notice. The new Type 3 on order is about a year out.

Zone 9: Chief Schach reported they have a Type 1 on order and is about a year and a half out. They also purchased a new ambulance that will take less than a year to get. OES 400 is due to return tomorrow. The draft report should be out soon on their comprehensive analysis report. Looking at designing a public safety facility with the Measure U funding.

Chief Mattos reported they are taking delivery of a new engine in 2 weeks. They are also ordering another Type 1 from Rosenbauer. Looking on getting new hires through a fire academy and finding instructors to teach, due to limited space openings in the nearby academy.

OES: Chief Heine reported that Chief Coursen wanted to thank everyone for the support and responses to the state.

Training OP's: Chief Andreis reported that they met in July. They had a presentation from Fire Nuggets to promote the Bay Area Fire Conference for next spring of 2023 at the Santa Rosa Fire Training Center. This should be about a week long course. More to follow. Had the opportunity to review SOP 28 and a few other REDCOM policies. Looking at some of the common issues of what channels to talk on and when to talk on. Have made some good strides with Tablet Command over the last few months. Have created the bridge for 2 way AVL based recommends.

FPO's: Devon Gambonini reported the date for the Youth Fire Setter Academy will be October 15th and will be in the Oakmont area. Fire Safe Sonoma reported they have the tool trailer that is out fitted with tools to preform defensible space in communities. If any agency is interested in using the trailer, please reach out to Fire Safe Sonoma. Looking at how to better coordinate better communication between PG&E, Fire Safe Sonoma and the FPO's for vegetation management. The next step is for those agencies looking to transition out of the current MDC's and use Tablet Command, how do we use existing MDC funds to fund devices such as tablets, TC software and cradle points for mounting. They will be starting in person meeting in September.

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported they are back to quarterly in person meetings. Thank you Rancho Adobe for hosting the meeting in July. We had a good attendance throughout the County. Continuing with the format for the in between months via Zoom. October we will be back to an in-person event with Sonoma County Fire District hosting. One topic for October will be strategic planning and talking about where we are as an association and the Districts as well as some of our challenges we see facing the future. The Fire Districts Association will be having their Leadership Symposium again this year. This is a great event and valuable training and will be October 24th – 26th in Sacramento.

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Bradley reported they have just completed the application process for new volunteers. They had 12 applicants covering all the CSA-40

areas and ended up with 6. They are losing their volunteers to paid departments, although the numbers are falling they are getting good responses from their volunteers. They have not been able to up staff equipment for out of County responses, but hopefully with the addition of new volunteers coming in they will be able to up staff.

Vegetation Management: No report

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante reported he wanted to thank everyone who has given input on decision making for the tiered response. He feels we are moving in a good direction. Also in the process of drafting the provider approval process and ambulance permitting policy. Comment versions should be out to stakeholders fairly shortly. Moving forward on an Epinephrine check and inject. This is a process that Marin started, and we have been piloting it on an informal basis with Bodega Bay. EMT's could do this and it will be a less expensive route than the standard auto ejectors used now. At the State level we will see regulations for community paramedic, this will be a huge step in the training programs and accreditation process and alternate destination that would us to transport people to places other than ER's. This will be a huge step for our EMS system.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: No report

Fire/EMS: Chief Akre reported they are continuing focus on the EMS Sub-Committee RFP. Working on compliance issues with the EMCC. Wanted to congratulate Steve Suter for filling one of the at large seats on the EMCC.

DEM: Chris Godley reported they have completed out fitting of a trailer called Command 1. If anyone needs this for a big event they can bring it out. Looking at dryer than normal conditions with the drought through the first half of the winter. This could mean that we are going to have a dryer year in 2023. We will be gearing up for a more drought response for next year. There is a new drought task force that will be meeting in a couple of weeks.

Jeff Duvall thanked Sonoma Valley Fire for all the help in the community evacuation drill they had.

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported we had a minor injury on a Strike Team that was addressed. Crews have been working hard on the deployments.

REDCOM: Evonne reported IT has been working on a server issue. Working on funding to try to get tablets and TC for more agencies.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: Chief Gossner said he only has to September until his term as Chief is up. Supply and demand is a huge issue so order early.

Adjournment: @ 10:35hrs.

Next Meeting: September 7th Sonoma County Fire – Forestville

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary