



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

**Hosted by Forestville FPD, 6554 Mirabel Road
April 8th, 2009 0930 HOURS**

Attendance

John Zanzi	Sebastopol	Doug Williams	Rincon Valley
Randy Collins	Healdsburg	John Lantz	Rincon Valley
Chuck Abshear	Cal Fire	John Evans	CHP
Mark Aston	Sonoma County	Rodger Doncaster	Red Cross
Paul Pigoni	Geyserville	Bob Uboldi	Kenwood
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Dan Northern	Forestville
Dean Anderson	Sonoma Life Support	Sean Grinnell	Russian Rvr / Bodega Bay
Steve Francis	Coastal Vlyys EMS Agency	David Cornelsson	Santa Rosa / Windsor
Frank Treanor	Rancho Adobe	Bruce Varner	Santa Rosa

Call to Order: Chief Zanzi called the meeting to order at 09:43 AM

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Northern welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes: No changes to March minutes as presented. Motion to approve by Chief Collins, second from Chief Varner. Approved unanimously.

President's Report: Attended the recent meeting of the Redwood Empire Association of Code Officials (REACO). Current topic of high interest is the photovoltaic guidelines from the State Fire Marshal (SFM). There is not consensus among REACO in regard to adopting either code or "guidelines" for photovoltaic systems (or a combination of both). Some members would like to codify and adopt the SFM guidelines; others are comfortable not adopting code but using the "guideline" concept – allowing some flexibility. The group ended up adopting some components as proposed code and attaching the SFM "guidelines." The group did not obtain consensus on a regional standard. The issue will likely go to the Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) group for possible support in the next code adoption cycle. For a copy of the guidelines referenced above, see the SFM website - <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pdf/reports/solarphotovoltaicguideline.pdf> . Additionally, all PowerPoint presentations contained on the CD titled "*Fundamentals of Photovoltaics for the Fire Service*" can be found on the SFM website at the following link <http://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/photovoltaics.php>

Treasurer's Report: Chiefs Account Balance = \$2,022.69 (as of March 1st) W&O fund balance = \$132,613.48 (as of March 1st).

Correspondence:

- Outgoing correspondence: Chief Collins drafted letter to 1st District Congressional Representative Mike Thompson – seeking stimulus funding for REDCOM (Senators Boxer & Feinstein will receive similar letters from the Association).

Presentations:

- **North Bay Conservation Corps:** Formerly Marin Conservation Corps. Gary Miltimore made a brief presentation. The mission of the Corps is to serve "at-risk" youth, preserve open space,



and assist with public safety where practical (such as floods, search & rescue, fuel reductions). Looking for project work, primarily grant-funded (have a grant writer on board). The Corps expects to receive funding from prop 98 (Park & Water fund). They normally use a ten person crew – but can use a shorter crew depending on the project. They have a formal training program (such as S-212 for chainsaw training and a chipper certificate). The county's CWPP is in progress and will impact ability for federal grant funding.

Pending presentations for Future Meetings:

- Bunker – refresher skills program at SRJC

Committee Reports

- **Training Section:** From March meeting – still looking for Liaison from the Chiefs Association. Chief Aston volunteered to be the Liaison.
- **Prevention Section:** Chief Collins attended the FPOs meeting March 18th in Windsor. As mentioned in the president's report, quite a bit of attention has been focused recently on Photovoltaic (PV) systems. A solar fair is scheduled for June 20th at the Finley Center. It will be a good opportunity to make contacts and distribute fire service info. Fireworks – planning for county-wide coordination is underway (Kerry Fergus will coordinate). Chief Northern noted that use of Public Service Announcements (PSA's) in Marin County movie theatres seemed to be a very effective means of communicating on this issue. He suggested the local effort include that medium.
- **Operations Section:** Chief Lantz. The group met March 16th. Currently working on a county-wide helicopter protocol, looking to establish an overhead incident support team in the county, and finishing work on the Strike Team Leader program/guidebook. Planning for the Sonoma-Marín Multi-Agency Drill is underway. The date is not nailed down – looking at either the 9th or 16th of May. It will be wildland based and held in Marin County. The next Ops Group meeting will be held the 3rd Monday in May.
- **District Chiefs:** Chief Northern for Chief Garcia – County Treasurer / Tax Collector Rod Dole spoke at the last meeting. The districts in the County are generally looking at a 2% revenue increase for the coming fiscal year. In general, cities have been harder hit than rural areas due the degree of development in the last several years. Due to the timing of decreased valuations and corresponding tax collection cycles – local governments should anticipate a larger adverse impact to property-tax revenues in the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year.
- **Volunteer FF Association:** Chief Aston – reviewing final edits for the CSA 40 study which will be presented to the Board of supervisors in the near future. Next meeting for volunteer association is April 22nd – 1800 hours at the County DES conference room (2nd floor).
- **REDCOM:** Dick Luttrell – April is training month – supervisors getting HR-related training, Dick is training on S-358 (Com Unit Leader). ROSS training ongoing. CAD upgrade - Working to



make final fixes to station printing, no major issues. Still a few problems related to the upgrade and working to get them fixed (such as Verizon pagers). REDCOM budget – looking hard to reduce and eliminate expenses where possible. Dean Anderson – continue working on contract implementation. New Sprint ambulance platform in place, also using electronic PCR. Will attend local jurisdiction drill nights if anyone is interested in receiving new ambulance orientation. Questions for REDCOM regarding the jump in run numbers that were observed at the time of the CAD upgrade – the answer is that it was necessary to accommodate the uncertain duration of the down time during the upgrade. Expect a gap in run numbers – this is a consequence of the CAD upgrade.

- **CAD Group:** Chief Williams – the group hasn't met since last meeting. As previously mentioned, the upgrade was implemented and we are now using new page and box numbers. Next meeting CAD Group meeting is scheduled for April 21st – will be following up on corrections to existing maps. No update on laminated map proposal.
- **OES Operational Area:** Chief Williams – one S/T activated to go to the coast on a windy day to assist with a 10 acre vegetation fire. Region II meeting scheduled for the end of May. Generally try to hold zone chiefs meeting after – looking at June 4th for zone chiefs. New S/T leader manual from OES is out and available for download.
[http://www.oes.ca.gov/WebPage/oeswebsite.nsf/ClientOESFileLibrary/Fire%20Documents/\\$file/STLManual2009.pdf](http://www.oes.ca.gov/WebPage/oeswebsite.nsf/ClientOESFileLibrary/Fire%20Documents/$file/STLManual2009.pdf) Re-published the planned need matrix, feedback appreciated. Question was posed to the group – “How do we do a better job of posting planned need status to inform / advise of who is truly available on a given day?” One thought was to use some sort of internet based system. Either routinely or on certain “high-risk” days, the Op area would send those agencies that are both stasured first **and** are on the list (primarily for Engine Strike Teams – but could also include leaders and OH).
- **County DES:** Chief Aston – the EOC technology study will help to improve the automation of information during an emergency. This will help improve the situational awareness in the EOC. Generally, the county is very well practiced for floods, but we are looking to improve on other types of incidents (particularly earthquakes). Additionally, The COOP Program (Continuity of Operations) is moving forward. Tsunami preparedness plan is in draft form, and county personnel are working on a update to the oil spill plan.
- **EMCC:** Steve Francis – EMCC next meeting on 27th of April. Expect July 2010 implementation of new EMT standards. State EMS authority has developed a PowerPoint “overview” presentation on the subject which will be posted on the Chiefs Association website. Like other jurisdictions – the budget is in bad shape. Will probably see some fee change issues which will require a public hearing before the Board of Supervisors.
- **Legislative:** Chief Aston for Chief Collier – Cal-Chiefs noted that a re-appropriations bill sets different (higher) standards for protection at airports that may increase cost of service at smaller airports (such as Sonoma County). The Board of Supervisors opposes the current version since it appears the bill would require \$1.8 million increase in costs. IChiefs are taking no position, however IAFF is in strong support. Dean Anderson advised there is a bill underway to stabilize Medicare funding and mandate quality assurance programs.

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- **Grants:** Chief Zanzi – not much going on. AFG (Assistance to FF Grant) notifications coming out shortly. Looking to make another effort at the pager funding (efforts underway to contact Yolo County for a possible model of a successful pager grant).
- **SRJC Advisory:** Chief Collins for Fred Bunker. Next meeting postponed to May 14th.
- **CHP Liaison:** John Evans – Nothing significant to report. Open house tomorrow.
- **Red Cross:** Roger Doncaster – March 14th was CPR Saturday – trained 340 people at Sebastopol. Will participate in upcoming drill at Sonoma County airport as well as another class at San Francisco airport. Red Cross is also facing a financial crunch similar to other entities. Anticipate more focus on local training. Also working locally with armed forces in three areas; 1. CPR / first aid access (may assist in employment after service), 2. Messages to home and, 3. Psychological first aid after returning from deployment.
- **Marin Chief's Liaison:** Chief Northern – no report from Marin.

Old Business

- Chief Northern briefly demonstrated how web-based resource status might work. Intent is to be consistent with planned need rotational list – and keep the workload off REDCOM.
- Strike Team Policy Discussion. Feedback completed, the Ops group has put out the final draft. Cornelsson – STLs met after last meeting, current version accepted by Ops group with minor changes. Will put the policy on disk to allow each agency to create individual binders. 28 people signed up for currency training (both qualified and trainees). Application for CICCIS documentation underway. Looking to have everything in place for this coming fire season. Questions and discussion regarding the timing of when updates (of qualified individuals) will be added to the list. Lantz suggested the Agency schedule come out in the Spring – current list will be continued past the normal January 2010 revision date and extended as a current STL rotational list until CICCIS review completed in late Spring 2010. Cornelsson requested up to \$100 for making copies of CDs for STLs. The CDs will help ensure everyone using the same documentation. Williams requested a date of creation on each document so that current versions will be easily identified. The code of conduct is separate from STL policy.

Discussion led by Chief Northern on proposed code of conduct. Most issues resolve around what can and can't be done while off shift. The current version provides parameters on acceptable off-shift activities (approved by agency).

Chief Williams motioned to approve adoption of both the Strike Team Policy and code of conduct along with funding for the CDs. Second by Chief Aston. Approved unanimously.

- Annual Chiefs Association Planning Meeting – Goals. Motion by Chief Varner to approve goals as presented by Chief Zanzi. Second by Chief Treanor. Approved unanimously.

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New Business

- Priorities for the 2010 Homeland Security Grant. Chief Zanzi reviewed past grant successes and accomplishments. This year's needs were discussed: GIS Tech, CAD map project, firing class, swift-water classroom training. The item will be kept open for additional discussion at the May meeting.

Customer Service / Good of the order

- Chief Lantz has 18 Swissphone pagers for loan (5-tones). Contact him ASAP if interested. Dean Anderson recommended that a single county wide freq that sets off every pager should be established and loaded into everything now.
- Chief Collier asked to remind everyone that "Reach for Life" membership information is available. To learn more, go to <http://www.mediplane.com/membership>
- Chief Collins advised on receipt of funding for the for Fitch Mtn Chipper. Healdsburg also received a SAFER grant for volunteer recruitment and retention (provides \$200 per month stipend – uses a cafeteria plan). This successful grant was one of only three awarded in California.

Closed Session:

- Reviewed dispatch funding issues

Next Meeting: May 13th – Sebastopol

Meeting adjourned 1305 hrs

Respectfully submitted – Chuck Abshear, Secretary-Treasurer, April 13th, 2009.