



# **SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 12<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 9:30 AM**  
**Hosted By SVFRA**

## **ATTENDANCE**

<b>Arron Abbott</b>	<b>REDCOM</b>	<b>Steve Akre</b>	<b>SVFRA</b>
<b>James Salvante</b>	<b>Costal Valleys EMS</b>	<b>Chris Godley</b>	<b>Sonoma County</b>
<b>Randy Collins</b>	<b>SRJC ARTP</b>	<b>Tony Gossner</b>	<b>Santa Rosa</b>
<b>Jeff Schach</b>	<b>Petaluma</b>	<b>Matt Gustafson</b>	<b>SCFD</b>
<b>Dan George</b>	<b>Gold Ridge</b>	<b>Mark Courson</b>	<b>OES</b>
<b>Leonard Thompson</b>	<b>Petaluma</b>	<b>Kirk Van Wormer</b>	<b>CALFIRE</b>
<b>Mark Heine</b>	<b>SCFD</b>	<b>Steve Suter</b>	<b>Santa Rosa</b>
<b>Dave Francheschi</b>	<b>Forestville</b>	<b>Kemplen Robbins</b>	<b>Santa Rosa</b>
<b>Dean Anderson</b>	<b>AMR</b>	<b>Mike Mickelson</b>	<b>Wilmar</b>
<b>Sean Grinnell</b>	<b>Bodega Bay</b>	<b>Spenser Andreis</b>	<b>SVFRA</b>
<b>Van Riviere</b>	<b>Tablet Command</b>	<b>Jim Wickham</b>	<b>PG&amp;E</b>
<b>Doug Williams</b>	<b>SMART</b>		

**Call to Order:** Chief Boaz began the meeting at 0933 and led the pledge

**Host Chief Introduction:** Chief Akre welcomed the group and explained logistics

**Presidents Report:** Chief Boaz shared the Red Flags have arrived and encouraged each agency to take theirs with them.

**Changes to the Agenda:** Under New Business, Battalion Response was added.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Chief Grinnell to approve the minutes with the change in the REDCOM report identified by Director Abbott that the bill in question is SB 438 not SB 1848. Second by Chief Akre. Unanimous vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report submitted by Hans was as follows:

Chiefs General Fund:	\$2,717.61
Survivors Fund:	\$105,896.31
OP's/TO's Fund:	\$3,424.25
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$8,956.90
Career Succession:	\$1,294.09
FPO General Fund:	\$2,655.35
FITF	\$2,048.05
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$36,850.47
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$166,658.47

**Correspondence:** None

**Presentation:** Van Riviere (retired BC from Stockton) the CEO of Tablet Command spoke to their product. It is a cloud based iOS Apple compatible operational system and has a high level of reliability. Some of its features include:

- Ease of use
- Ability to manage incidents on a map and maintain a high degree of situational awareness
- Accessibility thru iPhones (Android soon)

- Automatically displaying the 10 most recent incidents at a location identified in the dispatch
- Esri Integration to allow overlay of other maps (hydrants, veg management areas, etc)
- Accessing pre-fire plans
- Ability to share information across jurisdictional boundaries
- An After-action data collection feature
- The ability to continue to work if conductivity is lost
- Some agencies currently using are Denver, Marin & Contra Costa Counties

A demonstration of a simulated incident was conducted followed by a Q & A session. For additional information, Van can be contacted at: [van@tabletcommand.com](mailto:van@tabletcommand.com)

#### Old Business:

- Jim Wickham addressed their gas emergency program, providing a quick update (also being delivered to our line personnel). He also spoke to their plans for planned outages and while they try to give 48 hour notification, sometimes it can be as little as 12. Earlier this week they did outages in parts of Yolo, Napa & Butte counties and are following the same protocols as SC Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric. He also encouraged the group to reach out to vulnerable populations in our jurisdictions as they have a limited database for these folks (their Baseline customers) to apprise them of an outage. In response to Chief Gossner's question, Jim indicated OES is being kept in the loop. He also shared that they will have Type VI engines staffed beginning June 17 at their Occidental facility to protect their infrastructure. Their lead is Dave Hotchkiss and he can be reached at [da8a@pge.com](mailto:da8a@pge.com) 628-249-9813. He also let the group know that their Winter's gas training facility is available to our staff.

He ended by speaking to a \$25k grant opportunity available to us (caveat is it must be done by Friday). Chief Boaz volunteered to complete the application and Chief George made a motion to have the group submit. Second by Chief Akre. Unanimous vote. A discussion about using it to replenish the OP's/TO's and fund a CAD connection followed.

Randy inquired into the feasibility of obtaining a FLAG trailer for the region. Jim indicated it would be difficult given the bankruptcy and suggested borrowing the one at Los Medanos College.

#### New Business:

- **EMT Expanded Scope of Practice:** James Salvante addressed the following changes including the following:
  - By July 1, when renewing EMT, proof of training for the expanded scope will be required (if at the JC, it has been added into the class). **Note:** If training is not complete by 6/30/21, you will lose your certification.
  - Agencies who provide BLS must submit a BLS CQI Plan to CVEMS (their Medical Director will sign-off on)
  - They have a limited number of IPAD's to share with agencies to document patient care (part of the CQI). This is done using Image trend which is available free (other fire features are available but there are costs associated with them). Since there is a fire Imagetrend group already working on implementation, it was suggested to have their rep (Chad Costa from Petaluma) give a report at our July meeting.
- **Battalion Response:** Chief George shared that at a recent Zone 9 meeting, the topic of BC's driving through other Zones to get to a call was raised. He suggested kicking this issue down to the TO's/OP's to make recommendations to the group. Chief Andreis cautioned this could result in a major CAD overhaul and it may create some political issues with some departments. Given the importance, Chief Gossner suggested agencies send a rep to this meeting. A short discussion about battalion coverage after July 1 in Zone 8/9 followed.

#### Standing Committee Reports:

- **Fire Working Group:** Chief Heine shared their focus is to pursue the ½-cent sales tax measure and they are working with consultants on this. The second focus is to get the County to account for the funding available for fire projects (which has been an elusive topic). LAFCO made another step toward the annexation of Knights Valley by Geyserville. They have also been pressing for apparatus replacement funds to be included in the budget, which has been a challenge. Chief George added the County is also attempting to back out of the dispatch fees. He does feel that with the new composition of the group, communication to all the stakeholders has improved. Chief Gossner shared he is brokering a meeting of the group with City Managers and he will be looking for the respective City Chief's to participate. Chief Thompson also shared Petaluma is looking at different options for the future of fire delivery. A rather candid conversation about the politics of a sales tax measure followed.

- Regional Zone Reports:** Chief Boaz asked for and received the following reports from the Zones:

**CALFIRE:** Chief Van Wormer shared their peak staffing date is a bit fuzzy. The burn ban will go into effect Monday. On the 17<sup>th</sup> veg management burns are scheduled at Sonoma Regional Park and Pepperwood preserve. After some questions, he confirmed ABH is still operational.

**Zone 2:** No report.

**Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported veg management inspections have begun and there is a lot of pushback from the community (perceived as being too heavy handed). They are moving forward with the MSR for Region 3. Schell Vista is hiring 3 and Kenwood took delivery of a Type I. They are also looking at spec'ing out a couple of Type III's, have expanded auto-aid and are working with Chris Godley on emergency notifications

**Zone 4:** No report

**Zone 5:** No report

**Zone 6:** No report .

**Zone 7:** Chief Heine shared they have 18 going through their academy. They graduate on June 29 and go on shift July 1. They began a shared-services with Russian River and are retrofitting the Mountain station to add a doublewide for crews quarters. Santa Rosa has three graduating from their academy and will be hiring 8 after July 1

**Zone 8:** Chief George reported they are talking to their neighbors.

**Zone 9:** Chief Thompson shared they are hiring 8, will run another ambulance out of station 2 (have 18 EMTs to staff). RA is working on their 5-year plan and will be hiring to reach 3-0 staffing with a goal of having ALS response in Cotati.
- Training/OP's:** Chief Andreis shared they have been doing test pages which appears to be working well. Their goals are moving forward and ST/Overhead renewal forms are due by June 15. He cautioned that Active Status is tied to Region II so make sure your data is accurate.
- FPO's:** Kemplen Robbins reported the FPO's will no longer be making mass orders for the Fire Code and the code adoption continues with a meeting with the Building Officials on structure hardening next week. The Red Flags are here and Chief Boaz is working on a press release. Randy invited all next Tuesday to a Rebuild-Resilience demo of fire resistive building construction he is hosting for Fire Safe Sonoma/the Insurance Information Institute.
- Fire Districts:** Chief Akre shared their next meeting is July 25 in Geyserville. He added the Fire Districts Asso is putting on a 2-day Certificate of Leadership course hosted by SVFRA Aug 3 & 4 (see flyer in the attachment section of these minutes).
- Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Mickelson indicated work continues and San Antonio is expected to turn their assets over to Wilmar.
- Vegetation Management:** In Chief William's absence, Randy shared the following on his behalf. :

  - 4 properties were abated on Fitch Mountain (due to non-compliance to ordinance).
  - Fire Districts staff & Sonoma County Fire Inspectors started inspections on June 3, 2019 (we are still compiling stats for the first week of inspections).
  - Since February, they have received 96 complaints for overgrown vegetation with the bulk of complaints received in the last 30 to 45 days. 58 have been referred to local Fire Districts & 38 are being addressed directly by Sonoma County Fire Prevention in CSA#40 areas or areas where a contract is in place with a local fire district. He stressed his openness to working with departments to answer questions about the ordinance and interpretations of the code. The Vegetation Management Working Group is developing 2 standards in the county. One for weed abatement (Urban areas) and one for Vegetation Management (defensible space for improved or unimproved properties) for incorporated and unincorporated areas). Once these drafts are completed he will share with the group through the FPO's.

#### **Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:**

- Fire EMS Committee:** Chief Akre shared with the extension that was approved they now have breathing room to draft the ordinance (their next meeting is June 17).
- County Alerting System:** Chris Godley reported Tim Romero is their new Warning Manager. Their office has agreed not to send NIXILE notifications for every fire and instead will leave that call to the individual fire agencies. He also cautioned the group that the home medical industry has been advising their oxygen patients to contact the fire department if an outage occurs. On July 24 a de-energizing exercise will be held with PG&E. He encouraged the membership to find if they serve an Economically Disadvantaged zone as grants are available which you can buy apparatus on. He also has \$200k to conduct training and is looking for topics. Evacuation Planning will use a simple 2 page draft guidance document to be distributed to communities,

obtain feedback, revise and then be used to perform an exercise (see attachments section of the website). It is not expected to be complete this season. To that end, areas will be prioritize based on criteria like roads, fire history and established existing networks (CERT, Fire Council, Neighborhood Watch). They will also only participate if the local fire agency is agreeable.

- **Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief George shared he went to a Zone II meeting and prepositioning is a larger issue so they will be scheduling a meeting for the entire Zone. If you have questions, please send them to him ahead of time.

**REDCOM:** Director Abbott shared the AT&T back haul into the public safety network is complete so agencies can run AT&T wireless network coverage and FirstNet. This makes it possible to operate wireless devices on a dual sim card for redundant connections. It is suggested that before you sign a contract with AT&T, that you contact REDCOM to perform testing first.). Nick Barber has been hired from RP as REDCOM's new technical services Data Administrator and will be helping Ken Reese with IT projects. The Sonoma County BOS approved a multi-year agreement with REDCOM to fund District Fees through June of 2024. The funding is capped at \$900K by the TOT budget approved by the BOS. This amount does not allow for increases in costs if REDCOM were to onboard new agencies.

**Closed Session:**

- **Consideration of Consultant for EMS Issues:** At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed to hire a consultant to assist the group with policy development and explore the possibility of establishing a policy development fund.

**Good of the Order:**

- Dean Anderson reported that Mike Duvall passed away
- Director Collins circulated flyers for a RIO, Ethics and Skills Evaluator classes he is offering next Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
- Chief Schach reported all SO vehicles have Hi-Lo sirens, for which the Hi-Low will be used exclusively for evacuations. A discussion on issuing a press release followed.
- Chief Williams (retired) shared the SMART extension to Larkspur is complete and you should see some test trains running

**Adjournment:** At 12:45

**Next Meeting:** July 10<sup>th</sup>, Rohnert Park DPS

Respectfully Submitted: June 13, 2019

Randy Collins,  
SCFCA Secretary