



Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association

Training/Operations Officers Section

MEETING MINUTES November 14, 2017

Attendance:

Randy Collins	SRJC	Gina Peterson	Sonoma County
Jack Piccinini	SRFD	Mark Gradek	CALFIRE
Justin Fox	Bodega Bay	Spenser Andreis	Sonoma Valley
Sophia Betts	REDCOM	Mark Basque	Santa Rosa
Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa	Marshall Turbeville	CALFIRE

- I. **Call to Order:** Chief Piccinini called the meeting to order at 09.05
- II. **Self-Introductions:** As everyone knew each other, introductions were skipped.
- III. **Changes to the Agenda:** Chief Piccinini asked that we add elections of new officers under New Business.
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes:** A motion to approve the September minutes was made by, Chief Westrope. Second by Chief Andreis. Unanimous vote. Randy reported that the balance in our checking account was \$18,098.22.
- V. **Presentations:** None
- VI. **Liaison Reports:**
 - A. **Chiefs:** Chief Piccinini shared he will cover what was discussed at the Chief's meeting under the *Response to the Fires* item under New Business
 - B. **FPO's:** No report.
 - C. **Marin TO's/OP's:** No report:
 - D. **CALFIRE:** Chief Turbeville reported the burn suspension has been lifted. They are now down to one engine per station and the air base is closed. The transition to winter mode is projected to occur on December 4th.
 - E. **NBIMT:** No report although Chief Gradek reported they met the night of the Tubbs fire and began completing generic 214's. They were later deployed to Santa Cruz
 - F. **CICCS:** No report but Jack did send me an email indicating he will schedule the next CICCS meeting to follow this groups next meeting on January 9th 2018.
 - G. **Fire Tech Advisory:** Randy shared the following:

- The FFI academy is in its fourteenth week and we just finished wildland which included 3 add-ons who were enrolled in the FFI Certification test course, to up-grade or obtain reciprocity.
- The volunteer fire skills course had 30 students from seven different agencies and wrapped up on October 28.
- The curriculum for the S-219 Burn Boss (the old S-234) was approved and we will coordinate with CALFIRE on the Warm Springs Dam burn next summer to schedule. Coincidentally, the course was on the October STEAC agenda for updating but the meeting was cancelled due to the fire activity. The JC course # is Fire 283
- The USAR prop is completed and it is being used for a Confined Space Technician class this month. We did have a dedication ceremony planned for November 10, but postponed it due to the fires.
- In an effort to serve local agencies he has been running In-Service courses with a lower number of students. The SFT All Risk Command Ops (Fire 270.1) just ended and will do the same with the SFT Wildland Inc Ops class (Fire 270.2) that begins Dec 1. He did have to cancel the Fire Instructor I class (which was scheduled during the fires) and Inspections and Investigations for CO's but have rescheduled both for next semester. As soon as he meets with our soon to be retired President, he will schedule the SFT Human Resource Management (Fire 271.1) and Fire Admin (Fire 271.2) courses. He did ask for and get support from this group if he has to cancel any of these classes in the future to be able to run them through the TO's and subsidize them
- Also recently approved was an 8 HR Fire Dynamics (Fire 280) which includes an hour of lecture and 7 in the Draeger Flashover prop. It was developed to create a mechanism to allow outside agencies to use it with Petaluma being the first to express interest.
- We are in the initial discussion phases of putting together a Truck Academy class patterned after the one offered in So Cal at Rio Hondo. He spoke to Tracy Rickman at RH and he is very supportive as it would help with the long waiting lists they have. Mike St John has been taking the lead. Randy expressed optimism that if we get good support, it could be achievable. More to come.
- Curriculum for the core courses required for a degree have been updated and approved for delivery on-line and will all be offered for the first time this spring.
- He also met with the College of Marin on Oct 3rd as they had expressed interest in reviving their fire program. He conveyed that with the degree and certificate courses now available on-line, the difficulty we are encountering filling in-service courses and the challenges of running a fire academy, the only benefit to them in starting a program would be to collect FTES for CE's performed during agency training. He also expressed concern that if they move ahead with anything but that, it will be detrimental to our program, by fragmenting them and ultimately jeopardizing both. He also asked if anyone hears anything to share with him. He ended by indicating he did make a presentation to the Marin Chiefs on this issue two months ago.
- We are in the process of adding two ladder props to the facility; ladder raise and extension so these skills can be added to the Fire 208 class.
- He ended by reminding the group the next Advisory Committee meeting will be on Dec 22 at 10 AM to coincide with the FFI graduation which is scheduled for 1 PM (lunch will be served). He also added that Jack is currently this group's rep on the Advisory but with his retirement, he is asking for someone to replace him

G. REDCOM: Sophia shared that effective yesterday they are on the winter veg dispatch matrix. They have also been reviewing their performance in the fires with the biggest issue emerging as a single one-call page that alerts all fire agencies in the system.

VII. Old Business:

A. Goals Review 2017:

- The review of deployments occurred and it was agreed to carry over for 2018 (George)
- Continue to serve as the clearing house for training courses (All)
- Continue to maintain a training calendar. Randy shared he has begun posting classes on the calendar section of the webpage and will continue to do so to carry this goal over (Collins)
- Continue to have liaisons with the Chief's, FPO's and Marin TO's/OP's (Collins, Petersen)
- Explore feasibility of updating MUM. This did not occur and Jack recommended we do not pursue it in 2018
- RIO & Ethics classes occurred and it was agreed to support as a goal for 2018 (Collins)
- Encourage Zone training. Jack spoke to some successes and agreed to continue next year (All)
- STL/Overhead refresher occurred and will be carried over (George)
- Skills Evaluator training. Agreed not to carry over due to \$80 cost and potential for a free course at SFT in May
- Recognition of staff achievements at the Chief's installation luncheon. It was agreed to carry over for 2018. Randy spoke to the effort by Petaluma Elks efforts to do the same and we may wish to embrace that effort instead (All)

Other goals added included the following raised in the response to the October fires:

- Develop common terminology and procedures for evacuation implementation Turbeville)
- Implementation of a single "All-Call" page (Andreis)
- Developing a course on Tactical Response to Conflagrations

VIII. New Business:

A. Response to the October Fires: Chief Piccinini began by sharing some of the issues raised at the Chiefs meeting last week with emphasis on those that might fall under our prevue. This included:

- Support of EAP's. An example he raised was having reps from other agencies who previously had large incidents give presentations on what they went through. Randy reinforced the idea but suggested we be more specific with our wording. A short discussion on establishing peer support groups as one goal followed.
- Working to establish protocols to have a more prominent fire presence in EOC's in future events
- Become engaged in the discussion/review of the Emergency Alert System and any potential solutions. A discussion on a county wide siren system followed
- Look into how we might facilitate the re-population process
- Develop draw-down protocols including identifying the "must fill" stations
- Developing evacuation protocols that are communicated thoroughly. This would also include rational for *not* evacuating given many will be very nervous when they see a control burn next May. Chief Turbeville spoke to the need of having common terminology to facilitate communication with our law partners and agreed to take the

lead on this. A specifically worded goal would be to develop common terminology and procedures for evacuation implementation

- He also spoke to the need of developing specific indexes or categories for Red Flag warnings so we can respond appropriately and not become complacent and handling them internally and externally.
- Develop an 8 hour Safety training course class with Mary Valance

Chief Piccinini then opened the floor to comments regarding the response.

- Chief Turbeville began by sharing the need to provide better notification to all fire personnel as there were agencies on the coast that were never notified. Sophia spoke to the need for a single tone which immediately prompted the sharing of a number of stories about lengthy tone outs for medical aids. Chief Basque shared it would have been beneficial to automatically release Bay Area strike teams but acknowledged there are many moving parts to the process and it may be a tough nut to crack. Chief Andreis spoke optimistically that he felt it is an achievable goal for Region 2. Chief Andreis committed to following up on behalf of this group with the "All-Call" page.
- The issue about having tactical frequencies repeated came up. Due the complexities, it was suggested it would be problematic
- Chief Gradek spoke that the number of dead trees have the potential to contribute heavy fuels to fires next season. Chief Andreis spoke to the value of pre-attack plans.
- Chief Turbeville spoke to the need to developing a presentation on how best to tactically respond to these incidents (I.E. focusing on perimeter control rather than putting out smoldering spots well in the burn). It was suggested these would also be good talking points at the STL/overhead refresher class. Chief Turbeville suggested putting together a 4 hour class that included these topics along with an EAP component which quickly gained support. The need to have more tactical channels was also raised

B. Nominations for 2018 Officers: Chief Piccinini opened the floor for nominations and nominated Chief Andreis as President, Capt Petersen as VP and Randy as Secretary. Seeing there were no others, nominations were closed. When the vote was called for it was unanimous.

VIII. Good of the Order: Skipped since most topics were covered under the response to the fires

X. Adjournment: Chief Piccinini adjourned the meeting at 10:47

Next meeting: January 9th 2018 at the SRFDTT.

Respectfully submitted November 16, 2017
Randy Collins