

Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association – Monthly Meeting

Location: Mercy Flights

Date: October 18th, 2022

Time: 0900

Call to Order:

Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Motion to Approve Chief Painter, Chief Crume, Motion passed

Approval of Financial Report: Chief Hammond motion, Chief Thompson 2nd. Motion passed.

Additions to the Agenda: None

Special Guests:

- None

Section Reports:

Operations (Fire/EMS):

- October's meeting was covered by an OSFM grant, it is rescheduled for November.

Training (RITA):

- RITA Completed HazMat IC last week. FO1 coming up. NFPA driver for December 2nd and 3rd. FF1 Academy starts Jan.7th Live Fire Instructor is coming up in December. It will be offered again in March or April. FO2 also coming up in the Spring.

Prevention (RVFPC, SOFCO):

- Sam Fire code is law as of October 1. Update the minutes from last month.

Fire Defense Board Update (Holmes):

- Chief Horton has stepped down. Looking to fill the spot. Chief Thompson and Hussey both put their hats in the ring. Can vote on this at the FDBC meeting to follow.

Incident Management Team/Pool (Turnbull):

- Getting serious on leadership transition. Working on it now and to the end of the year. Move this under section reports for future meetings.

Liaison Reports:

911 Centers (Harris/Guenther) –

- ECSO working on getting people in and trained. Project on radio infrastructure is ongoing. CAD to CAD interface is still be worked on, with testing going on. Director retired Sept. 30th. Interim Director is until new director is on board. Distant future there is one person that has moved on and hopefully selected soon,

OSFM (Stacy/Lashley/Rubrecht/Kusz) –

- Jim Kusz Ignition Potential class coming up next weekend. Then another on 4th and 5th of November over at the Running Y.
- Sara- Engine program applications are due by October 28th. Please get this done ASAP. Grant program for capacity had the webinar last week and recording should be up. Questions need to go to the grant email. Up to 4 folks, 2 FF and 2 prevention. Reimbursement packets for anyone that deployed. If you have not received them let Sara know, and if you need help, please let her know. Micro grant for training is due for DPSST. Upstaffing successes from this last year need to be shared. Need this help to get the funding again during next biennium. Send stories to Sara. IMT recruitment will begin in early November, process is online. Mob Plan Committee questions need to go to Chief Hussey, and then they will be addressed at the state level.

ASA Agencies (Clough/Sartain/Hammond/Mathews) –

- Mercy Flights is launching a tiered pilot response program with MFD. Allows for lower level BLS cart to respond to lower acuity calls. One week into it and have had good success, to the point that they added an additional unit this week. Launched the committee of stake holders that will monitor this program to see how it is going.
- Mercy Flights is now carrying units of blood on the helicopter. Lots of regulations to abide by and work with and the hospital is to supply the blood. Had first save where someone had a ceramic saw blade go into the leg and severe the artery. With the blood they were able to save their life.
- Paramedic shortage is top priority for Mercy Flights. Significant staffing shortages and are not finding qualified applicants. They have put together a position statement that is outlining the issues. Also did a joint press release on the issue and testified at the state on the issues. In addition, Mercy has gone out for a Work Force Development grant. Will be looking for agencies to coordinate with Mercy Flights to do outreach and get more folks into Paramedicine. Program is intended for Southern Oregon.

Haz-Mat (Baumgartner) –

- Had good training last month.

PIO (Weber) –

- Natalie is on fire assignment, no report.

Emergency Management (Powers/Ring/Ott) –

Jackson County EM

- Emergency Management- Laney will represent EM while Holly is out on maternity leave. She will be out November/December and coming back in January. Starting the update to the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Kickoff is October 28. Looking at adding addendums for any city/district that would like their own plan. Including more districts will open more grant opportunity. All districts are welcome. Will be a tight timeframe to get done during the winter.
- Working through the Smoke Mitigation Response Plan. Had a meeting yesterday with the burner group. Trying to understand the process better, and do not want to reinvent the wheel. Will provide burn extensions like Ashland.

- This week 10/20 at 1020 great shake out practice. Starting around 10am Jackson County will be getting alerts for this.

Medford EM

- ICS 400 class has open space for November 15th and 16th. Another 300/400 in 2023 300 is Feb. 7th-9th and 400 is April 18th and 19th followed up by G191.

Josephine County EM

- Emily is currently supporting City of GP for the boiling water issue they have due to a water main break.

CWPP (Vonn) –

- We were able to submit a Community Wildfire Defense Grant through Jackson County, \$6–7-million grant. The CWPP had no projects identified so it may have been a reach. Project goes from Gold Hill out 234 to River Drive, to Shady Cove across 62, to Trail and up to Prospect, then across Crow Foot and then Butte Falls Hwy/Prospect Hwy into Butte Falls. Concept is these routes would be used by these communities for evacuation. Brushing around all the roads and about 200 acres of defensible fuels work around the cities. Also, can be doing prescribed fire in year 3, 4, and 5. Thanks to ODF. Partners are FD3, Jackson Soil Water Conservation District, and hopefully all of the Fire Departments.
- Meeting on November 1 at the Interagency Center. Will do the 2nd annual fuels reduction and prescribed fire meeting. What has been done, what is being followed up on from the previous year, and what you want to accomplish during the next year. Then in the Spring you can bring in projects that you want to do.
- OSFM grant is coming out and asking for specific projects to be funded. In Josephine County they will use the natural hazard mitigation plan, Dollar Mtn, HWY 199, and River Valley Mobile Park. Need all the input of projects needed for Josephine County. Jackson County will be looking at areas identified in the CWPP. Maybe \$100,000 for each county.

OFCA (Brown)–

- No significant updates. Just watching the Governor's race.

SWOCG (McCarty/Quinones) –

McCarty ODF

- Have not met recently. Have been coordinating routinely with Forest Service. Fires up north broke out over the weekend, also had fires around here over the weekend. Anderson Butte fire 20 acres- had an engine roll over 2.5 times. Another fire yesterday by industrial operations, stopped it quickly with action taken by the operators.
- Will look for a significant amount of rain with more in the forecast, and then can look at ending fire season.
- Risk map will be off until the end of 2023. State will be down to hear input from local district on the issues brought up by our community.

- Hiring this Thursday for Karl's job. Also hired a new dispatch supervisor for GP, George Shepard. Hired Joel Pharoa for GIS. Also made offer for a new comm tech person.
- Incident Report for Rum Creek will be released soon.
- Working on replacing the dispatch building this winter. **Currently they are in a mobile home from the Handford nuclear site over 20 minutes ago. HUH?**

Forest Service Quinones

- Rogue Siskiyou had 75 fires at 21 acres total burnt so far for this season. Lot of arson fires. Local coordination is anomaly across the US, and people notice how well we work.
- 1.3 million gallons for Medford tanker base.
- Currently high and looking at going to medium. Looking at dropping regulations to low if another moisture comes.
- Looking at changing IFPL to IFPAL. Will be following region 5 and not sure how much input they will have on this change.
- Looking at hiring above allotted numbers so they meet what they want.
- Treated 11,000 acres this last year. Target is 6,500. With moisture will look at going into live fire mode for prescription burning.
- Also working on roadside CE, heavy equipment to treat roads and make access, egress easier and safer. A lot of money coming their way and need to prepare.

Chaplains (Saada) –

- Started a new K9 Chaplain in Jackson County.

SOFRC (Chambers) – No update.

LEPC (Bates/Powers) – No Update.

Old Business:

- Annual Christmas meeting/lunch – Monday December 19, 11:00 @ Taprock in GP
- Open Burn Matrix (Winslow)- Request for the work group to get back together and review changing from 48 hours without moisture to 72 hours without moisture. This will increase the burn days by 5-7 each year. Ultimately really need to review the change to allow burning under forecasted 400 AQI down to 350 AQI. However, this change has more hoops and will be harder to get done.

New Business / Issues for Consideration:

- Technology meetings (Bates) – First one will be scheduled in November. Trying to find a way to do centralized assessments. **FireSpire** gets defensible assessment into a centralized area for all. Landowner can go back in and upload a photo, so the inspector doesn't even have to go back and review. Software options for centralizing requests for assessments (Vonn)
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Good of the order:

- Painter- Nov. 19th new station dedication from 10-2 in Jacksonville. Also, will be doing a firefighter hiring.
- Karl- ODF New dispatch supervisor and will bring him to the next meeting. Also, will have 10–12-person crew working projects during the winter. ODF SW has an engine at Astoria for the first time ever to help them with their fire.
- Winslow- Currently have 10-11 engines daily. Dozer as needed. No hand crews. 10-person hand crew will start the week we go out of fire season. Selling the old 523 Type 5 engine. If any agency is interested, then let Winslow know and he can send the information to the Chief.
- Tyler- Natalie is also up on the fire up north.
- Mike Hussey D3 Kelly Harrington to our training Chief. Transition for Hussey officially taking over as Fire Chief is Thursday this week.
- Medford Fire Chief Thompson- For operation questions please ask either Chief Thompson or Devon while Baumgartner is out.
- IVFD Holmes- Still looking for an engine.
- Vonn- Spring 2023 is next Community Wildfire Defense grant. So, get with Teresa Vonn if you have ideas.
- Grants Pass Firefighter position open.
- Williams- Sheriff is coming out today and John Knapp will come out today for community meetings.

Next Meeting: 0900 November 15th at ODF Central Point

Adjournment: 0952

FIRE DEFENSE BOARD ROUNDTABLE (deployment/mobilization reviews, mutual/auto aid, etc.):

Chief Hussey has officially pulled his application for FDBC of Jackson County. Will wait until the end of the week to receive nominations. Then will send out the official vote to Jackson County Fire agencies only.