



Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association Monthly Meeting Minutes

Location: Medford Fire St#14 **Date:** August 18, 2026

Call to Order: 9:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve: Chief Thompson
- Second: Chief Sanchez
- Vote: All in favor

2. Financial Report

- Current Balance: **\$4,674.69**
- Motion to approve: Chief Crume
- Second: Chief Anders
- Vote: All in favor

3. New Members / Special Guests / Presentations

None.

4. Old Business

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan draft is complete. Pictures are being submitted today to Chief Thompson, who will distribute the draft to the Executive Board for discussion before bringing it back to the Association for final review and completion.

Members were asked to submit any remaining pictures by the end of the day.

5. New Business

9/11 Memorial Events – Division Chief Prince

An email regarding 9/11 Memorial Events was sent to Association members.

6. Section Reports

Operations (Fire/EMS) – Blakley

- See handout provided in the August agenda packet.
- BIGBOX Incidents / Civilian Fire Deaths or Serious Injury Recommendations:
 - Motion to approve: Chief Thompson
 - Second: Chief Davidson
 - Vote: All in favor

Rogue Interagency Training Association (RITA) – Gavlik/Dickerson

- See handout provided in the August agenda packet.
- Instructors are needed for Pump Operations and other courses. Anyone interested in assisting should contact Chief Girard.
- Chief Wolfard advised that RITA is also seeking someone interested in serving as the Firefighter I Academy Coordinator. Resources and support will be provided; however, there is currently no lead person for the position.
- DC Dickerson reported that Fire Officer classes are scheduled for the weeks of November 16 and December 7.
- Struggle Well is scheduled for October 6–7 and will be incorporated into the Officer Academy.
- Additional information will be presented next month.

Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Cooperative (RVFPC) – Vonn

- See handout provided in the August agenda packet.

Fire Defense Board (FDBC) – Holmes & Hussey

- Chief Hussey discussed the future of the Incident Management Team (IMT) pool and the level of support that could be provided for future events.
- Discussion included what level of support agency members may be able to provide and how to ensure participating personnel meet minimum standards and readiness requirements.
- Additional information and planning are being developed.
- The Executive Board will meet with Mid-Rogue regarding future Automatic Aid and Mutual Aid agreements.

Technology Group – Shay

- See handout provided in the August agenda packet.
- Discussed creation of a fire transition group to assist with coordination in Jackson County, including the addition of REDNET and elimination of the Lake Creek channel.
- Recommendation:
 - Motion to approve: Chief Nelson

- Second: Chief Anders
- Vote: All in favor

7. Advisory Reports

911 Centers – Harris/Guenther

ECSO

- CAD-to-CAD integration with Mercy Flights and Josephine County continues.
- Final radio testing is planned for the first week of October, with a go-live date to follow.

Josephine County

- CAD-to-CAD testing is taking place.
- A significant roadblock occurred during testing involving both centers and is being addressed.

Ambulance Service Areas – Clough/Rasor/Hammond/Mathews

Mercy Flights

- Launched the In-Home Emergency Care program through the Ashland Community Health Grant, creating significant cost savings for the community.
- More than 120 patients have been seen, representing an estimated \$750,000 cost difference.
- Sign-on agreements with insurance companies are underway.
- June and July experienced increased response times; operational changes are being evaluated.
- HR1 Medicaid funding is under review, and numerous agencies are assisting in identifying and communicating potential impacts. Support from RVFCA may be requested.
- An Overdose Grant was awarded for Narcan and other medications as part of a pilot program. Dr. Bond is conducting training with Jackson County fire agencies.
- The flight program has added Whole Blood capability, reported as the first such program in Oregon.
- Tablet Command is being utilized, and Mercy Flights continues working with ECSO on CAD-to-CAD integration.

Fire District #1

- Thanked agencies for their assistance on the Fielder Fire.

Ashland Fire

- Community call volume has increased.

- The department is conducting a financial review of ambulance services and evaluating potential community impacts.
- The current ASA contract expires in 2028.
- Options under consideration include maintaining the existing program or partnering with Mercy Flights.

HazMat Team 08 – Howard

- New members will participate in the October academy.
- Three openings will remain available on the team.

Oregon State Fire Marshal – Stacy/Lashley/Vonn/Cook

Lashley

- Deputy Fire Marshal positions have been filled, with onboarding to begin soon.
- The State IAAI Conference is scheduled for September.

Vonn

- Jeff Coons will fill the open position.

Cook

- The Agency Operations Center (AOC) has been staffed for a record 39 days.
- Activity to date includes:
 - 73 Task Forces
 - 10 Strike Teams
 - 8 EMACs
 - 22 Incident Responses
 - 12 Conflagrations
- Mobilization Plans are available in hardcover.
- The Mop-Up Guide is included in the Task Force Guideline.
- A new Social Media SOG has been developed.

SW Oregon Coordinating Group – Quinones/Glode/McCann/Kurzyniec/Lee/Fumasi

- Samantha expressed appreciation to all agencies for their responses and assistance.

Pacific Power

- Status quo.
- Pacific Power has also experienced a very busy fire season throughout the states it serves.

Emergency Management – Richmond/Ott/Burns/Sanders

D. Richmond

- Reported a busy fire season.
- A new Duty Officer program has launched.
- Fielder Fire FMAG information was discussed.
- The State is analyzing soil strengths.
- County ICS training is being planned for Operations and Finance.
- Evacuation Zone signs are being installed.
- Statewide Alert training involving Tablet Command is being developed.
- LEPC Fall Planning Meeting information will be distributed when available.

A. Ott

- Requested input regarding Task-Specific Course needs.
- Shakeout Exercise scheduled for October 15 at 10:15 a.m.

K. Burns

- Dam Failure training scheduled for October 26–27.
- ArcGIS integration with Teams is being developed for mapping purposes.
- EVAC sign updates will not include QR codes.
- Expressed appreciation to everyone participating in Tablet Command training.

Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA)

- Continues to have broad involvement and impact through Oregon committees.
- Professional Development: Took Box two-year program with Heppell.
- Round Tables scheduled for January 13–15 in Eugene.
- Recognition was given to the Honor Guard. Additional members are being sought, and interested personnel are encouraged to participate.

Southern Oregon Public Safety Chaplains / SOCERT – Saada

- Twenty-two participants have taken part in debriefing sessions following recent events.
- Agencies and personnel are encouraged to reach out for assistance and support when needed.

8. Agency Brief-Out

Rural Metro Fire

- Thanked agencies for their recent assistance on fires and expressed appreciation for the regional support.

Medford Fire

- Expressed appreciation to the Mercy Flights crew for its assistance during a recent cardiac arrest incident.

Grants Pass Fire

- Thanked agencies for assistance with recent fires.
- The City of Grants Pass will recognize participating fire agencies Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. at City Chambers.
- Agencies were advised to contact AMR regarding the upcoming radio switchover.

Fire District #3

- Tablet Command training is available Wednesday, August 26.
- FirstNet/AT&T continues working to address coverage gaps, and an infrastructure survey has been distributed.
- Joint Firefighter Recruitment for Fire Districts #3, #4, and #5 will close in September, with a strong number of applications received.
- The Regional Planning Capacity Study will move into agency review at the end of the month. Each agency will have an opportunity to evaluate the study's potential impacts.
- The approximately 600-page document is expected to return for formal review at the end of September before presentation.

Ashland Fire

- Five new hires entered the academy in July and are now online.
- Additional recruitment is anticipated in the fall.
- As of tomorrow, all front-line engines are expected to be back in service following pump and transmission issues.
- A 9/11 Memorial Service is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., during which a memorial painting will be donated.
- Badge Pinning Ceremony scheduled for July 26 at 4:00 p.m.

Jackson County Sheriff

- Expressed appreciation to the participating agencies and recognized the strong interagency cooperation throughout recent incidents.

Applegate Fire

- Fire & Vine is approaching and is sold out.
- Fundraising has already exceeded the targeted amount for wildland PPE.
- Applegate and Evans Valley partnered on a Company Officer recruitment, which will close in approximately one week.
- Applegate also has a new Prevention and Fuels Coordinator position open.

Williams Fire

- Levy paperwork has been filed with the County seeking **\$1.35 per \$1,000**.
- Thanked agencies for the RV I–III responses to recent fires and expressed appreciation for the regional response effort.
- Special thanks were extended to Chief Wayne Painter for the assistance provided to the one-station department.

Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD)

- Thanked Association members and regional partners for their assistance with the three recent incidents in the Illinois Valley.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at **10:04 a.m.**
- Vote: All in favor.

Next Meeting

Applegate Fire District #9 – September 15