

Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association – Monthly Meeting

Location: ODF Central Point Headquarters

Date: April 19, 2022

Time: 0900

Call to Order:

Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Chief McLaughlin motion, Chief Hammond approved

Approval of Financial Report: DC Baumgartner motion, 2nd, Chief McLaughlin approved

Additions to the Agenda:

Special Guests:

- Marty Gaskell & Shannon Pickett – Silke Communications (Silke communications) PKR 5000 (GPS capability also has blue tooth which must be ordered from the factory). Bendix King - The new ones do not fit in the standard pack. True North has a pack. Still single band. Speaker mics will need to be upgraded if you go to the new one \$2080/radio. They will service the older models for approximately another 5-7 years.
- Chief Burney from Siskiyou County Fire Chiefs Association is up to listen and share information. Retired from Cal Fire and is now South Yreka Fire Chief. Siskiyou County has been working on agreements to get rid of end dates and updating. Working with the Federal Government and Forests to get them signed on. Getting engine operators up to correct certificates. Working with the College of the Siskiyou's. There are 30 departments in Siskiyou County. Burney's district is in the process of being expanded from 7 square miles to 49 square miles. Burney was given our website information to look at our policies and guidelines.
- Deputy Chief Devon Brown from Klamath Falls Fire District 1 was hired by Medford Fire Department to be the new Deputy Chief of Professional Standards.

Section Reports:

Operations (Fire/EMS):

- Hussey – The next meeting for the Evacuation Group is in May. Finalizing review of policies.
- Prince - The subgroup for the Evacuation Group is an ongoing project. Reworking the model policy and adjusting the wording. Getting feedback for the courtesy notification's language. We have lots of theme related public education and outreach. ODF currently leading on this, and we will see how this year goes. Project is in the works.

Training (RITA):

- Gavlik- Apparatus Operator class currently in process. Looking for a need for S131 course. Also looking to see what interest is there. 215 class is not getting any traction but considering incorporating into SOWS program. Instructor 1 course is looking to happen out towards the Ashland area on April 22 and 23rd. Still working through SOWS program, due to Blakely leaving it is a work in progress.

Prevention (RVFPC, SOFCO):

- Natalie Weber - May 7th is Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Several events going on in the Rogue Valley. Ashland and Jacksonville will have a Green Debris drop off day. Bio-Mass One is opening up their facility for free drop off on the 7th and 8th. Republic in JoCo is also doing it on Sunday and possibly the following Saturday? Working to get the message out the RV Emergency Management website. District 3 Dodge Bridge site is also open. Actively looking to do sandwich boards. Messaged out through RV EM. Keep Oregon Green is working on a website for backyard debris burning information.

Liaison Reports:**911 Centers**

- (Harris/Guenther) – Kevin- Continuing work on CAD to CAD. Currently pushing data from ECSO to the cloud. Vendor is working on getting the 2-way communications going. In site development phase for communications project. Staffing is still an issue and running below minimums. Also adding in 911i, which allows a link to be sent out to the callers and it will allow for live streaming of the incident from the caller. Initial beta test is anything that is smoke or fire related events, but they can use in cases where they think it will be helpful. One idea is also to allow picture for missing children to be sent.

OSFM

- (Stacy/Lashley/Rubrecht) – Lashley- Lots of work to create guidelines. Emergency response division. Engine program. Applications for agencies to be held in May. FDBC meeting for a proposed 2022 proposed mobilization plan is scheduled for May 11, 2022.

Jamie Comets has been hired to work as the Agency Mobilization Coordinator.

Weekly trainings and materials for TFL's will go out via email in May. Contact Sara Rubrecht to be added to distributions lists for training.

Leland Hunter has been assigned to Klamath Lake region as the Emergency Coordinator.

Fraser Rick is now the Community Risk Reduction Coordinator. Will hopefully be here next month. April 21st, the Community Risk Reduction series starts. Jenna Trudeau- Great turnout for garden and home shows in Douglas County.

Grants applications out for schools and hospitals to help with wildfire risk reduction.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Life Safety Division hiring is in process right now. Tim Stacy will be the Jackson County State Fire Marshal.

Fire Code adoption target date is July 22, 2022.

Defensible Space Code – The next meeting TBD. Let Sam know if interested to you are interested in participating in the discussion.

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

- Call volumes are starting to stabilize. Dec-Feb: 15-20% increase from previous year. 100-120 calls, versus normal average is 50-60 calls. There is a paramedic shortage, and they are working with colleges to help increase admission rates. If your agency is low on paramedics reach out to Sheila Clough for assistance.
- Mercy Flights is working to implement the CAD to CAD and is a little behind the Josephine County and ECSO centers but are working to go live at the same time as ECSO. Looking at a new patient care record vendor. If interested let them know and they can share information with you.
- Pat Sombers from Operations had to go back to Washington due to a family medical and has left Mercy Flights. His duties are being absorbed by other employees.

Haz-Mat (Baumgardner) –

- Baumgardner- Following up with fixed sights. Training in fuel tanks and fixed sites training. They have had some minor phone consults. Prospect had an underground fuel tank leak, and they provided some booms and guidance to them. Pacific Pride incident is continuing to be dealt with. Coordinating with DEQ and getting them the needed information for everything to include Class B foam.
- Changes at the state level has created gaps. Baumgardner is only one of 4 people up at the State with long term time in HazMat. Still on track for updated HazMat response units. They are delayed due to COVID and manufacturer delays. Also involved in budget with the OSFM going out on their own.

PIO (Weber) – No report.

Emergency Management (Powers/Ring) –

- JoCo- OR-Alert Everbridge system. They have made some recommended changes to the system, mostly language. In May, they will show us what they look like. JoCo side has an Americorp crew and EM has a county NW Crew. Both are doing fuels reduction. JoCo has kicked off Zone-Haven. They are trying to get the Zone-Haven zones information out to agencies so we can use it this summer. They may or may not educate the public. JoCo is going to push in May Animal Evacuation Preparedness as a side thing.
- GIS- Preseason huddle up has normally been done every year so that all GIS (ODF, Josephine, Jackson, etc.) is ready and everyone has other agency contact info. Lee Winslow gave updates on ODF GIS.
- Annual countywide Alert test is April 27th and they will open the live call center for the public at the same time.
- Jackson County- Zone Haven team leader meeting today with the 5 divisions and show processes that are new to Zone Haven. During next month do outreach to any of the partners to get them the information. It can take 2-4 hours to get through a couple of the meetings. Will make sure the zones are all hazards. Lots of agencies involved. Outreach on the border counties will include JoCo Fire and Risk Management are included to make sure the borders make sense. Do a know your zone outreach campaign. If they do not continue with Zone Haven, then they will keep the zones. Will talk about the new updated alert templates.
- Also looking at conducting a test alert, working on finalizing the dates. Will be helpful after the Pac Pride fire. Sign up for Citizen Alert campaign coming out. Also, a paper version that people can fill out to get signed up.
- Jackson County is focusing on the first 12 hours of EOC activation.
- Spire Grant is open for generators and other items.

- Aaron Ott- Has declared a secondary disaster due to Pacific Pride incident.

CWPP (Theresa Vonn)

- She has worked for BLM for 10 years. Also started on a hand crew as well as timber assessments. Also did grants. Worked for ODF for 10 years. Stewardship forester and then moved into fire. Was a planning section chief for wildfire. Went to work for the wildfire detection company that ODF uses. Then worked for the Forest service. Initial attack dispatcher. Funded by both Jackson and Josephine County. Works for all of us and both sets of county commissioners. Met with Southern Oregon, and IV FROG. She was able to get applications out for fuels reduction for the corp groups in Joco. West Fair is hoping to cover 20,000 acres of private land to help reduce wildfire by about 50%. Then Applegate has a fuels reduction fuels reduction going on for evacuation routes. Working on prescription for Safety and Jacksonville project can mesh. Also working between Jackson and Josephine County and use survey 123 for both counties.
- Look for grants for each district to get chippers to help within the community. Also work with ODOT and Pac Power for roadway fuels reduction.

OFCA (Horton)– No report.

SWOCCG (McCarty/Quinones)

- Dan- May 16th is next meeting. Forest Service side has hiring completed for the season but keeping those that are hired has proven to be a challenge. Contracting challenges process has been difficult and may not have the ability to have the second Type 2 aircraft. Type 1 is a CWN and will create issues on holding on to it. October 1, we will lose rappel capability at that point.
- Lee- Focus is on recruitment and development. It is not going well nor quickly. Applications are down and opportunities are up. He believes they will have some really green folks. They have good returning forest officers and engine bosses. Increasing capacity on seasonal and permanent suppression ranks. Introduced three new personnel. District will have 3 additional Type 6 engines. Expanding dispatcher hours. 4 units on until 10 pm with their dispatch centers open during that time. Just passed the largest ODF SW Oregon budget increase ever, by increasing timber by 25 cents. Grazing rate went down because of the forest land classification process. Fire response numbers were up pre-season, and moisture will be helpful.

Chaplains (Saada) – No report.

IMT (Turnbull) – Next Month.

SOFRC (Chambers) –

- Passed along the Rogue Basin project did get about \$3 Million. It is the first installment of a \$40-million-dollar investment.

LEPC (Bates/Powers) – Have not had a meeting in a while.

Old Business:

- Open Burn Task Group – McCarty - Last week they met with DEQ, County, ODF, D5 and they thought they had some operating space in between what DEQ requires (state law) and what the EPA requires. There is no operating space between the state law and what the county ordinance requires. In order to change any of this it must be a state change in what DEQ, and EPA will allow us to do. DEQ is willing to take this on, but it is a several year process.

EPA is also looking at lowering the threshold for contaminants which would make it more difficult. Only operating space is that we develop the burn matrix, 2 days a year that days with ventilation over 400 and winds speed over 15, but no rain prior. We could take on additional risk to pick up 2 more days. Is the association willing to entertain the additional risk by changing the burn matrix, to get the additional 5-10 days per year?

- EM – Jack- City of Medford was granted the smoke management plan. Aaron is working with a consultant to get data. Reach out will be done once to the point of developing. RVCOG was part of initial development of thresholds that were adopted by County. DEQ will reach out to them to let them know of the issue and address it.
- DEQ- Updated that 70 days over about 14 years of data (7-10 days) Will send out an update. Get email.
- Lifetime Membership Proposals- Brett Fillis and Welburn may already have been done. Motion by Chief McLaughlin to move into lifetime membership. 2nd by Baumgardner. Motion passes.
- Association Strategic Plan Update- Plan to get a 3rd party contractor in here to help us figure out what the goals of the association are and what we should be doing. We have another consultation from Joe Parrot for \$595. Recommendation is we go with this. A survey will be sent out in advance and then a 1-2 day meeting working with the players. Motion by Lee, 2nd by Hussey . Motion passes.
- RVFCA Logo Update - One time setup cost to redo the logo is \$75.00. They can print a 6'x30" banner with agencies listed for \$112 each. This would be helpful to have for PIO items that we conduct jointly as agencies. 2 banners, 1 for each county. 2 decals that are 12" for around \$31.00 each. Total cost is approximately \$375. Send out an email to get the list of names for each agency. Send suggestions and changes to McLaughlin by the end of next week. Motion by Hussey, 2nd by Baumgardner. Motion passes.
- Pre-Wildland Season Meeting – Trying to get back to having one of our meetings updated to a wildland refresher. Previously had value to us and can bring other chief officer levels the meeting. Hopefully increase the attendance for next month. See proposed agenda, meeting will be in person only. Discussion if association should fund the lunch since meetings go long. Meet in June at Merlin EOC and LE is invited. Motion to provide lunch for pre-fire season meeting- Motion by Hammond, 2nd by McLaughlin. Motion passes. Will need to get RSVP's/headcount.

New Business / Issues for Consideration:

- Austin - Proposal to return to in-person meeting exclusively starting in May. Meetings will be centrally located. Schedule will continue to stay as is except for meeting in June between District 3 and EOC. Fresh version of schedule will be sent out again.
- Lee Winslow- Unit numbering system conflicts are occurring with ODF due to duplicate numbers. The number system should be addressed so conflicts are avoided. It was suggested that the Operations group can help with the numbering system.

Good of the order:

- Medford Fire update Will be adding a Captain to the professional standards division sometime this summer. Heading towards the end of community risk assessment, and then following will be the standards of cover. Thanked everyone for the support of the HazMat incident.

- Chief Prince expressed his thanks for putting him in as an alternate for the Fire Defense Board.
- GPFR Chief process is coming up in approximately 5 weeks. BC process and Lt. process happening this week.
- Captain Kuntz and Captain Gilbert officially retired. A retirement get together will be sometime in the next month and invitations will be sent out.
- Cody Goodnough and Mitch Kuntz were given job offers by Applegate Fire. They have money for 6 additional student firefighter positions.
- Chief Wolford should be back to work by the end of the month.
- PODS: There is a campaign started with federal agencies regarding using PODS. Jackson Co. is working on a grant application.
- Alert Wildfire cameras: One is going up this week. There is one in Cave Junction.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2022, at Fire District 3 in White City. (Wildfire preseason meeting)

Adjournment: