



# Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association Monthly Meeting Minutes

Location: Search and Rescue Date: May 19, 2026

**Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**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

- Balance: **\$5,035.61**
- Motion to approve: Chief Razor
- Second: Chief Sanchez
- Vote: All in favor

## 3. New Members / Special Guests / Presentations

- Phil Turnbull – Director with MidRogue Fire District
- Samantha Kadera – Oregon Dept of Forestry – PIO
- Kelcie Easter – Josephine County Sheriff Executive Assistant
- Southern Oregon PIO Group Discussion/Presentation – Ashley Blakley
- IAAI FIT Call Out Discussion – Sam Lashley
- Radio Programming Guide Discussion – FM Mark Shay

## 4. Old Business

- **Strategic Plan** – Nothing to report at this time.

## 5. New Business

- **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 911 Event Discussion** – Chief Wolfard
- **Funding Navigator Discussion** – Chief Wolfard

## 6. Section Reports

- **Operations (McBride):**
  - The Ops group has met with great attendance. They have reviewed Evacuations, RV1/RV2 TF Sheet is been discussed and making sure all are on the same page

for deployments. There has been education on the State T3 and T6 units. There is a Draft

- Review and update of the RVFRSOs: Big Box, Electric Battery fires, and also 2In2Out Regional Response. FD#3 is looking for support at the upcoming Jackson Co Fair if interested.
- **Rogue Interagency Training Association (RITA):**
  - See brief out provided.
- **Fire Defense Board:**
  - Deployment staffing survey is now out each week for availability for the rotating FDBC's.
- **RV Prevention Co-Op (Vonn):**
  - Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Unit, Dustin Rymph is the new Fire Risk Reduction Specialist serving District 1 – Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook, and Lincoln counties. The position for the new unit covering Klamath Lake, Harney and Malheur have not yet been filled.
  - There are a variety of wildfire preparedness events and outreach activities are happening statewide throughout May can be found at Oregon State Fire Marshal: Wildfire in Oregon. If you have an event, you would like listed, please contact Teresa Vonn.
  - Fire Prevention Education Unit (FPE): Justine Schade 503-400-4885
  - OSFM will be hosting the NASFM Best Practices for Homeless and Migrant Issues Train the Trainer Course on May 27<sup>th</sup> at DPSST. This is an all-day training, geared for fire service, code enforcement, emergency management, public health and homeless services.
  - The OSFM's new webpage is now live and offers easy access to wildfire preparedness resources, important information and a schedule of upcoming events in your area. <https://preventwildfires.oregon.gov>.
- **Technology Group (Shay):**
  - The draft radio programming guide was discussed and voted on, unanimously.

## 7. Advisory Reports

- **911 Centers – Josephine County/Jackson County:**
  - No person present
- **Ambulance Service Areas (Clough / Razor / Hammond / Mathews):**
  - **Mercy Flights:**
    - No report
  - **Fire District #1 (Hammond):**
    - No report
- **Ashland Fire (Razor):**
  - Ashland Community Hospital will no longer have overnight patients, and there is discussion on transport decisions to be made over the level of

transports. With this change the ambulances will be out of district longer and to keep that in mind, if they are needed.

- **HazMat Team 08 (Howard):**
  - Normal training happening
  - There were two phone consults on incidents that happened
  - The Klamath drill was well attended and there is the plan formulating for next year's full-scale drill.
- **Oregon State Fire Marshal:**
  - (Cook) TFL Symposium was well attended. New OSFM website updates, along with smart sheets being updated. MOB Plan has been approved, and the books will be available soon and are online. FDBC Drill will be June 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Rogue Valley. Peer Support Training will be June 16<sup>th</sup> at DPSST. Please check your OSFM signs at departments. And there is a new social media policy SOG being distributed for deployments.
  - (Vonn) See above brief out
  - (Stacy) There has been an uptick in Defensible Space assessments/inspections.
  - (Lashley) Open DSFM position in the district 3 area. Code Enforcement discussion. Cost Recovery for the wildfire with OSFM and ODF being discussed. Discussions around the LE/OSP Arson Units. And a reminder that if there are a fatal fire or injuries from a fire, to complete the Report to send to OSFM and get a hold of your DSFM when these incidents happen.
- **SW Oregon Coordinating Group (Quinones):**
  - (Lee) Weather trends are being watched/ Hand pile burning will end soon. Fuel crews are engaged. Recruitments for Officer at the moment and should be filled soon.
  - (Jake) SONCAL April 8-9 in Yreka, see him for more information.
  - (Fumasi) Camera and Software upgrade. Dispatch hiring is also happening with new people in Medford.
- **Emergency Management – Richmond / JOCO / Ott / Burns / Rasor:**
  - (Richmond): Wildfire open houses.
  - (Burns): Drought and water curtailments Draft being sent to the Ashland Council for approval. And there is monitoring happening in the reservoir levels and preparing for a bad day, dry summer. And there are multiple public and internal presentations on evacuation preparedness and evac levels through the summer and a fire weather awareness campaign released on the city's webpage.
  - (Sean): LEPC partnership increasing and next meeting is May 26. The CWPP is being reviewed. And the Safety Fair will be June 6.
  - (Ott): Jackson County is uploading a template for evacuations. They are working on drought plans. The Medford IMT class was well attended. There will be more training opportunities being held
  - (JoCo) There is a person that has accepted and condition of employment and is currently in backgrounds.
- **Pacific Power (Lawless):**
  - Training is taking place with local fire agencies with the PSP Shut Off.

- There is Electrical Emergency Training to happen soon.
- There is discussion about regional training with internal and external partners to be safe while on scene.
- **Oregon Fire Chiefs Association:**
  - Spring Conference was well attended. Chief Brown thanked all the departments for the great work and continuity with the organizations and the partnerships that were strengthened.
- **Public Information (Blakely)**
  - See the email about Samantha Kadera taking Natlie's position starting in the next week.
- **Weather:**
  - Absent
- **Southern Oregon Public Safety Chaplains / SOCERT:**
  - The SOCERT is adding a First Responder Resilience Division, with more information and training to follow. CISM class June 3-5, see Fred for details. And they are working on grants to be able to support the educations.

## 8. Agency Brief-Outs

- **IVFD:** Hydrants and installed. Levy is looking good; however, it was close for the approval of the new levy rates to keep 2 people on each day. And there will be summer staffing at station 2.
- **Grants Pass 911:** There are 6 new Firefighters with making the engines staffed with 3 people on each day. The Truck is still down at this time for maintenance. And Boatnik is next weekend and they will be present for the incidents. There is a rumor that the mechanic work had issues, and this was not the case as Seth and Jarrod are doing a fantastic job with the all of the maintenance to the apparatus.
- **Medford:** There were 8 new graduates of the recent academy. There are discussions about consistent staffing levels, extra engine costs and the goal to maintain 4/0 staffing. A Type 6 unit is being added to the department to keep all stations with a T1, T3 and T6. The ladder truck is down also for maintenance at this time.
- **Ashland Fire:** Their T6 is good, and the T3 is currently first out. They have 2 Pierce Dashes down at this time with maintenance issues. The department did not get the OSFM Staffing grant. They have a new Deputy Chief – Amy Hanifin will be joining them in June. And they have 4 new hires to go through academy to maintain staffing levels.
- **Fire District #3:** They will be able to deploy this year for incidents. And there is an ambulance for sale if anyone is interested.
- **Fire District #5:** Captain promotions, and Engineer vacancies are happening. They have hired 3 summer firefighters. There is a Tender for sale as well.
- **OSFM:** Live Scans have been completed and highly recommended with agencies and it has identified early detection on individuals.
- **Lake Creek:** Summer staffing for them department will start June 15.
- **ODF:** Natalies last day will be May 29<sup>th</sup>. Check your ODF signs for correct levels. They have updated the website and Facebook.

- **JoCo Sheriff:** A new Marine Deputy has been hired and will be available in time for Boatnik.
- **Wolf Creek:** There will be 1 person for Upstaffing four days a week. They have current frequency issue that is being worked on.
- **ECSO:** 2 new hires have completed training. The new additions to the radio will go live Oct 6.
- **Rural Metro:** Few PLO absences in the department. They have two qualified laterals that will start in time for the summer season. The new Type 1 is in service, as well as a new Type 6.
- **Evans Valley:** The Upstaffing will start July. With 4 people on Thurs through Sunday and a Duty Officer.
- **Red Cross:** They have responded to 160 responses locally. They are actively training with departments for the summer season and they are actively working on the Smoke Alarm Campaign.

## 9. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at **10:50 a.m.** Chief Rasor
- Vote: All in favor.

**Next Meeting: June 16<sup>th</sup> at Fire District #3 Pre-Wildland Season discussion and luncheon)**