

## **Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association – Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Illinois valley Fire District

**Date:** March 19, 2024

**Time:** 0900

**Call to Order:** 0902

**New Members / Special Guests:** Interim Chief Holt from Williams Fire is present.

**Approval of Last Month's Minutes:** Motion to approve Chief Crume 2nd Wolfard, motion passed

**Approval of Financial Report:** No financial report.

**Additions to the Agenda:** No Additions

### **Old Business:**

Letter in support for 911Center. Letter was in the emails sent out. Everyone was in agreement for support.

### **New Business:**

We are moving the wildland training to June at Grants Pass Fire. SOWS will be June 29<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> RITA requests to not stack the Chiefs training on top of it. Currently that is not an issue.

**Meeting locations next month they move from ODF Medford to Applegate Headquarters**

### **Section Reports:**

#### **Operations (Fire/EMS): (Marshal)**

We had an operations meeting in Rogue River. Brian Cohee from fire district 3 presented the reasons why a change to the MayDay policy is needed. One significant change is that the old way states that a MayDay will be stated 3-4 times, and then wait for command to respond. Under the change a FF announces the

MayDay and immediately goes into UCAN report.

Marshal will be stepping down from the position and will pass it over to Chief Brown. Chief Brown will take it on for 1 year, but can not go beyond that. Chief Goodnough may take over next year.

BC Nelson will make sure that RV1 and RV2 are correct and updated lists get made. Cody may take it over after Chief Brown.

Brown- Will move the fire standing orders over to best practices for the entire group. Will coordinate with RITA on any changes that are made. At the end hopefully there is a good bucket for anyone to go grab and apply them to their organization.

Thompson- The goal is to build one central location with the best practices and model policies. Departments can then apply them to their organization as they are able to do so.

There was a conversation that two of the RVFCA groups are lead by Medford and Chief Thompson assures all this is by necessity and not by a desire of them to take over.

We will divvy up the operational guidelines to those that are more of an expert in the subject matter.

### **Training (RITA): (Marshal)**

RITA will meet in a couple of days. The new DPSST liaison advised there is a FLAG prop coming to the area as well as the live fire prop more will be shared soon and they will be made available for all to use.

Skid truck training is also wanting to come but we need a location to run it. It needs a minimum cleared area of 300'x300'.

Dave Blakely is stepping down from DLO. The application and announcement is out if anyone is interested.

Cody SOWS is going to happen and there is an IMT established with critical roles filled. 3 components this year engine operations, live fire (burning), and air operations. Denman wildlife the last weekend in June. 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Will be looking for people to help hold the fire in addition to those taking the training.

As we get closer looking for resources to be on site and available for the event.

Feb. the Fire Officer 3 and 4 class wrapped up. Most were local with a few individuals around the state.

**DPSST is not as liberal and forthcoming with funding as in the past. For FO3 and 4 RITA received a \$14000 grant, but it is a re-imbusement and not a prepay. That means someone has to fund it and then get reimbursed. Medford and D3 covered insurance, but it is cost prohibitive for us to get insurance for drill. An agency sending students to classes will need to cover the insurance. RITA had some in depth discussion about insurance and found some house cleaning items. It was mentioned that Dave Blakely dove into what is needed for insurance several years ago, and it was recommended to reach out to him**

### **Insurance covers-**

**Due to the grant it was required to have automobile insurance, even though it was a classroom course and had nothing to do with the field. This is due to the state procurement process and there was nothing DPSST could do to change it.**

### **FF2 academy-**

RITA has nothing now but there is a discussion about having a list of classes that they hold every year or every other year. For now, please email Marshal on what your agency needs, and then RITA can work on putting classes on that are needed. RITA will bring the FF2 up at this weeks meeting.

### **RCC- (Riis)**

Enrollment is up 45%. We will be having a fire academy this Spring term with 16 in attendance. May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for the Fall academy. We are also looking at adding an additional EMT class.

### **RV Prevention CO-OP: (Kassab)**

Team teaching has started. Josephine County didn't have it last year. Kassab had come to the fire chiefs group to ask if they wanted to commit to this or not. As a group we had said yes. Feds, and local agencies are stepping up but they could use some help from the state partners. There are only a few Smokeys' in the valley and the feds wont lend theirs out. For each class we need a minimum of 3-4 people committed. Grants Pass, RM, and Medford are in the process of teaching this week and then Applegate will have one on Friday. Microsoft bookings was used this year and worked well except when changing times or days. For some of the farther out schools we are in need of some folks to come out and help. So far the kids are really enjoying it and they are seeing lots of smiles on their faces.

Holly Powers has the CWPP grant and it was extended to July. Got confirmation from Recology in Ashland, Rogue Disposal, Southern Oregon Compst and working on SOS to do a free green waste

disposal day. We are paying to keep it open and not worry about counting cars, etc. Will be looking for help out of the COOP so that the process can go smoothly.

**Fire Defense Board (Holmes/Thompson):**

- April 29<sup>th</sup> in Bend (Riverhouse on the Deschutes) is the State Fire Defense Board Training Day.

**Incident Management Team/Pool (Hussey):** No Report

**Advisory Membership Reports:**

**911- ECSO-(Harris/Guenther)** No Report

**ASA-**

**Mercy Flights– (Clough)** No Report

JCFD#1 (Hammond) – JCFD #1 is working through the budgeting process and it is becoming a bigger challenge. Primarily due to a lack of growth. So revenue goes up 3%, but expenses go up 8-8% which makes things difficult but they will get through it.

Ashland Fire (Sartain) – Our 4 solo EMS providers completed background and start Academy on April 8<sup>th</sup> with a Tentative release on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Last year they needed help from Mercy every day. By the end of the year they were at 1.97 days between needed help and now is over 3, with the predictions getting much better than that in the future. This means they will be taking interfacility transfers even more.

Currently they are in the process of a logging operation around Ashland. This will cause the closure of some trails during the operation.

New ambulance put in service this last week. The one ambulance that crashed will be in June. Thank you to D3 for lending them a medic unit while they are down one.

AMR (Matthews) –AMR took receipt of a new ambulance – and another one is being built. However they lost one to a recent crash during a snow event. JoCo EMS website is still available with standing orders and a calendar of available trainings. Also working on helicopter training with Reach and MERCY.

(Thompson) Jackson County went out and hired a consultant to review the analysis of EMS throughout the county to give the BCC a recommendation on level of services needed moving forward. They expect they may see a more tiered response model to deal with the increase of low acuity calls. All ASA's have been invited in that conversation. Once received they will be able to share with JoCo.

**HazMat (Howard/Thompson)** –

They have an initial response vehicle which is a 550 and focused on Decon, absorbent, and overflow equipment. Big Rig is HazMat 16 and initial response is HazMat 116.

Last week we did outreach to JoCo with the training to local agencies and there was great feedback received.

Next outreach is to Klamath and will be going over to their Chiefs meetings, to discuss what needs they have and work on starting outreach programs.

HazMat conference-May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in central Oregon

RITA advised the outreach to the academy was great for the FF1.

**Technology Group:** No Report

**OSFM - (Lashley, Rubrecht, Stacy, Vonn)**

(Kassab)- \$250.00 amount to help do a fuels reduction around high risk properties as defined by the state. Ian also went to help discuss for the new defensible space code, and worked with Allison green who was already with OSFM. The thought is to open this up not just to fire but to anyone that can be involved with a Firewise program.

(Thompson)- Staffing grant is out and open. Encourage folks to keep trying even if you are over the threshold you are encouraged to apply. Justification for continued funding on this is important and showing not only the need but being able to share wins from the additional staffing.

(Stacy)

(Vonn)

**SWOCG –**

ODF: Dan Quinoes is the new southwest Oregon district forester for ODF starting July 1.

Escaped open burns are increasing and as a reminder ODF is not staffed for response so there will be a delay. Call if you need them, or the landowner can request, or if it crosses property lines make sure to call them. This upcoming fire season staffing should be very similar to last year

**(Kerns) –**

**(Winslow) -**

**RRS - (Quinones/Monty Edwards)**

**BLM (Miranda) -**

**Emergency Management – (Ott, Sellers, Powers)- No Report**

**Local Emergency Planning Commission** – (Powers) No report

**RCC- (Riis) –**

Asking for support on working with the state on degree plans for paramedic degree. Rusty has put together a degree plan that would require less biology and anatomy as a n alternative method to the current model more for those that want to go to PA, RN, etc. This will make the pathway easier for those to get paramedics. This is inline with the sunseting bill that is out there.

**OFCA – (Brown/Hussey)**

Devon- Spring conference is May 1-3. As a reminder the 30<sup>th</sup> is the golf tournament. Schedule is on the website.

Special district should get Jason Janzee 20 page digest of the recommended federal OSHA changes to the fire service. This stems from a 9/11 bill and was shelved for a long time. It is now back up to the surface and Oregon OSHA must adopt all of what the federal OSHA adopts. This new rule also includes volunteers. Recommended that everyone reads it as it has a major impact and cost. Will push out the special districts paper to the group, and also will provide the link to the 250-page document. Most states exempt public employees, but Oregon does not at the moment.

## **PIO – (Powers/Weber)**

Natalie Debrun app. memo sent to all. Reach out for a copy if you missed it.

**Chaplains- (Saada)-** No report

**SO Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative-** No Report

Strategic Plan-Survey- (Thompson

Please fill out the survey so that we get input from the Fire Chiefs. Would like to have a plan done this year so we can provide direction and guidance on moving forward. This will give support for the next president and group leads, as well as provide direction for the future.

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## **Agency Brief Out:**

- Grants Pass (DeLonge) Going back out for a fire chief again. We also will be starting a recruit academy April 8<sup>th</sup> for 1 person and will have them online prior to fire season.
- Applegate (Wolfard)- Applegate has an Air B&B for the OFCA conference with 1 open room if someone wants to join, for \$100.00 Intent was to get a place or two so that we can get together after hours. Been following SDAO and national that has a bill submitted to federal house that would consider special districts as government entities. As it sits they are not really recognized for grants. There are several grants that special district must apply through other agencies and not directly from them. If it passes they will have to recognize SD as a form of government. So far it has passed the house. Listed off the areas available for the \$250.00 grant.
- Applegate (Cody)- seasonal hiring done and will have 51 staffed throughout the summer.
- ODF (Winslow) cannot host ODF in GP.
- Medford Fire (Thompson) –Recruits started the 3rd week. Should have 7 new recruits on before fire season. Just made an offer to another Paramedic and EMT and should have them on by May 6<sup>th</sup>. Second squad will be at Station 14 and with that they will have some days with a unit north and the other south. Engine auction closes tomorrow at 3pm. Received notification that they received the congressional spending for a mobile command unit. This will be mobile and available to all partners as they need it.
- Williams Fire (Interim Chief Holt)- Life is interesting in Williams. There is a lot of transition and a lot of unknowns. Getting great support from the team as they are moving forward.
- District #4 (Crume)- Big thank you to those that sponsored folks to come out to the assessment Center for candidates. They made 2 additional offers, and also added 4 new students, 6 new volunteers, and have several applications. They are shuffling collateral duties. Eli will be operations, Captain Fitzpatrick will be training, and Captain Elder will be volunteer and student services.

New boat is 3-4 weeks out.

Evans valley- Thank you to those that came out and helped during the fire.

Ashland- (Sartain) Dealing with a situation for an off the job injury, and looking for a fitness to duty or return to work policy on this.

IV- (Ismaili) 6 new volunteers, and new to them engine out at station 2. Still working on getting hydrants in CJ and working with the City. Everything goes through an attorney.

Prospect- Recently had 3 graduates from RITA academy. They have some folks that want more which is why there is interest in FF2. Had a rare structure fire last week, and did interior attack. Things went well during the fire.

Rural Metro (Prince)-James Eddy resigned from Wolf Creek as the Chief. Bill Atchley is taking this on at the moment. Working on a formal agreement with Glendale Fire in the MA responses. Tried to get a hold of DEQ, the new guy John Dixon has resigned. Sara Galino [sarah.gallino@deq.or.gov](mailto:sarah.gallino@deq.or.gov) for all deq complaints at the moment.

D3- Mike McBride is now the division chief of response services (operations) and he comes as a retired Battalion Chief From San Diego.

**Next Meeting:** April 16<sup>th</sup>, Applegate Fire District Headquarters Station

**Adjournment** 1023