

Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association – Monthly Meeting

Location: Medford Fire Department – Railroad Park Station 14

Date: August 16, 2022

Time: 0900

Call to Order: 0857

Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Chief Sartain motion to approve. Second Chief Painter. Motion approved.

Approval of Financial Report: Chief Thompson motion to approve. Chief McLaughlin Second. Motion approved.

Additions to the Agenda: No additions

Special Guests: Dick Whipple will be doing EMS flight and ground operations. Started in fire. Spent 20 years as a firefighter paramedic. Managed air medical in Kansas City. Worked for a large national company doing ground EMS.

Section Reports:

- **Operations** (Fire/EMS): Yearlong work on evacuation items. General provisions who has the authority. The wording in the new document gives LE the ability to do so. LE can deny entry back into an area but cannot force people to leave. Some people like to stay behind and work on their property. See document for new wording. Motion to approve as written Chief Thompson second McLaughlin. Motion Passes. Will reach out to LE to update them with new plan and who is there.
- **Training** (RITA): FO1 coming up in November and December Applegate FO1 is full. Upcoming FI1 at Applegate is open.
- **Prevention** (RVFPC, SOFCO): Updating the trailer and getting it ready for the fall.

Liaison Reports:

911 Centers (Harris/Guenther) – ECSO Staffing continues to be an issue. Paging issue on events is being worked on. Backup server is being done.

JoCo- 911 staffing is an issue.

OSFM (Stacy/Lashley/Rubrecht) – Sam- Town hall meeting in Josephine County. Development of defensible space code will be done by end of the year. Fire code will be wrapped up shortly. Enforcement of defensible space code will be done by State Fire Marshals. Agencies that want to help can, but it is OSFM responsibility. Chief Vetter had brought forward a question on this. Do not believe that code will fall under exempt jurisdictions.

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

Mercy Flights-Sent out message around deploying as M105, instead use Mercy standby or Mercy Activation. Once close to the scene they will call you and let you know tail number. Last meeting there was conversation around new radio frequency. Chief pilot is working through the radio traffic issues in air space around wildfires. Work force shortages causing issues. Mercy is short Paramedics. Mercy is taking a lead on this within the state. Because it is a collective issue the ambulance association will put out a position paper on this issue. A survey went out to all fire departments, and it will help to get this back. Position statement should be done within next 30 days. If you would like to help the committee reach out to Sheila and she will use your help.

Ashland- Rebrand with a new color scheme. More of a Chicago style ambulance. Working with Mercy to bolster the relationship and response. Delivery of 2 new ambulances. Hope to go to 3rd staffed ambulance this spring.

Haz-Mat (Baumgartner) – Limited response. D3 response with for Erickson Crane that mixed chemicals to create cyanide mixture. No exposure to employees and responders. Regional team is receiving training props to assist with technician skills. Those were obtained through a grant.

PIO (Weber) – Natalie Webber Group met this month and talked about Social Media strategies. It was a quiet group and they want everyone to know that they extend an invitation to others to join. Next meeting Wednesday November 2nd- Send information people.

Emergency Management (Powers/Ring) –

Medford- Aaron Hosting ICS 300, 400, and Management 346. Another 300 and 400 after first of the year. Want to keep this in Southern Oregon first before reaching out.

Jackson County EM-Holly- Recruitment for assistant emergency manager is going well. Final interviews on Friday. Smoke management community response plan. Having meetings with U of O which grad students are writing the plan. Get resources to vulnerable populations. Once fire season is looking at bringing in our burners to include fire agencies for a meeting to incorporate burn days into the plan. End game is to have finalize plan in Spring with smoke refuge places. Jackson EM Staffing for assistant EM is going well. Projects working through EOP, on hold since losing staff. Jackson County zones are finalized. Renumbering is being done and then reach out with a campaign to educate. Pushing county wildfire information map over zone haven.

Josephine County EM-Emily- Having one on one conversations with folks about the zones. Not doing a campaign yet. It is built. We have ownership of the zones even if we lose ZH. May decide after this summer that people don't like it, and then go with

what we have done in the past. In a limbo at this point. Giving the same information to the elected officials. Plans looking to review what happened in Siskiyou County. Mostly focused on public education now. Since nothing is happening in our county folks are considered about what is happening in other counties. Doing outreach events. Jason is available on both sides under our 2 counties get ready rogue.

Prince- Discussion on an IT liaison group. Issue with the First Response Fire Map showing old fires causing confusion for folks.

Vetter- Asked how we can deal with misinformation on social media. Emily can reach out and give information to people.

Ashland is hiring an emergency manager, posting should be out soon.

CWPP (Vonn) -- Project wildfire program in Deschutes that meets monthly. Monthly meetings for a CWPP group in the Fall. Spent a bit of time in risk mapping. Map has been withdrawn and public comment will be coming out. Folks wanted to see that what they have done is captured on the map. Defensible space code does not take into consideration what people have done. A subgroup has been stood up to review this information. Community defense grant. Closes on October 7th. Could be an umbrella application. Would get an idea of where projects could be implemented. Any idea is open right now.

OFCA (Horton)- Change in the leadership. Devon is the Southern Oregon Rep.

SWOCCG (McCarty/Edwards) – Tyler- In fire mode at the moment. Met right before last lightning bust. Working through the tanker base agreement, which is up in Salem.

USFS- Had lots of lightning but also had lots of rain. Had a ½ acre fire in sky lakes. Borrowed ODF tankers and boxed it in. 31 fires so far for 5.5 acres. Willing to use

Chaplains (Saada) – Nothing to report.

IMT (Turnbull) – 4 new individuals. Chief Vetter, Chief Holmes, Emily Ring and John Sanders. Will not be pushing out the roster immediately as a few other applications are in process.

SOFRC (Chambers) - Forest received CFLRP money. 3-4 million a year for 10 years. SOFRC did get some of that money. Also, additional infrastructure dollars and disaster relief funds coming in.

LEPC (Bates/Powers) - Chief Bates- and Holly holding the next meeting in October. How to best have communications under LEPC. How to let water districts know if there is a spill. Awkward in how things go directly to State. Some communications leap local agencies as they go into the state.

Old Business:

- Association Strategic Plan Survey – still would like a few more responses

New Business / Issues for Consideration:

- Looking for a location for the annual Christmas meeting in December. Let DeLonge know if you have a location.

Good of the order:

- Ashland SCBA's replacement going on. Will be reviewing SCBAs at D3. If you want to attend.
- Hilt border meeting- Boots on ground meeting of folks. Reviewed frequencies and made sure all were aware of changes. Happens each year.
- Aaron - As a group make a strong push for SO to do a collaboration of resources. Sara- Thinks there is some weight in a regional approach. If anyone is interested in grant collaboration reach out to Sara for help.
- Vetter- Dana Black- Southern Oregon Rep with Merkleys office. She is interested in learning about the rural districts. The changes with 762 has put a lot of stress on Rural departments. She has learned a lot about issues for these districts. She has taken a strong effort on helping. She has met with partners they have worked with. She takes back information to a subcommittee.
- Tyler- 147 fires for a total of 95 acres. Last year 270 for 350 acres. IFPL 2 currently. Moved to a new fuel model to predict ERC's. We are in high end of high. By end of week should be back into extreme. White point lookout was broken into. 2 people took 5000-6000 grand of equipment and it is tough to replace right now. Losing some folks to school. Severity crew will be gone by the end of the month. Carl retires end of September. Shelly retired August 1. Both working back through end of the year. Tyson also retiring at the end of the month. Also working back. Also, a GIS/IT person. Wards creek had injury and did a short hall off the hill.
- Phil/RM- Strategic plan survey. Association has a 100% turnover. If you have not done it yet, please get it turned in.
- McLaughlin- Process closes in October. As a group if we are going to coordinate, we only have a month and a half. Applegate has hired additional captain, Josh Howell. He has taken the A shift spot. 3 new Captains are out there. Please bear with them. Looking forward to using the facility as a training spot.

- Sara- Cory Rd Fire incident. Tested air request process. Map of Green area on SWOF site. If you have property in green area and have a fire, make the request quickly. Sara is already listening if she gets the page. Took 3 minutes from time Hussey asked for air to be approved. If you have an event where you need air. Make sure we find out if you go above a type 2. If you are in charge of a fire and need more resources, then call her and ask. Goal keep fire out of communities. Rogue Valley has chosen to not accept preposition resources. Extra 2022 MOB plans see her if you need it. Reminder to share back success stories from any upstaffing.
- Tyler- Miller Rd fire. OSFM was ordering ODF resources for this fire also.
- Jacksonville- Contract negotiations. Going to 48/96 for training. Replacing 5" with 4". After 70 years will open a brand new station next month. Also be EOC for the City. 29 Firewise communities. Received almost 1 million for thinning projects, starting this fall.
- Karl- Wildland fire supervisor/dispatch supervisor is open. Aggressive of ODF, Tyler says hit it hard.
- Lee- Continue to hold the line for the next 5 weeks. ODF will be whole at least until the first week of September. Shorthall- Thank you to JCISO to take care of that. Also, JCFD1 and midshift crews that helped.

Next Meeting: 0900 September 20th at Applegate Fire Headquarters

Adjournment: 1043