

Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association – Monthly Meeting

Location: Applegate Fire District – Headquarters Station

Date: September 20th, 2022

Time: 0900

Call to Order:

Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Phil

Approval of Financial Report: Phil Moved, Sartain 2nd

Additions to the Agenda:

Special Guests:

- Mike Cook – Klamath County Fire Defense Board Chief
- Keith Larkin – Grants Pass Fire Chief

Section Reports:

Operations (Fire/EMS):

- No Report

Training (RITA):

- Gary RCC- Changes are occurring at RCC. They went through a prioritization project and some programs were eliminated. Their Administration recognized an opportunity to increase and grow the Fire Science Program. Tailese Swanson is now the full time RCC Fire Science Coordinator. The communication ball had been dropped but they have fixed that problem and are now moving forward. Tailese has been asked to attend RITA and RVFCA meetings. She is really excited about the program and has gigantic goals and vision and will be easily accessible. Document were signed this week to be accredited through DPSST. Planning on doing DPSST enrollment as FF1 they will PAF them into their system. Now you can find the certification on the snapshot. The fingerprint on the front end. We do not want to step on agencies toes for signing off. FF1, FF2, Driver, Operator, Instructor 1, etc. We would like to do accreditation for mobile water, FO1. We want to get in and strengthen the current program and also build a professional development for the college. We'd like to cater to the volunteer program. Take Rogue Girls Fire camp and do it a couple of days and put it on for everyone. Three years of Rogue Girls Fire Camp has tripled the number of women in the fire service in our area. We'll be hosting more of the NFA classes to Southern Oregon. First class they are looking at bringing down is the leadership in Supervision. We'd like to sit with the Chiefs of all the agencies to see what their needs are. Possible CPAT.
- RITA- Wolfard- HazMat On scene IC for Oct. 10th and 11th. Registration is open. 2 Fire Officer 1 academies. First one is hybrid through DPSST. Other is 2 weeks and done more as an Academy. Nov. 7-11 and Dec. 5-9. \$595 is the registration for this FO1 Academy. It will move between D3, Medford and Ashland. There are two NFPA instructor 2 offerings. NFPA

Driver- December 2nd, Live Fire Instructor and LFI In Charge. Two seats per agency given. We are planning on offering it again in March or April 2023. NFPA FF1 Academy (Jan-Feb 6-7 weekends) LFI and LFII, SOWS (first meeting in January request input on what is needed). C&G training will be offered. Tom Davidson is lead on the C&G and is working with Sara Rubrecht on the details. If there is anything else you would like to see from RITA, please let Chris know. If you are not getting emails from RITA let Chris know. DPSST Conner Lane is getting things going in our area for training.

Prevention (RVFPC, SOFCO):

- Sam - State is wrapping up new the Fire Code and it will be law October 1st. There are big changes for food carts. Fire suppression systems in food carts will be required.

Liaison Reports:

911 Centers (Harris/Guenther) – ECSO - Hosted interviews for the Director position. Four candidates were assessed. October 11th is the next board meeting and will not be enough time to get a person on. Margie will remain working back until the position is filled.

OSFM (Stacy/Lashley/Rubrecht) – Assessing Structural Ignition Class Classes open for NFPA coming up. Another class in Klamath Falls. There will be free classes.

Sara- Honor Watch Covering, thank you for everyone that covered. Big thank you to all that helped respond to fires this week and big thanks to those that supported mutual aid for the Rum Creek fire. You did a great job responding and saving homes. Also, thanks to D3, D5, and Medford for sending tenders. Also, later for the immediate response to Klamath County. We reviewed conflagration and immediate response. Organizations will be reimbursed anytime you are ordered by the AOC. This is a great opportunity for us as we are always a receiver. We typically don't send out of area, so this was a great learning experience and a great reminder to be ready to send and have the supplies for food, batteries charged, etc. The immediate response is a great way for us to be active. Engine grant applications are due by Oct. 28th. The Capacity Building grant from OSFM is due in the next couple of months. It will be a matching like grant. A Training grant is available through DPSST. This could be used for C&G training. Please share your success stories.

The IMT Team selection will start in early November. Prince gave positive feedback for Sara's position. It really helped on Rum Creek and the amount of help she was able to get us was amazing. Sixteen taskforces were brought down and working within 48 hours.

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

Mercy- Paramedic staffing is still a challenge. Eight in pipeline to be on by November. Training and infrastructure in comms center is starting. We continue to meet with hospitals regarding wait times to help get units back in service quicker.

Ashland- We will exceed last year's calls by 400-500 calls this year. Holding steady with crews they have. Appreciate resources and mutual aid with Mercy Flights. Business as usual.

Haz-Mat (Baumgartner) – No update.

PIO (Weber) – No update.

Emergency Management (Powers/Ring) – Holly – We have a new Assistant Emergency Manager (Delaney)- She comes from the Department of Defense Emergency Management. Also recently came from an AI program with INTEL. Holly is pregnant and will be on leave November and December.

Project - Jackson County wide zoning is completed. There will be debriefing with Deschutes County and Josephine County after both used evacuation zones from the fires. Will hold off on finalizing until they get that input.

The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan will be updated over the next few months. Agencies will be contacted to make sure risks are identified appropriately. The Emergency Operation Plan will be coming out for public and stake holder review over the next few weeks. This is going to the board for adoption to update the 2011 plan.

The DEQ Smoke Management Plan is focused on clean air, mitigation and prescribed burning. A survey was sent out to the community to seek what they would like to see. On October 17th, the burner group will get invites from us to attend for input and feedback. Discussion is needed on how we want to communicate to the public about this. For an invite, please email Holly.

Shake out October 20th at 1020, opt in only.

John Sanders – Assistant EM for JoCo- Changes are being made to the evacuation zone. Emily is working on a mass fatality plan and John on a fuel distribution plan.

CWPP (Vonn) – CWDG- We had hoped we could do this as a rogue basin application, but it will end up being Jackson County submitting one. We are looking for a grant to implement that project and education. We are also building on FD3 green debris proposal. It is a 5-year grant. Next year with JoCo folks. Work can only be done on local and private, no federal lands.

CWPP- On Nov. 9th the Fuels Subgroup will kick off the meetings for the update to the plan. Meeting will cover all current projects in play and where we want to go. Tag onto hazard mitigation plan meetings.

Burners- Group wants to have more opportunities for burning. Highlight the need for doing that. NW Youth Corps is working in Jackson and Josephine County. D3 is hosting and then Schroeder and Lake Selmac Parks are hosting. This program will extend for 3 years. The focus is on risks and under supported areas. The goal is to be countywide. If you have a need let Teresa know.

OFCA (Brown)– Brown talked about a lot of legislative items coming up in 2023. The Media Access Bill was passed and OEM and OSFM are recommending changes to credential items. The Jim Odear Non-Entry Firefighter Legislation has been bouncing around the state for a while.

Rural fire protection district modernization - Some districts still fit Rural but are with agencies like Clackamas. We are also working on transferring authorities from OSP to OSFM. Also monitoring OSFM budget to make it permanent. If you want to join the Health and Safety Committee, contact DC Dave Pickhardt Crook County Fire and Rescue is needing help.

SWOCG (McCarty/Edwards) – Tyler- There has not been a meeting in over a month. There is daily talk in changes to regulations. Public use restrictions will move to moderate starting tomorrow. Fire season was mellow, but last month was strong. Between the West Side Complex and the Josephine lightning bust, Rum Creek also blowing up. Thanks for the help for the fatality. Honor Watch and Guard was a huge help. The 72-hour report was out. Green tree 160' tall, full report will be out by end of the month. Rum Creek is on the downhill slide. Team 6 is leaving today, and a local team will take over. It's mainly a repair show at this point. We are planning for winter and getting ready for hunting season.

Rob Ledge- 63 fires burn about 11 acres. Thanked everyone for the help. Rappell ship is back in CA. Back for a week and then goes off contract. Aircraft is available. The air tanker is open until Oct. 15th. VLAT Base will be open until sometime around the same day. The Chief of Forest Service had implemented a 90 day pause due to escaped burns. The pause is lifted and will be on track to stand the program back up. We are allowed to help our partner agencies with prescribed fire. IFPL went to high fire danger yesterday - IFPL 2. A lot of their people are gone supporting IMT. We are starting the 2023 hiring event. Permanent positions are advertised as well as seasonal.

Chaplains (Saada) – SO CIRT, bringing classes on mental health. Business as usual.

IMT (Turnbull) – The primary focus for the next few months will be looking for a new lead for taking over running this program. Command and general staff training. They maybe also do an ISO position course.

SOFRC (Chambers) – No Report

LEPC (Bates/Powers) - No Report. Next meeting is in October.

Old Business:

- Association Strategic Plan Survey – Contact was made with the contractor. We have not received the feedback. At this point is declining to move forward with this plan so we are looking at an internal group or another way. There were seven responses to the survey. We will regroup and try again. It is an important thing to do as an organization. The question is why this organization exists? Our group is asked to come up with goals and vision. Provide internal group and building block as to what to work on.
- Annual Christmas meeting location – Call in for using Taprock.

New Business / Issues for Consideration:

- Technology meetings (Bates) – The first one will be scheduled in November. It is beneficial to get a group of people together and go over the technology and discuss the new technology to just share information.

- Review/Learning Points from the Task Force Deployment to Klamath Falls (Bates) - More than FDBC information. Everything the FDBC was geared for is a regular deployment. Bates had submitted our availability to state on Monday and said we had nothing. Then we get the immediate response request. AOC recognized that they had nothing available. Is there any way we could send something over for immediate response? They needed to get on the road right away and would not be longer than 72 hours. No marshaling, immediate deployment. We need to have a conversation during the off season as how we are going to manage. Sara said they must have the overhead first, i.e., TFL before resources start showing up. Also, for immediate response do we have things ready to go for sending on-duty crews. Folks must come prepared during the 72 hours to sustain without assistance from team. Full task force was on the road within 1 hour. Little bit of a scramble, pulled right off the Smartsheet. Substitute one agency for another to make the deployment. As Sara said, this was a great opportunity to go through and learn from this experience. This immediate response aid will work well for neighboring counties we don't normally work with.
- Lawless - Under current umbrella we put the Smartsheet together with a tweak that will help improve this for the future.
- Sara- State will call and ask if you are sure that you have resources. During the Rum Creek fire they would not pull our units as we were the backup plan for Rum Creek. Van Meter started with the East Wind event, and things were lined up similar to 2020. Because of this, many places that were normally available had changed as agencies prepared for the East Wind. Also, there were discussions if things broke in Jackson or Josephine that we could recall those resources.
- Mike Cook- FDBC Klamath County- Thank you for help from Van-Meter - They are doing major changes within the program. Looking at shoring up mutual aid agreements with Deschutes, Lake, and Jackson. Looking at a possible chase rig with supplies to get units out faster, with logistics to follow up later.
- Can a 72-hour group turn into a longer duration? Yes, they can but there are hoops to go through. It would not be an automatic. There would be a discussion as some folks may not be able to do longer than a 72. Per Cook, Bootleg was given an operational period to switch folks out and get needed support for a longer deployment.
- McLaughlin- Talked with OSFM. We will most likely see more of the immediate need responses. We need to get our mutual aid agreements in place.
- Bates- Thank you to those that sent resources. Also thank you to Klamath for taking care of the resources.

Good of the order:

- Prince- Thank you for the help during Rum Creek fire. Not only the local but the resources that came from the State. Huge thank you to Sara and Emergency Management. We are using Zone Haven for our first time.
- Painter- Firewise group Oct 18th town hall. The new Fire station for Jacksonville opens in 2-3 weeks. Jacksonville also being approached about doing an alliance with D3, D4, and D1. Their Open House will be in November.
- Devon- Importance on technology meeting, it will help us give good information to get what you need Pilot Project- Medford and Mercy Flights are working on a pilot project with BLS units. Our areas are low on Paramedics. Under an ASA pilot project agreement. Sierra

codes are the type that BLS would go to. They will take care of a low acuity call. Just Mercy will go with the BLS unit and not fire. Project has been on-going. It is about matching the right resource with the right patient. We will implement an ALS chase car. Will be rolling it out October 8th. Meetings to review it will happen and it is a year long study. It benefits the outlying agencies as more ALS ambulances will be available and not stuck on the low acuity calls.

- Holmes- There will be an FDIBC Meeting right after this meeting. IV has two engines down right now.
- Turnbull- Rum Creek fire- We received a couple of phone calls from folks during the incident wondering why IMT members were not called for. The Rum Creek fire had some lessons to be learned off of it. Chief credits upstaffing, the new OSFM positions. This all made it a very smooth incident. Also gave us high marks as a group and our mutual aid partners and relationships we have made through the years. We will be pushing to get the strategic plan done and we cannot remain stagnant. It is time to get a new direction set and projects on the table. We are right at the foundation level of mutual aid.
- Heigel RCC- We just started two EMT classes this week and will start two more in January, so we will have approximately 80 -100 students this year. We just started a Paramedic class. We put in a new Immersive Interaction System, a 14-foot space with 273 videos displays with thousands of videos to choose from. The Paramedic Program Remote: we had 3 students last year and 4 this year in Klamath County. There are reportedly 6-8 students interested in the upcoming year. Requirements to be a Paramedic were discussed.
- Lee Winslow- ODF Medford – They are down their hand crew but still have their front-line crew. They will be down all our aircraft by the end of the week. He gave Kudos to the Grants Pass Unit Forestry recruitment. Also recommended taking the 7 or so responses for strategic plan and move forward with them.
- Tyler McCarty Statewide Level several legislative requirements. Private forest core which will add positions in our area. – State Forest is working on the habitat conversation plan. Risk map not going any where for another year. There has been a string of arson fires near Prospect and Shady Cove. One of the camera thieves was caught, not all our property was retrieved.
- Sartain- City of Ashland posted the Emergency Management Coordinator position at the end of last week. It is a joint cooperation between Southern Oregon University, City of Ashland and the Ashland School District if anyone is interested in applying.
- Crume- Evans Valley FD will be adding a couple of parttime firefighter positions to be coming out next. They did get about \$45,000 for the FEMA AFG for gear. He has been talking with Chief Hammond in Rogue River and they have come to an agreement to move to the new numbering system. Hopes to have this implemented by the first of the year.
- Chief Larkin Grants Pass- The discussion is very familiar and he has been involved in similar discussions in the past.
- DeLonge – Send any information to Randy that needs to be disseminated out to everyone.
- Bates? – Alert Wildfire Cameras- A business owner in Medford volunteered to purchase another camera. We are looking for an area to install the camera and will possibly put it on top of the Rogue Valley Manor.
- Prince Rural Metro- Thanks were given to all that responded to the Rum Creek Fire and Jackson County Emergency management and Sara.

- McLaughlin- Brought an apology from Chief Hanley D5 for not being there. Also wanted to thank everyone for their hard work this last year.

Next Meeting: 0900 October 18th at Mercy Flights Headquarters

Adjournment: 1052