

Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association – Monthly Meeting

Location: Applegate Valley Fire District Headquarters

Date: March 15, 2022

Time: 0900

Call to Order: 0900

Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Motion made by Chris Wolfard, 2nd Mike Hammond

Approval of Financial Report: Motion made by Dave Blakely, 2nd Mike Hussey

Additions to the Agenda: N/A

Special Guests: Wilson Wade from DEQ is available to answer any questions.

Informational Presentation: N/A

Section Reports:

Operations (Fire/EMS):

Hussey – Met two weeks ago and focused on the scheduling of policy review. Walked through 10 of them, 3 of them are remaining. After Action Review , Mayday Traffic, and RIT are in review. Number of policies need to be done by FDBC. Evacuation group is being worked on by Prince and it should be wrapped up by next month. Will take off old and put in a permanent place.

Prince – Being reviewed and encourage a way to plug evacuation group into scenario-based training, maybe in April/May pre-season training. Scripting to be done on pre-alert. Austin has a copy of Shelter in Place Guidelines. Will start reviewing in Planning Group and then share it as needed. Make sure our own radio traffic is adjusted so that we do not scare residents. If you have structures threatened maybe add additional like: "There is no need for evacuation at this time."

Holly Powers - Template was started by Emily. Jackson County is reviewing to add input about what components we can put in to not alarm people but what makes the most sense. Also, we are not marketing the pre-alert, so people don't expect it for every fire. Use during the first couple of fires to pilot the courtesy alert and see how it works.

Emily Ring - Pre-alert is intended to be very similar to law enforcement activity in your area. Just gives a notice for an area that might be impacted. Hopefully it will head off questions and calls to 911. Utilize a drop of a radius around an incident so people in that area know we are aware of the incident. Shelter in Place documents can be shared with all. Austin will give input on who else needs to have eyes on it. It was started as an idea to help people and possibly add to Firewise Community training. This came from Boise Firewise program and was adapted to our area.

D Quinones - Offered support on evacuation ideas from history with Chetco Bar fire.

Training (RITA):

Tom Davidson - Not a lot in March. Pumper operator first and second weekend of April. Also, a Fire Instructor 1 class. Still working on SOWS. First planning meeting end of March and beginning of April. If you want to help let him know. Also, would like to meet with Chief Bates to make sure RITA is still meeting objectives.

Prevention (RVFPC, SOFCO):

Natalie Weber - Continuing to work on Community Cleanup Day weekend of May 7th and 8th. District 3 and 5 also working on ideas. Jackson County and Josephine County are looking into sending out county wide broad messages into what can be done to clean up homes and create defensible space.

Pear Blossom - If you interested in participating see the letter sent out to the Chiefs about how to register. Let Natalie Weber if you need assistance with it. It is scheduled for April 9, 2022.

Fire Safety Trailer - Might need to be replaced soon and/or upgrades. Sub-group created to work on this. Only 2 people in this group as of now. Would like to have more folks join this group.

Chase Browning (SOFCO) - Meeting tomorrow at Station 13 in Medford.

Liaison Reports:

911 Centers –

Johnna Pellam - Low numbers as staffing goes. Funded for 42 and currently are down to 27, cannot find people to fill vacancies. Continue hiring and training process. 1 is in training, also 2 new people started last week. Working on CAD-to-CAD project between Mercy flights and Josephine County. Once work is done will move into a testing phase late summer or early fall.

Kristin Guenther - Josephine is funded for 17 and currently down to 10. Hard time finding people that are qualified and can do the job. Have 4 that will hopefully start by the end of April. One is a supervisor coming from a large Fire/EMS busy center from Fresno. One of the other 3 also has experience as fire and police dispatcher. Working on the CAD-to-CAD interface hub and in data collection process and moving forward.

OSFM –

Tim Stacy - Covering Jackson County starting April 1, 2022. Will continue to cover Douglas until replaced. Will be primary contact for Jackson County and Sam is still for Josephine County.

OSFM - Also struggling to find people that can do the job. Still trying to recruit.

Senate Bill 762 - There are 11 deputy position open all over the state. Working on defensible space code. Rolling out the traveling fire investigation training. 16 hours aimed towards company officer, then also the 40-hour class for fire investigator certification training.

Sara Rubrecht - New Committee is called EPIC- Working on the process for applications for the new 75 pieces of apparatus. MOBE Committee working hard to get the plan updated this spring. Today 1330-1530 for State discussion on engine plan.

Community Risk Reduction Process - Reaching out to schools and hospitals to reduce fire risk to those facilities. Hiring of person down here for community risk reduction. Also working on the breakaway from OSP and where to go (location), own IT, HR, etc. Working to try and spend the 762 monies so it is meaningful and when we go back to the State there is something to show why we need the money. Making sure that OSFM is doing things that are important to us as Fire.

OFMA – No report.

EMS – No report.

Haz-Mat – Chase Browning per Chief Bumgardner is continuing regional team trainings. Conducted a limited response for fentanyl exposure at Josephine County Jail. Team A coordinated with Josephine County Sheriff, GPFR, National Guard and State resources for the incident.

PIO – Natalie Weber – Conducting quarterly meetings, next one is March 31st, 1300-1400 hrs. Invite was sent out.

Emergency Management – Emily Ring - Introduced John Sanders as assistant Josephine County Emergency Manager. Informal discussion for extreme conditions, do we want to place entire county on level 1 notice? Any interest in Jackson County doing the same?

Sara Rubrecht - This was discussed in years past and due to impact on insurance and mortgage closures because of the evacuation level it was decided against at that time. **Holly Powers** - Instead maybe send a courtesy alert to be prepared?

Emily Ring – Six-week fuels reduction project coming into the area, which will be working under the Firewise Coordination Program. Will be doing a press release about it this week. First crew arrives the week of April 4th. It will focus on Merlin and Williams first. See what interest is generated and make a wait list for the crews. They will also do work trade in a couple of parks. We have a proposal for 1 year contract with Zone Haven, if approved.

Justin Bates - Youth Corps are also coming to Jackson County. If you have underserved areas in Jackson County let Chief Bates know so we can get that area on the list.

Holly Powers - First draft of base emergency operation plan. Internal county review with department heads and then release to stake holders and public for input.

Zone Haven Zoning updates will allow editing and splitting of zones that will make things easier. Also, will have the city zones added so it can be seen and easier to edit.

GIS layer on Zone Haven should be updated in next 2 weeks. Team leads should be hearing from her this week or next week. They will do training and schedule larger group meetings. Quote from Zone Haven is going to be \$42,000 per year for a 3-year contract. Get public facing software and backend for simulations and other product's that Zone Haven has.

Chief Bob Horton - OFCA received Grant dollars to invest in program with Zone Haven. Intent to inform a larger group discussion at state level on whether or not the state should make a statewide investment. OFCA feels that Zone Haven has not met the agreement they had agreed to. Putting pressure to extend the pilot program through fire season 22 to really see if it will work. Right now, we only have zones. California has had positive experience with using it with making quick evacuation decisions. More to come. Will be asking Holly if EM will get on board with putting the pressure on Zone Haven to extend the pilot program through 22. Will be a year or two for State to be able to pick up the cost.

Emily Ring – Took advantage of one-time County ARPA funds to contract with Zone Haven for Josephine County. Presenting the final project proposal this week for BCC approval and signature. Josephine County would be rolling on its own Zone Haven process.

OFCA – Brief legislative report: Really active short session. Most notable was the representation on the rule making advising committee. 762 required Board of Forestry to define the Wildland Urban Interface. It is also required through OSU to do the Wildfire Risk Map. All parcels in Oregon will have 1 of 5 levels of fire hazard assigned. Board of Forestry will go to hearing on definition of WUI. OFCA had an active role. OFCA supported a definition of what a structure is. Board of Forestry is going with another definition of 400 square feet. OFCA will not oppose this and understands why. There is a meta data set to build the map by using satellite imagery to help look down at parcels and define a 400 square foot structure.

Annexation bill proposed for fire districts. The bill was trying to ensure that structures built were automatically annexed into the fire district rolls. This bill did fall apart and did not make it through. He anticipates seeing some version of this showing up again in the 2023 session.

Media Access Bill - Passed and is going to the Governor for approval. Allows journalists past the fire line without escort or the PIO on conflagration fires. Will apply in 2023 fire season. OFCA did provide feedback on what they would like to see with this bill. Request that media is validated by the Journalism Association and those folks are trained by OFCA and have the appropriate safety equipment.

House Bill 2927- Bill that splits OSFM from OSP. More to come as this unfolds.

OFCA Spring Conference is in Bend, May 4th-6th.

SWOCG –

Tyler McCarty - Met March 4th and talked about what was going on internally. Lots of hiring and they don't have enough capacity in HR Department to get the hiring done and filled. Hope to have done by fire season. Added more positions, between 50 folks between the 2 units. Dispatchers will get an increase and make more money, hopefully will help hiring.

Agreement with ODF and Forest Service at Medford Tanker Base expired in 2018. They are working through an update on the agreement and making sure all are on the same page.

Talked about sharing firefighters on live fire.

Talked about potential for a Type 3 team to be interagency between ODF and Forest Service.

Changes coming down to IFPL levels and how they implement on Forest Service.

Dan Quinones - Forest Service continues to try to hire personnel. Completed 3000 acres of prescribed fires. Personnel are going to Louisiana for prescribed fire support. Type 3 team is roster at will. Any interest to support please contact Dan.

Chaplains – Nothing to report.

IMT –

Chief Turnbull- In the process of updating the IMT policy. He will bring the revamp to the group in April. If interested in the revamp, contact Chief Turnbull directly. Conversations have started with RITA for needs assessments. Reminder to get your applications for roster on teams back.

SOFRC – No report.

LEPC - No report.

Old Business:

Open Burn Task Group – Chief Hanley – He's been working with Lee Winslow on an agenda for a meeting with DEQ and Jackson County Health, Weather Service, ODF, a single Josephine County rep and a single Jackson County rep to discuss extending the current burn window outside the AQMA. Also want to explore joint burn regulations in Josephine and Jackson Counties because our interests are significantly divergent. Also looking at what community outreach will be considering Bill 762 and WUII regulations. What will the model guidance look like for us? He will be reaching out to the Josephine County chiefs to have someone attend this meeting.

Evac Planning Group – Chief Prince

Lifetime Membership- DC DeLonge – This will be going out soon.

Association Strategic Plan - Received a quote from CenterPoint leadership. Approach is to do a consultation with a workgroup of the association. Conduct a survey of the group and have some facilitative meetings. Their quote was \$5900. This is a little more than what our budget could handle. Chief McGloughlin is reaching out to get another quote for another company. We could also look at doing it internally ourselves.

Discussion:

Prince - Supports internal.

McGloughlin - The other person was retired from Oregon. He could come help facilitate the internal process.

Bates - Propose to have a small workgroup that could help brainstorm what this looks like. If you are interested send Chief Bates an email to get your name on the list.

RVFCA logo update:

Chief McGloughlin - One company came back and asked for a better version of the logo. Will report what the only company that came back with at the next meeting. They are trying to put together several different designs.

RVFCA Paging Group (ECSO) - Let Kevin Harris know of any changes or updates to your paging group.

New Business / Issues for Consideration:

Chief Prince - Preseason training or meeting. What would we like to see, and can we pull it off?

Discussion:

McGloughlin - Pacific Northwest National Coordination Center is starting earlier.

Prince - Email him with ideas on what we can do in May for seasonal prep.

Spring Exercise - FD 3 is leading but not Chief Hussey. Chief Prince has someone leading on the Josephine County side, but not him.

Holly Powers - Requested to add in a Liaison Report section for RVIFP so Teresa can actually report on it.

Good of the order:

Chief Painter - Jacksonville was awarded additional \$500,000 for thinning within the city. Station is slated to be completed in July and August. ODF and Abraham Contractors in the city conducting thinning operations in the city. Also received another grant for all new 4" hose. This hose switch will happen in next 3-4 months. They will be getting rid of the 5" hose.

Chief Ralph Sartain - Going through a fire academy and will be fully staffed once completed. Fireline Safety Specialist is open and going back out. It is a PERS fire position.

Chief Vetter - Hosting a celebration of life for 2 lifelong members. They passed away from COVID in early January. Looking at April 2nd to remember them.

Tyler McCarty - Private Forest Accord passed. A package of senate bills passed. Will add 60 additional positions, and a couple will be in the SW. The rule making process will pull some of the people out that would normally be up for deployment on teams. Also getting a CAD system, because they have 15 cameras. They are excited for the program. Also, SONCAL is next Wednesday and Thursday.

Applegate Chief McGlooughlin - Kubli Road got a \$64,000 land grant. Wagon Trial also received funding. Hopefully hiring two captains during the next month. Type 6 should be finished at the end of April. Applegate living quarters will be done by end of the month.

Chief Holmes - FDBC meeting at the end of this meeting.

GPFR BC Lawless - Going back out for 3rd time for Fire Chief.

Chief Hussey - Last day for Chief Blakely is this week. Not sure what they will be doing at D3 for position but have some folks stepping up.

Chief Blakely - Great journey, appreciate the support. Not sure if he is completely done but is for now. Will be district liaison officer for Jackson and Josephine County for a while.

Chris Wolfard - Administrative volunteer positions were advertised on FB. Have 2 photographers coming on from that, as well as 2 volunteer grant writers.

Next Meeting:

April 19, 2022, at ODF Central Point.

Adjournment